

# The Sanctity of Human Life: from Conception to Natural Death

Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives | Human Engineering | Population Control

*The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)*

## Catholic Teaching

Catholics care about the sanctity of life because the entire purpose of each soul God endows with life is to find its way back to God, by loving God and caring for all the souls God has placed around it. **Voluntary termination of life any time between conception and natural death necessarily frustrates that purpose.**

The source of human dignity is the likeness to God that is bestowed on each of us at the moment we are conceived. We respond appropriately to this gift by using all the time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. Our first purpose is to seek God, especially in one another. If we do that, everything else will be given to us. Anything that interferes with that is contrary to the Word of God. *Genesis chapter 1; Matthew chapters 6, 22 & 25*

### Abortion & Euthanasia

*“You shall not kill.”  
– the 5th Commandment*

The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching, and in particular, implies the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 155*

*“This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations.’ It is not ‘progressive’ to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations?”*

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 214

### Human Engineering

#### Cloning and Cell Manipulation

An issue of particular social and cultural significance today, because of its many and serious moral implications. The simple replication of normal cells or of a portion of DNA presents no particular ethical problem. Very different,



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Sanctity of Life

#### Abortion & Alternatives for Mothers & Children

The party states, among its key values, that:

- it encourages respect for all life forms, and increased attention to the preservation of biodiversity
- every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion.

The party further states that:

- the extreme act of overturning Roe, which had been the law of the land for nearly half a century, eliminated a fundamental constitutional right by denying women across the nation the right to choose, and has already had devastating consequences nationwide. Over the past two years, more than 20 states have imposed extreme and dangerous abortion bans – many of which include no exception even for rape or incest – that put the health and lives of women in jeopardy, force women to travel hundreds of miles for care, and threaten to criminalize doctors for providing the health care that their patients need and that they are trained to provide.
- more than one in three women of reproductive age, and more than half of Black women and 40 percent of Latinas, now live under an abortion ban. Today, our daughters have fewer rights than their grandmothers.
- it is fighting back to restore reproductive freedom for every woman in every state, including by creating a new path for pharmacies to dispense FDA-approved medication abortion and defending access in court.
- it is expanding reproductive health care for service members, veterans, and their family members, and defending access to emergency medical care, including clarifying that federal law on emergency care pre-empts state abortion bans, educating patients on their rights, making it easier for patients who have been denied emergency care to file a complaint, and ensuring hospitals meet their legal obligations to offer care.
- it is challenging threats to prosecute people who help women travel to a different state for abortion care, and helping states expand access under Medicaid for women who travel from states with bans.
- it is safeguarding patients’ and providers’ privacy, including by strengthening HIPAA protections, cracking down on the illegal sharing of personal information, strengthening consumer data protections, and issuing guidance to protect student privacy in this area; and is ensuring access to accurate information and legal resources, including by launching ReproductiveRights.gov and convening more than 200 lawyers and advocates to support abortion-related legal defense services.

The party advocates:

- repeal of the Title X domestic gag rule and restored funding for Planned Parenthood
- repeal of the Hyde Amendment, and codification of the right to reproductive freedom.
- correction of discrimination and barriers that inhibit access to reproductive health services
- promoting safe access to abortion to women and girls in other countries

#### Assisted Suicide & Alternatives for the Stricken and for Families

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on assisted suicide and alternatives for patients or family.

### Human Engineering

#### Stem cell & embryo research

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on on cloning or cell manipulation.

#### Population & birth control

The party states that:

- nine in 10 women have used contraception, and it is working to expand access to birth control.

however, is cloning understood in the proper sense. Such cloning is contrary to the dignity of human procreation because it takes place in total absence of an act of personal love between spouses, being agamic and asexual reproduction. In the second place, this type of reproduction represents a form of total domination over the reproduced individual on the part of the one reproducing it.

Cloning for therapeutic use does not attenuate its moral gravity, because in order that such cells may be removed the embryo must first be created and then destroyed.

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 236*

### **Gender Identity & Election**

Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 224*

Men and women with homosexual tendencies must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 358*

### **Population Growth; Birth Control; Family Planning**

Judgment concerning the interval of time between births, and that regarding the number of children, belongs to the spouses alone. This is one of their inalienable rights, to be exercised before God... The intervention of public authorities must be made in a way that fully respects the freedom of the couple. All programmes of economic assistance aimed at financing campaigns of sterilization and contraception are to be morally condemned as affronts to the dignity of the person and the family.

The answer to questions connected with population growth must instead be sought in simultaneous respect both of sexual morals and of social ethics, promoting greater justice and authentic solidarity so that dignity is given to life in all circumstances.

All reproductive techniques — such as the donation of sperm or ova, surrogate motherhood, heterologous artificial fertilization — that make use of the uterus of another woman or of gametes of persons other than the married couple, injuring the right of the child to be born of one father and one mother who are father and mother are ethically unacceptable both from a biological and from a legal point of

- the current administration approved the first over-the-counter daily oral contraceptive, making birth control easier than ever to access, and has built on the Affordable Care Act to make a broader range of contraceptives available to women at no cost through their health insurance.
- it has boosted access to free and low-cost services through the Title X family planning program, and expanded access to birth control for service members and through the VA.
- the Supreme Court's elimination of the protections of Roe has also had devastating consequences for families who have suffered the heartbreak of infertility. Each year, tens of thousands of Americans start or grow their families with the help of in vitro fertilization. IVF is enormously popular, enjoying the support of the vast majority of Americans. Yet overturning Roe opened the door to laws that rip away access to this vital care — as we saw when Alabama families had treatments halted earlier this year.
- it has responded to attacks on reproductive care by expanding IVF access for service members, veterans, and federal employees.- it undertakes to strengthen access to contraception so every woman who needs it is able to get and afford it, and will protect a woman's right to access IVF.

The party advocates:

- a woman's full right to reproductive choice
- providing \$594 million (an increase of \$37 million above the 2023 level) for USAID directed high-impact and lifesaving voluntary family planning and reproductive health programs and America's voluntary contribution to the United Nations Population Fund. The Budget continues America's commitment to contributions for the United Nations.
- repealing the Hyde Amendment, and continuing to support access to FDA-approved medication abortion, appointing leaders at the FDA who respect science, and appoint judges who uphold fundamental freedoms.

### **Human trafficking**

The party states that:

- to enhance enforcement efforts against the most prolific and dangerous human smuggling and trafficking groups, operating in Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, the current administration established Joint Task Force Alpha, which has delivered significant results, including: over 240 U.S. convictions against leaders, organizers, and significant facilitators of human trafficking and substantial seizures and forfeitures of assets including cash, property, and firearms

The party advocates:

- allocating more resources and action to increase penalties to prosecute and punish human smugglers and traffickers who prey upon families and migrants.
- revoking the visas of private sector CEOs and sanctioning government officials who profit from migrants coming to the U.S. unlawfully, and expanding efforts to dismantle human smuggling and prosecute offenders.
- working with partners and allies to address the causes of and eliminate human trafficking

## GREEN PARTY

### **Abortion & Alternatives for Mothers & Children**

The party states that:

- women's rights must be protected and expanded to guarantee each woman's right as a full participant in society, free from sexual harassment, job discrimination or interference in the intensely personal choice about whether to have a child
- women's right to control their bodies is non-negotiable. It is essential that the option of a safe, legal abortion remains available
- the "morning-after" pill must be affordable and easily accessible without a prescription, together with a government-sponsored public relations campaign to educate women about this form of contraception
- clinics must be accessible and must offer advice on contraception and the means for contraception; consultation about abortion and the performance of abortions, and; abortion regardless of age or marital status
- contraception and abortion must be included in all health insurance policies in the U.S., and any state government must be able to legally offer these services free of charge to women at the poverty level
- public health agencies operating abroad should be allowed to offer family planning, contraception, and abortion in all countries that ask for those services. We oppose our government's habit of cutting family planning funds when those funds go to agencies in foreign countries that give out contraceptive devices, offer advice on abortion, and perform abortions
- it encourages women and men to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It is the inalienable right and duty of every woman to learn about her body and to be aware of the phases of her menstrual cycle, and it is the duty for every man to be aware of the functions and health of his and his partner's bodies. This information is necessary

view. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 234, 235

## Human Trafficking

The solemn proclamation of human rights is contradicted by a painful reality of violations, including new forms of slavery such as trafficking in human beings, illegal drug trafficking, prostitution. “Even in countries with democratic forms of government, these rights are not always fully respected”. Some serious problems remain unsolved: trafficking in children, the phenomenon of “street children, and the use of children for commerce in pornographic material. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 158, 245

for self-determination, to make informed decisions, and to prevent unintended consequences. Unplanned conception takes control away from individuals and makes them subject to external controls

## Human Engineering

### **Population control**

The party states that:

- humans have a unique responsibility for stewardship of the Earth. No species, especially on the upper end of the food chain, can have unchecked exponential growth without depleting the Earth's carrying capacity. Human population expands at the expense of other species
- limiting the discussion to population numbers and birthrates diverts attention from over-consumption in the industrial world and historic patterns of exploitation of developing countries
- consumption-oriented lifestyles have resulted in a minority of people consuming a majority of resources. This is as significant a threat to the Earth's carrying capacity as the high birth rates in low-consumption countries
- current global demographics demonstrate that economic wellbeing promotes low birthrates.
- documented evidence suggests that when women have control over their lives, birthrates decrease
- a major barrier to the improvement of women's reproductive health is a lack of shared responsibility between men and women in family planning
- higher human consumption rates and populations increase the pressure on the environment in every ecological problem area. Those living in the industrialized world must end the habits of waste and over-consumption that place as much stress on the environment as does population growth in developing nations
- funds must be allocated for expanded scientific research into safer and more effective birth control techniques and devices

### **Genetic engineering**

The party states that since the efforts to clone animals — and eventually humans—has been undertaken by profit-making corporations, the purpose behind such projects is to manufacture commodities. To classify a human (or any part thereof, including human DNA and body organs) as a commodity is to turn human beings into property.

### **Gender Identity & Election**

The party states that:

- it affirms the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex
- it affirms the right of choosing non-binary and gender fluid identification, and therefore supports the right of individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex

### **Human Trafficking**

The party states that:

- of the millions of humans trafficked worldwide, the large majority are women and children who are bought and sold as slaves. Most are sold over and over again for forced sex prostitution. Estimates of human trafficking in the U.S. vary greatly from 18,000 to 50,000 to over 100,000 with a worldwide estimate of 12.5 million.

The party advocates:

- new U.S. legislation relating to prostitution modeled on the Swedish law passed in 1999, now adopted by other countries and being considered by more, that has drastically reduced human trafficking and prostitution in Sweden, which criminalizes the purchase of services from prostitutes, pimps and brothel keepers instead of criminalizing the prostitutes
- all efforts to eradicate this extreme abuse of human rights, including but not limited to enforcement of existing laws and passage of tough new ones, punishing traffickers, aiding victims, increasing public awareness, reforming immigration laws, supporting existing programs and creating new ones
- enforcement of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (HR 3244) signed into law on October 28, 2000. This Act authorizes funding for the prevention of trade in human beings and for protecting victims

### **The party has published no official statement of its positions on**

- *assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients and families*



The campaign states that:

- America is more polarized and divided now than at any time in living memory
- both sides seem to agree that the basic problem is the horrible people on the other side
- both sides are wrong. The basic problem is the division itself. A divided public lacks the strength to resist exploitation or to overcome the inertia of the status quo
- the classic American can-do spirit exhausts itself in endless battles, while powerful undemocratic forces have a death grip on the nation
- there is only one way to break that grip and restore power to the people: a broad popular movement that unites left and right, Black and White, urban and rural, young and old, and working people of all ethnicities.
- the candidate has clear positions on most of today's divisive trigger issues like abortion, guns, and immigration, but he knows that both sides have legitimate concerns and legitimate moral positions. No one is deplorable. Furthermore, most of the disagreements obscure deeper shared values.
- everyone wants their children to be safe. No one wants more abortions, nor do they want to force women to undergo unwanted pregnancies. Everyone wants safe streets, yet few wish for millions of people to languish in prison.

The campaign advocates:

- drawing on the broad moral agreements that exist beneath our divisions. Candidate Kennedy will model careful listening, and create conditions where each group can hear the stories of the other.
- promoting national reconciliation, respectful dialog, and willingness to change, to grow, and to forgive, starting during the campaign. In Kennedy's own words, "Every nation, like every individual, has a darker side and a lighter side. The easiest thing for a politician to do is to appeal to our greed, to our anger, to our fear, to our xenophobia, our bigotry, all of the alchemies of tribalism. I will appeal instead to our generosity as a people, our goodness, our kindness, and our courage."

The campaign has published no further public statement concerning its policies on:

- Abortion & alternatives for Mothers & Children
- Assisted Suicide & Alternatives for the Stricken and for Families
- Human Engineering
  - \* Stem cell & embryo research
  - \* Gender elective surgery
  - \* Population & birth control



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY

### **Abortion**

The party states that:

- recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, it believes that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration
- its silence about any particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval

**The party has published no official statement of its positions on:**

- *euthanasia, assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients and families*
- *human engineering, including stem cell & embryo research; gender identity & election*



## REPUBLICAN PARTY

## **Sanctity of Life**

### ***Abortion & Alternatives for Mothers & Children***

The party states that:

- it advocates protecting and defending a vote of the People, from within the States, on the Issue of life.
- it proudly stands for families and life
- it believes that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that no person can be denied life or liberty without due process, and that the States are therefore free to pass laws protecting those rights. After 51 years, because its efforts, that power has been given to the States and to a vote of the People.
- it will oppose late term abortion, while supporting mothers and policies that advance Prenatal Care, access to birth control, and IVF (fertility treatments)

### ***Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide***

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on euthanasia or assisted suicide.

## **Human Engineering**

### ***Stem cell & embryo research***

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on stem cell or embryo research

### ***Gender Election & Identity***

The party advocates ending gender insanity, including keep men out of women's sports, banning taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries, and stopping taxpayer-funded schools from promoting gender transition, reversing the current administration's radical rewrite of Title IX Education Regulations, and restoring protections for women and girls.

### ***Population & birth control***

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on population or birth control.

## **Human trafficking**

The party states that:

- it will strengthen ICE, increase penalties for illegal entry and overstaying visas, and reinstate "Remain in Mexico" and other policies implemented during its prior term in office.
- it also advocates invoking the Alien Enemies Act to remove all known or suspected gang members, drug dealers, or cartel members from the United States, ending the scourge of Illegal Alien gang violence once and for al, and using Title 42 to end the child trafficking crisis by returning all trafficked children to their families in their home countries immediately.

## **Points to Ponder: Life & Human Dignity**

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- If all souls are children of God, placed by God in this world to find their ways back to God and to help other souls in finding their own ways home, what limits should be placed on voluntary termination of human life, either prior to birth or at any time before death? What can or should be done at the federal level, and what should be left to the states, and/or to private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?
- What options are our society, including the church and other non-profit agencies in addition to government, offering, or able to offer, to reluctant or unwilling mothers as alternatives to abortion and to support unwanted children? What can or should be done at the local, or federal, or state level, or by private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?
- Are federal restrictions and controls on cloning and the use of human cells, fetuses, and body parts properly crafted? What, if anything, should be done differently including at the state level? Should there be more discussion of this serious moral issue in our society?
- To what extent should voluntary, elective services that are morally questionable to large numbers of individuals, such as the voluntary termination of life or the voluntary modification of gender, be financed publicly through mandatory taxation? If such services are to be offered, should they be financed by the individuals who elect to access them, or by sympathetic charities, or by dissenting taxpayers?

# Stewardship of Creation

Climate Change | Energy & Resources | Sustainable Development | Species, Diversity & Wildlife

*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*

## Catholic Teaching

God gave humans dominion over the earth, thereby making us stewards of creation as we work with Him in His continuing act of creation.

We must constantly consider how our actions glorify or harm this wonderful gift God has entrusted to us. This is a multi-faceted question, which must not be over-simplified.

With a vocation to glorify all life which includes respect for the inviolability and integrity of life, humans find themselves in the presence of all God's other creatures. We can and are obliged to put them at our own service and to enjoy them, but our dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility. It is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is "good" in the sight of God. This is a marvelous challenge to human intellect. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 112, 113*

*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*

-Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

The Book of Genesis provides us with certain foundations of Christian anthropology, including the meaning of human activity in the world, which is linked to the discovery and respect of the laws of nature that God has inscribed in the created universe, so that humanity may live in it and care for it in accordance with God's will. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 37*

## Climate Change

**There is urgency to this issue.** Every Pope since at least Paul VI has written of our need to shift to a more responsible use of the earth and its abundant resources. The Church accepts that that need is now urgent.

**A very solid scientific consensus** indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat... at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors, yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Climate change

The party states that:

- climate change is a global emergency, and that there is no time to waste in taking action to protect Americans' lives and futures; that the US must lead the world in taking on the climate crisis, and not deny the science and accelerate the damage
- recent years have seen record-breaking storms, devastating wildfires, and historic floods
- during its term in office, the administration has rejoined the Paris Agreement and taken bold action to reduce climate pollution across every sector of the economy, protecting more than 26 million acres of lands and waters, and restoring the vital role of science in guiding Federal decision-making, including:
  - signing the largest investment in climate action ever with the Inflation Reduction Act—resulting in 210,000 new clean energy jobs created by clean energy
  - bold executive action to cut emissions across the economy, including final standards to reduce methane pollution from oil and gas operations
  - putting United States on a path toward cutting carbon pollution in half from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, including use of the Justice40 Initiative to embed environmental justice into clean energy and climate programs
  - launch of the American Climate Corps initiative to mobilize a new, diverse generation of clean energy, conservation, and resilience workers to tackle the climate crisis

The party advocates:

- achieving zero-emissions as soon as possible, and not later than 2050
- eliminating carbon pollution from power plants by 2035
- requiring net zero emissions for all new buildings by 2030
- dramatic expansion of solar and wind energy through community-based and utility-scale systems, including installation of 500 million solar panels and 60,000 wind turbines within 5 years
- investment in clean energy, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing
- providing energy-efficiency upgrades to up to 2 million low-income homes and affordable & public housing projects
- transitioning the entire US fleet of 500,000 school buses to zero-emission vehicles within 5 years
- installation of 500,000 public charging stations for electric vehicles
- reversing rollbacks of climate and environmental protections
- rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement
- reducing harmful methane and carbon pollution from the energy sector
- investing to create millions of jobs in clean tech, energy efficiency, clean transportation, and sustainable agriculture
- requiring companies to report polluters in their operations and supply chains

### Energy & Resources

The party states that:

- during its current term in office the administration has taken action to bring gas prices down—since their peak, average gas prices have come down more than \$1.60 per gallon
- the administrations Inflation Reduction Act is directly investing in communities and spurring hundreds of billions of dollars in private sector investment in wind, solar, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles

The party's 2025 budget advocates:

- allocating \$142 million, an increase of \$31 million above the 2023 enacted level, to continue progress in deploying clean energy on public lands and waters
- leasing, planning, and permitting of solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects, and associated transmission infrastructure that would help mitigate the impacts of climate change and support the Administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 25 gigawatts of clean energy capacity on public lands by 2025
- allocating \$10.7 billion for DOE, NASA, NSF, DOD, and other agencies to support innovation in commercial clean energy products, including in areas such as: offshore wind; industrial heat; sustainable aviation fuel; and grid infrastructure.

gases released mainly as a result of human activity. Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 23

## Energy & Resources

The good steward neither allows the resources entrusted to him to lie fallow or to fail to produce their proper fruit, nor does he waste or destroy them (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Rather, he uses them responsibly, for the Lord's purposes, to realize their increase so that he may enjoy his livelihood and provide for the good of his family, his descendants, and his neighbors.

Humanity's relationship with creation and the creatures of the earth "requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation." *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 115

One of the higher priority issues in economics is the utilization of resources, that is, of all those goods and services to which economic subjects — producers and consumers in the private and public spheres — attribute value because of their inherent usefulness in the areas of production and consumption... Resources in nature are quantitatively scarce, which means that each individual economic subject, as well as each individual society, must necessarily come up with a plan for their utilization in the most rational way possible, following the logic dictated by the "principle of economizing." *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 346

Because of the powerful means of transformation offered by technological civilization, it seems that the balance between man and the environment has reached a critical point... A reductionistic conception quickly spread, starting from the presupposition — which was seen to be erroneous — that an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 461, 462

## Conservation & Sustainable Development

Care for the environment represents a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good, destined for all, by preventing anyone from using with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — animals, plants, the natural elements — simply as one wishes, according to one's own economic needs.

Responsibility for the environment, the common heritage of mankind, extends not only to present needs but also to those of the future... This is a responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future... A correct understanding of the environment... at the same time... must not absolutize nature and place it above the dignity of the human person himself. In this latter

- allocating an additional \$2.2 billion to acquire low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), which coupled with a long-term ban on imports of LEU and HALEU from Russia, would prompt sufficient private sector investment to reinvigorate U.S. uranium enrichment and reduce America's current dependence on Russian enriched uranium imports
- allocating \$300 million to safeguard the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to protect consumers in times of emergency oil shortages

## Conservation & Sustainable Development

The party advocates:

- protecting wildlife habitats and biodiversity, and growing natural carbon sinks by conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030
- zero-emissions agriculture and aquaculture
- investment in sustainable, low-carbon and organic agriculture and aquaculture
- historic investments in cleanup of legacy pollution sites
- increased support for wetlands restoration

To assist families while improving the efficiency of buildings, the party advocates:

- budgeting \$4.1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to help families access home energy and weatherization assistance
- following expiration of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program at the end of 2023, allowing States to use a portion of their LIHEAP funds to provide water bill assistance to low-income households
- in addition to \$13 billion provided in Inflation Reduction Act for rural development programs at the Department of Agriculture to reduce energy bills for families, expand clean energy, and create good jobs in rural America, providing \$1 billion for loan guarantees for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements for farmers and rural small businesses, and \$6.5 billion in authority for rural electric loans to support additional clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects
- providing an additional \$53 million in zero-interest loans for the Rural Energy Savings Program, to help rural Americans implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures in their homes

To ensure that Western communities have access to a resilient and reliable water supply by investing in rural water projects, allocating \$1.7 billion water conservation for development of desalination technologies, and water recycling and reuse projects

## Species, Diversity & Wildlife

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on species diversity and wildlife

# GREEN PARTY

## Stewardship of Creation

The party states, among its ten key principles, that:

- human societies must function with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature
- the human community is an element of the Earth community. All human endeavors are situated within the dynamics of the biosphere. If we wish to have sustainable institutions and enterprises, they must fit well with the processes of the Earth.
- the nation must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet
- it supports a sustainable society that utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation
- to these ends the nation must practice agriculture that replenishes the soil, move to an energy-efficient economy, and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems
- social actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals, seeking to protect valuable natural resources and safely disposing of or 'unmaking' all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival
- the nation's economy must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions
- the quality of all lives, rather than open-ended economic growth, should be the focus of future thinking and policy

## Ecosocialist New Deal

The party advocates an Ecosocialist Green New Deal to achieve 100% clean energy, zero greenhouse gas emissions, and economic security for all within a decade. The Green New Deal will:

- continue to work toward negative emissions to bring the atmospheric greenhouse gases back into the climate safety and stability zone by the end of the 21st

case, one can go so far as to divinize nature or the earth, as can readily be seen in certain ecological movements that seek to gain an internationally guaranteed institutional status for their beliefs. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 346, 461-463*

### Species Diversity & Wildlife

Man and woman find themselves also in the presence of all the other creatures. They can and are obliged to put them at their own service and to enjoy them, but their dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is “good” in the sight of God, who is its author. Man must discover and respect its value. This is a marvellous challenge to his intellect, which should lift him up as on wings towards the contemplation of the truth of all God’s creatures, that is, the contemplation of what God sees as good in them. Man must recognize all of God’s creatures for what they are and establish with each of them a relationship of responsibility. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 113*

Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 339*

It is a responsibility that must mature on the basis of the global dimension of the present ecological crisis... This perspective takes on a particular importance when one considers, in the context of the close relationships that bind the various parts of the ecosystem, the environmental value of biodiversity, which must be handled with a sense of responsibility and adequately protected. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 466*

century. That safety zone is at most 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>. The world reached over 420 ppm in 2021, the highest level in the 3.6 million years since temperatures were 4°C (7°F) hotter and sea levels were 24 meters (78 feet) higher than today

- call for a World War II-scale mobilization to carry through this emergency climate program. During World War II, the federal government took over a quarter of US manufacturing capacity in order to turn industry on a dime into what President Roosevelt called the “Arsenal of Democracy” to defeat the fascist powers. We need to do nothing less through the public sector to defeat climate change.
- because it is too late for public incentives to private industry such as tax breaks, subsidies, and contracts to make the clean energy transition as proposed by other parties, call for social ownership and democratic planning in order to make a rapid coordinated transition to 100% clean energy and zero-to-negative greenhouse gas emissions, socializing key productive sectors, notably energy production, power distribution, broadband, railroads and automobiles, a greatly expanded public housing sector, and a domestic manufacturing sector to be rebuilt on an ecological basis of clean power and zero waste.
- include an Economic Bill of Rights that guarantees living-wage jobs, incomes above poverty, affordable housing, quality health care, lifelong public education, and a secure retirement.
- contribute to the goals of the Economic Bill of Rights by providing tens of millions of high-quality jobs, and profoundly increase the overall power of working people by virtually eliminating unemployment, underemployment, and poverty incomes. Because these publicly-created jobs will be union jobs, it will also contribute to the workers’ power by radically increasing the proportion of unionized workers in the economy.

Specifically, the party advocates:

- a presidential declaration of the climate crisis as a national emergency, to give the president powers under existing laws to take many immediate steps to address the climate crisis without needing congressional legislation
- creation of a cabinet-level Office of Climate Mobilization to coordinate all federal agencies and economic planning to meet climate safety and justice goals
- congressional legislation to implement the Ecosocialist Green New Deal

The party’s Green New Deal includes:

- halting all new fossil fuel infrastructure (fracking, oil and gas pipelines, gas-fired power plants). Existing infrastructure is more than sufficient to deliver fossil fuels during the transition as they are phased out. The halt would include so-called “low carbon” dirty energy industries; fossil fuel carbon capture and sequestration; waste incinerators; large-scale biofuels such as factory farm biogas, landfill gas, and wood pellets; hydrogen from fossil fuels; large-scale ecosystem-altering hydropower; and market-based accounting systems like carbon offsets. Clean energy includes solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, wave, and small-scale hydro
- socializing all power generation and distribution utilities and private energy corporations into a public energy system in order to rapidly implement the transition to 100% clean energy generation and distribution. The public energy system will operate at cost for public benefit rather than cost-plus-profit for owners. For-profit private utilities will not build the smart grid necessary to incorporate the distributed nature of renewables and to implement energy conservation and efficiency in energy use because the private utilities are more profitable continuing to use the servo-mechanical grid based on centralized power plants. The public energy system should be governed from the bottom-up by a decentralized federation of elected local/regional public energy districts that in turn elect state and federal boards for state and federal coordination
- socializing the railroad and automotive industries into a public transportation system to rapidly electrify transportation powered by clean energy sources. The public transportation system should be governed from the bottom up by a decentralized federation of elected local/regional public transportation districts that in turn elect state and federal boards for state and federal coordination. Intra-city mass transit and inter-city freight rails and high-speed passenger rails should move energy- and resource-inefficient personal vehicles and freight trucking on roads onto electrified passenger and freight rails. Urban planning should encourage walkable and bikeable neighborhoods through pedestrian and bike lanes on roads and rezoning single-family residence zones into mixed use zones
- building a public manufacturing system on the basis of clean energy and zero waste. The public manufacturing system will prioritize developing publicly-owned companies for clean energy and zero waste in key industries, such as zero-carbon cement manufacturing and replacing coke ovens with electric arc furnaces and green-hydrogen blast furnaces for steel production. Policy should require that manufacturing products are returned to their manufacturer when used up to be reused and recycled into the next generation of products. This zero-waste approach includes a rapid phase-out of petrochemical plastics and their replacement by biodegradable and inert packaging and product parts, including paper and glass. The public manufacturing system should have a training program that enables the workers in these publicly-owned companies if they so choose to lease the factories from the public energy system and manage them as worker cooperatives.
- replacing agricultural pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and large-scale industrialized factory farms based on monocropping and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations with regenerative organic agroecology by working farmers on small and medium-sized farms, including banning ban absentee and corporate ownership of farms and ranches, subsidizing the transition of farmers to organic production, and providing community-owned farmland to enable farmers to stay on farms where land prices rise too high. It will provide parity pricing and supply management to insure all working farmers have a decent income above their costs of production. In coordination with the public manufacturing system, it will provide ecological farm machinery and regional food and fiber processing and manufacturing in farming districts. Regenerative agriculture will be a major contributor to carbon drawdown by rebuilding carbon-rich living soil and integrating the agro-ecologies of farms into surrounding ecosystems.



- expanding public housing until every person has an affordable housing option, and ensuring that new and existing public housing is powered by clean energy. Public housing will be open to anyone so that low-income, working-class, and middle-class people live in the same developments and reduce race and class segregation. Priority placement should be given to low-income people as the expanded public housing sector is built out in order to house the homeless as soon as possible. Coordinate the rehabilitation of existing and the building of new public housing with public transportation and the placement of ecological manufacturing in order to transform urban landscapes into walkable, bikeable communities. The public housing system should be governed from the bottom up by a decentralized federation of elected local/regional public housing authorities that in turn elect state and federal boards for state and federal coordination. Develop organic urban farms and farm belts around cities and towns to increase access to fresh food and employment options in agriculture.
- building a public broadband system providing free internet to all and public 'cloud' systems that allow individuals, government, and organizations to construct public alternatives to near-monopolies like Amazon Web Services and Facebook. Universal internet is necessary for equal educational opportunity and access to information as well as implementation of a smart grid for the efficient use of renewable energy sources. The public broadband system should be governed from the bottom up by a decentralized federation of elected local/regional broadband utility boards that in turn elect state and federal boards for state and federal coordination.
- to build negative emissions programs, creating a Civilian Conservation Corps employing several million people in natural carbon sequestration projects that restore biospheric carbon sinks, including forests, soils, wetlands, and mangroves in the U.S. and around the world. The corps should also work to restore and enhance public recreation and park infrastructure and to clean up hazardous waste sites.
- to keep climate warming below the acknowledged 1.5°C rise, exceeding which will increase the potential onset of tipping points leading to catastrophic climate change with impacts far worse than are now witnessed, implementing near-future radical reduction of global fossil fuel consumption coupled with negative carbon emissions will be imperative. Further, the 2021 6th IPCC Report emphasizes that curbing methane emissions will have significant benefits in slowing down global warming. Climate security requires negative greenhouse gas emissions and not the "net zero" goal now promoted. Net zero is a cover for unaccountable carbon offsets and corporate land grabbing, especially in the global South. "Net zero" is an excuse to prolong consumption of fossil fuels and emissions of CO2. Negative carbon emissions should be the goal.
- researching and developing other ways of drawing carbon out of the atmosphere in order to return to the climate safety zone. Biospheric carbon sequestration may have to be augmented by geospheric carbon sequestration. Greens call for research and development of a solar-powered industrial acceleration of weathering that fixes carbon in the Earth's crust in the natural geological carbon cycle. Demonstration projects have already shown it is feasible to combine water and CO2 to react chemically in basalt rock formations to create carbonates that fix carbon to the rocks in the Earth's crust for geological time scales.
- acknowledging and paying the climate and ecological debt the U.S. has incurred as the world's largest historical carbon emitter and destroyer of carbon-storing forests, wetlands, and soils. The U.S. climate debt is not only due to its historical emissions. It is part of a broader ecological debt from the destruction of carbon-storing forests, soils, and wetlands by the resource-extracting foreign corporations of the Global North that have expropriated the resources, destroyed the biodiversity, and impoverished the people of the Global South. We in the U.S. are linked to this destruction of biodiversity by the globalization of supply chains and trade. This ecologically unequal exchange exploits the rainforests, agricultural lands, and fisheries of the Global South to provide wood, palm oil, and other food and fiber products to the rich countries. The U.S. is the world's biggest importer of the tropical products of the Global South, which means the U.S. is the top destroyer of carbon-storing and ecosystem-stabilizing biodiversity. Paying this climate and ecological debt would not only be reparations to the Global South to help those countries make the transition to sustainable clean energy economies. Paying this debt is also an investment in the habitability of the planet for everyone.
- enacting a Just Transition program that guarantees that workers and communities affected by the transition to clean energy are kept whole during the transition. The Just Transition program will guarantee workers up to five years of their current wages and benefits, or a good pension for early retirement for those who choose it or can no longer work. Communities that lose tax revenues due the closure of power and manufacturing plants will receive equal revenues until new Green New Deal plants make up the loss.
- an Economic Bill of Rights (see section "An Economy to Serve People")

### **Climate Change**

The party states that:

- climate change is the gravest environmental, social and economic peril that humanity has ever met. Across the world, it is causing vanishing polar ice, melting glaciers, growing deserts, stronger storms, rising oceans, less biodiversity, deepening droughts, as well as more disease, hunger, strife and human misery
- greenhouse gases warm the Earth by trapping heat in the atmosphere. Much of that heat is initially absorbed by the ocean, creating roughly a 30-year delay in the impact of that heat at the surface of the planet. Practically speaking, that means that the melting glaciers and expanding deserts of 2009 were the result of greenhouse gases dumped into the atmosphere in the late 1970s, when the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was below 350 parts per million (ppm). To return to a safe level of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere, we must reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases as quickly as possible to levels that existed before 1980, to 350ppm carbon dioxide.

The party advocates:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions at least 40% by 2020 and 95% by 2050, over 1990 levels

- science-based policies to curb climate change by expending maximum effort to preserve a planet friendly to life as we know it by curtailing greenhouse gas emissions and actively removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere
  - enactment of an emergency Green New Deal to turn the tide on climate change, revive the economy and make wars for oil obsolete
  - a WWII-scale national mobilization to halt climate change, the greatest threat to humanity in our history
  - creation of 20 million jobs by transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030, and investing in public transit, sustainable agriculture, conservation and restoration of critical infrastructure, including ecosystems
  - implementation of a Just Transition that empowers those communities and workers most impacted by climate change and the transition to a green economy
  - supporting workers displaced by the shift away from fossil fuels with full income and benefits as they transition to alternative work
  - community and worker ownership of our energy system
  - treat energy as a human right
- building of a nationwide smart electricity grid that can pool and store power from a diversity of renewable sources, giving the nation clean, democratically-controlled, energy
- ending destructive energy extraction and associated infrastructure: fracking, tar sands, offshore drilling, oil trains, mountaintop removal, natural gas pipelines, and uranium mines
  - halting any investment in fossil fuel infrastructure, including natural gas, and phase out all fossil fuel power plants
  - phasing out nuclear power and end nuclear subsidies
  - a Fee & Dividend system on fossil fuels to enable the free market to include the environmental costs of their extraction and use. These fees shall be applied as far upstream as possible, either when fuel passes from extraction to refining, distribution or consumption; or when it first enters the United States' jurisdiction. The carbon fee will initially be small, a dime per kilogram of carbon, to avoid creating a shock to the economy. The fee will be increased by 10% each year that global atmospheric carbon dioxide content is greater than 350 ppm, decreased 10% each year it's less than 300 ppm, and repealed entirely when it falls below 250 ppm
  - strict, comprehensive compliance with the Clean Air Act. State and local clean air initiatives should advance and improve national efforts; for example, moving forward with stricter clean air and fuel efficiency standards, and with vehicle and fleet conversions
  - further research on the damaging effects of hydrofluorocarbons and very short-lived substances (VSLs) on the ozone layer, and replacement of those causing destruction of ozone
  - amendments to update the Montreal Protocol of 1987 to keep it consistent with current scientific findings regarding threats to the ozone layer

#### ***International Climate Treaty***

The party states that:

- the climate treaty reached in Paris in December, 2015 is inadequate to address the climate change crisis. The 195 nations involved pledged to reduce greenhouse gases. The pledges are not mandatory, however. The treaty does not require the phase out of fossil fuels, and it delays higher aid levels for poorer nations until 2025

The party advocates:

- legally binding commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2020 and a 95% reduction by 2030 over 1990 levels

#### ***Repaying Climate Debt***

The party advocates:

- paying for adaptation to climate change in countries with less responsibility for climate change, e.g., providing a carbon neutral development path for those countries that can no longer be permitted to develop by burning cheap fossil fuels

#### ***Conservation***

The party states that:

- it is appalled by the country's withdrawal from serious efforts to limit greenhouse gases that are contributing mightily to global climate disruption
- land use policies must promote sustainable development and respect ecology
- land use practices must be founded on stewardship of the Earth, to honor the interconnected and interdependent nature of all life, to respect ecosystems and other species, while at the same time providing for human needs in a responsible and sustainable way

The party advocates:

- adoption of organic agriculture and the careful tending of our nation's precious remaining topsoil
- planetary efforts to slow the ever-increasing numbers of humans pressuring the ecosystems
- reduction of consumption of the world's raw materials by the industrialized Northern Hemisphere
- adopting a national zero waste policy. The less we consume and throw away, the less we will need to produce and replace

- to remove carbon from the atmosphere and stabilize the climate, use of ecological restoration techniques such as restoration of forests, grasslands, and farmlands by planting trees, reforestation and afforestation of public lands, and revegetation of grasslands with native species to prevent desertification and improve climate resilience
- encouraging regenerative agricultural techniques
- restoring ecosystems on privately-owned lands by providing incentives to landowners
- acknowledgement that every property right has an implied responsibility to provide for the common good of people, places and the planet
- formation and operation of cooperatives, non-profits, land trusts, co-housing, and other forms of communal and public interest management of land and resources
- promotion of livable urban environments to minimize urban sprawl
- matching urban populations with the carrying capacities of the bioregions in which our cities are located
- preservation and expansion of rural land use patterns that promote open space, healthy ecosystems, wildlife corridors and the ecologically sustainable agriculture, and of large continuous tracts of public and private land for wildlife habitat and biological diversity, to permit healthy, self-managing wildlife populations to exist in a natural state, and to promote complete ecosystems
- transition of rural communities into sustainable relationships with ranching, agriculture, forestry and mining
- rewards for farmers and ranchers for the ecosystem services they provide on private and public lands
- promotion of small-scale farmers and ranchers over large-scale corporate agriculture and ranching
- reforms of mining law and practice to better balance mining with other important public land uses; providing a fair financial return to taxpayers for resources extracted, and creating a fund for clean up of abandoned mines
- strict curbs on mercury emissions from metal mines
- elimination of public subsidies for livestock grazing on public lands
- ending sale of any portion of our national parks, forests or coastlines

### **Water**

The party states that:

- according to the United Nations, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water
- if current trends persist, by 2025 as much as two-thirds of the world's population will be living with a serious scarcity of water
- multinational corporations recognize these trends and are moving fast to monopolize water supplies around the world. They argue that privatizing water is the best way to allocate this valuable resource, and they are scheming to have water declared a human need so that it can be commodified and sold on the open market ensuring that the allocation of water will be based on principles of scarcity and profit maximization
- governments are signing away their control over their domestic water supplies by participating in trade treaties such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and in institutions such as the World Trade Organization
- the World Bank recently adopted a policy of water privatization and full-cost water pricing

The party advocates:

- because water is essential to all forms of life, an international declaration that water belongs to the Earth and all of its species
- leadership by the U.S. Government declaring water a fundamental human right and preventing efforts to privatize, export, and sell it for profit
- strong national and international laws to promote conservation, reclaim polluted water systems, develop water-supply restrictions, ban toxic and pesticide dumping, control or ban corporate farming, and curb transnational corporations that pollute water systems, including severe restriction of polluting mines
- banning privatization of water
- re-prioritization of policies achieve a truly sustainable water policy
- application of the principle of bioregionalism (living within the means of a region's natural resources) to future water policies
- mandating water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction, and promote retrofitting of older buildings
- promoting use of native landscaping and other drought resistant/ climate-appropriate plants, in order to reduce the need for irrigation
- promotion of drip irrigation systems where irrigation is necessary
- education citizens and enforcement of laws to end storm water pollution of water resources
- promoting appropriate reuse of "gray" and "black" waters we produce, e.g., for lawn watering and similar purposes
- promoting use of passive and natural systems (such as wetlands) for water and wastewater treatment
- upgrading and phasing out aging municipal sewage systems and treatment plants

### **Forestry**

The party states that:

- forests are indispensable to human and animal life and must be protected. Globally, the planet has already lost 50% of our pre-colonial forests and the plant and animal communities they supported. Our rapidly increasing numbers, high-consumption rates, and profit incentives have resulted in massive forest

destruction due to logging and development, and the Earth's remaining rain forests are being destroyed and transformed into cattle pastures or mono-crops for bio-fuels production

- tree mortality rates of 0.5 to 0.7% per year are natural. We are now witnessing local tree die-offs of 30 to 40% and even higher!
- forestry practices such as clearcutting also destroy the mycorrhizal fungi with which trees have a symbiotic relationship, and regeneration is slowed or impossible

To protect our forests, the party advocates:

- overhauling of state and U.S. Forest Service rules, and reform and restructuring of federal and state land-use policies to make our use environmentally sustainable, while allowing forests to provide a continuing supply of high quality wood products
- banning the harvest of Ancient Forests
- banning the export of raw logs and other minimally processed forest products (pulp, chips, carts, slabs, etc.), which causes American job loss
- subsidies for local watershed-based mills, to maximize employment opportunities through value-added processing, and promote sustainability and worker control
- using work projects, goats, and other sustainable methods to control undergrowth rather than spraying herbicides, especially near communities
- cultivation of hemp as a plentiful and renewable resource for the manufacture of paper and other forest products
- requiring all U.S. Government offices to use 100% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine free, and that any new fiber necessary to the process come from alternative sources such as hemp or kenaf

### ***Oceans***

The party states that:

- the world's oceans, which are essential to life on Earth, are threatened by climate change, pollution, whaling, over fishing, factory fishing, bottom trawling, by catch, pirate fishing and fish farming. Yet simple, strong policy changes can rejuvenate the health of our oceans and planet

The party advocates:

- protection of 40% of the world's oceans as marine preserves, especially near shore coastal habitats, including determination of protected zones through a democratic process involving all stakeholders
- banning of offshore oil drilling and the siting of liquefied natural gas facilities off the U.S. coast
- ending use of once-through cooling process in and near coastal waters
- requiring secondary treatment of waste effluent before release
- the ban on international commercial whaling as well as other international efforts to protect endangered marine species
- banning of drift-net fishing and long-line fishing and phase out of factory trawling, and importation of fish and fish products caught by drift-nets and other illegal means
- mapping of undersea toxic dump sites, and investigation of methods of rendering them harmless
- banning importation of coral products and destruction of breakwaters. 13. Support the Law of the Sea Treaty that establishes the global sharing of ocean resources. 14. Support complete cleanup of existing and past oil spills. Cost of cleanups and compensation for affected communities should be paid by the corporations responsible for the spills.

### ***Species, Diversity & Wildlife***

The party states that:

- we humans have a moral responsibility to all of our natural relations of other species, many of which are facing extinction because we carelessly and permanently halt their long evolutionary journey
- continuing destruction of animal habitats threatens an ever-growing number of species with extinction, not only depriving these species of their existence, but future human generations of the enrichment of having these species on the Earth

The party advocates:

- reformulation of all policies concerning human settlement, food, energy, natural resources, water, coastal development, and industrialization to prevent further disruption of the non-human ecosystems' ability to maintain themselves
- promotion of and public access to seed banks and seed collections that emphasize traditional and heirloom seeds, and opposition to monopolistic production of high-tech hybrid seeds, which relies on non-sustainable methods such as single crop varieties bred with industrial traits and grown with high input of energy, chemicals, and pesticides and has led to a massive loss of biodiversity
- opposition of international trade agreements (NAFTA, GATT and the WTO in particular) that have precedent-setting provisions protecting transnational, corporate control of the intellectual property of genetic material, hybrid seeds, and proprietary products

- since the mark of a humane and civilized society lies in how we treat the least protected among us, extension of rights to other sentient, living beings, and an intelligent, compassionate approach to the treatment of animals
- in order to protect the health of continental ecosystems, a halt to the destruction of habitats, which are being sacrificed to unqualified economic expansion.

### **Energy & Resources**

The party states that:

- the nation's houses and buildings, manufacturing processes, and industrial agriculture were all designed with the assumption of an endless supply of cheap and readily available fossil fuels, without thought for pollution and despoiling the land
- it is optimistic about the alternatives that now exist and that could be encouraged through tax policy and the market incentives of fuel efficiency
- it is committed to extending the greening of waste management by encouraging the spread of such practices as reduce, return, reuse, and recycle
- it strongly opposes recent attempts to roll back the federal environmental protection laws that safeguard our air, water, and soil

The party advocates:

- treating energy as a human right
- a nationwide smart electricity grid that can pool and store power from a diversity of renewable sources, giving the nation clean, democratically-controlled, energy
- ending destructive energy extraction and associated infrastructure: fracking, tar sands, offshore drilling, oil trains, mountaintop removal, natural gas pipelines, and uranium mines
- halting any investment in fossil fuel infrastructure, including natural gas, and phase out all fossil fuel power plants
- phasing out nuclear power and end nuclear subsidies
- adopting energy efficiency standards that reduce energy demand economy-wide by 50% over the next 20–30 years, as the U.S. needs no additional power, rather it can make massive reductions in its energy use through a combination of conservation and efficiency measures

### **Sustainable Development**

The party states that:

- a waste-free society is essential to public health and the integrity and sustainability of the biosphere
- natural ecosystems are self-sustaining and generate no waste. We humans are a part of these ecosystems, and while we obtain resources from them, we have a responsibility to return only those things that can be re-absorbed without detriment
- waste is not an inevitable part of production and consumption, as it is viewed in the current economic model

The party advocates:

- shifting the nation toward clean production and principles of zero waste
- phasing out all avoidable production and sale of toxic metals, persistent organic pollutants, persistent bio-accumulative toxins, synthetic petrochemicals, and halogenated chemicals, and replacing them with non-toxic alternatives
- making manufacturers responsible for the full life cycle of their products by requiring them to take back used products and packaging for remanufacturing, reuse, or recycling
- support for and implementation of the principle: "When an activity threatens harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically; placing the burden of proof on the proponent of the activity, rather than the public
- strengthen right-to-know laws so that everyone can discover what toxic or potentially toxic chemicals are used and released in their communities, and in products that they might purchase or use
- strict liability for the consequences of the pollution produced by corporations
- ending the use of incineration as a cleanup technology, and ensuring that "cleanups" don't simply relocate toxins to chemical waste dumps in poor communities of color
- shut down existing waste incinerators, imposing a moratorium on new waste incinerators, and phasing out landfills
- prohibition of shipping of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive wastes across national borders, and the shipment of such wastes without strict regulation across any political borders
- safe, secure, above ground storage for existing nuclear waste
- closure, clean up, and remediation of national labs devoted to nuclear energy and weapons development and operations
- independent, transparent radiation monitoring at all nuclear facilities
- replacement of chemical safety testing on animals with alternatives that do not use animals, wherever such alternative tests or testing strategies are available



### **Stewardship of the Environment**

Candidate Kennedy states that:

- “I don’t want my children growing up in a world where there are no commercial fishermen, and where we’ve lost touch with the seasons and tides and things that connect us to 10,000 generations of human beings that were here before laptops, and that connect us ultimately to God. God communicates with us through many vectors, none more than creation.”

The campaign states that:

- Candidate Kennedy spent most of his career as an environmental lawyer, suing big polluters and government agencies that failed to enforce the law. Time Magazine named him “Hero for the Planet.” Kennedy sued Mobil Oil to reverse its pollution of the Hudson River; DuPont, Mitsubishi, and Ford, to force them to clean up chemical spills; Monsanto on behalf of farm workers and families who developed cancer from toxic pesticides
- the organization Kennedy founded, Waterkeeper Alliance, is now the largest clean water organization in the world, protecting 2.7 million miles of waterways in 47 countries. Throughout his career, Kennedy has stood among the leadership of the environmental movement crafting sensible, free-market solutions to environmental challenges.
- Candidate Kennedy’s success came from uniting liberal environmentalists with conservative rod-and-gun folks who shared a desire for a clean, healthy environment. He intends to bring the same commitment and coalition-building to address the most pressing environmental problems, domestically and beyond
- the campaign’s environmental plan will unite Americans around broadly shared values and commonsense priorities to protect air, water, natural resources and sacred places. Being independent, it can break through the divisive political arguments that keep us distracted while Republicans and Democrats allow corporate interests to strip-mine our natural heritage
- recent years have seen an increase in environmental disasters: floods and droughts, fires, and toxic spills. Soils are depleted, the weather is wacky, trees are dying, and the water in many places is toxic. Chronic disease is at an all-time high
- Candidate Kennedy undertakes in all his policies to put people and places first. In recent years, climate change has made the environment a divisive issue, but there are many policies that make sense to skeptics and activists alike. It intends to emphasize those, and rebuild a broad environmental coalition to clean up the country

The campaign advocates addressing problems at their root causes, including:

- unravelling corporate influence in environmental regulatory agencies, including the EPA, USDA, DOI, DOE, USFWS, and USFS, by replacing corporate-linked agency leaders with honest public servants

### **Sustainable Development; Species, Diversity & Wildlife**

#### ***Reducing toxic chemical pollution and plastic waste***

The campaign states that toxic industrial chemicals, largely from plastic (especially single-use plastics), are now so pervasive that most Americans are exposed to them at unsafe levels. Of the more than 13,000 chemicals used in plastics, only a few have been adequately tested. Many commonly used chemicals are known to increase the risk of cancer, reproductive health problems, obesity, and other serious health concerns.

- the nation’s oceans, lakes, and rivers are now burdened with more than 200 million tons of plastic pollution. Plastic is killing birds, turtles, whales, and other species, and harming human health.
- dangerous chemicals leach into our food directly from plastic packaging. We eat, drink, and inhale microplastics by the millions.
- during each of the two most recent administrations, the plastic industry’s footprint has continued to grow, even though the vast majority of American voters want to cut plastic pollution. During these administrations, petrochemical companies have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in new facilities to turn fracked natural gas liquids (NGLs) into plastics, which will dramatically expand the amount of plastic waste generated over the next several decades
- petrochemicals, primarily for plastics, are estimated to drive 45% of global oil demand growth by 2050

The campaign advocates:

- support for an ambitious international plastics treaty
- implementation of safety regulations and restrictions on hazardous chemicals to prevent accidents like the one in East Palestine
- passage of a national bottle bill (also called a container deposit return law)
- coordination of a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system so that corporate producers of plastic packaging remain responsible for their waste
- modernizing recycling facilities and strengthening closed-loop recycling systems; and ending subsidies for plastic producers
- limiting construction and expansion of plastic facilities
- holding fracking and petrochemical companies accountable for pollution

#### ***Protecting forests, rivers, fisheries, and wildlife habitats from corporate abuse***

The campaign states that:

- the heart and soul of U.S. environmentalism is protecting America the Beautiful. This is not a “blue” or “red” issue. Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt, “hook and bullet” conservationists have worked to protect their fishing and hunting grounds from corporate developers and extractive industries
- candidate Kennedy worked with hook and bullet groups and commercial fishermen, as well as more environmental activists, to clean up the Hudson River. Yet somehow today, divisive political forces have set the public arguing against each other as corporate interests keep stripping away what we love

To prevent big industries from turning all living creatures and natural ecosystems into commodities, the campaign advocates:

- staffing federal agencies with people who are not beholden to corporate interests, and enabling them to enforce US laws such as the Endangered Species Act, to make more success stories like the recovery of the once-endangered American bald eagle possible
- safeguarding America’s old-growth forests, and leading international efforts to end deforestation around the world
- expanding on candidate Kennedy’ experience cleaning up the Hudson River to restore America’s major rivers, wetlands, and coastal environments, and responsibly managing our natural resources, fisheries, hunting grounds, wildlands, and marine habitats

#### ***Restoring corporate-abused landscapes and keeping communities safe***

The campaign states that:

- the wildfire that swept through Lahaina, Hawaii in August 2023 was the deadliest blaze in modern U.S. history. In California and other western states including Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Texas, millions of acres have burned in recent years, claiming far too many lives and homes. Western wildfires have covered large swathes of the country in smoke

The campaign advocates:

- implementing comprehensive federal wildfire management policies and supporting robust wildfire and emergency-response policies in communities at risk, to reduce fire disasters and deaths, such policies including managing forests, wildlands, and wildland-urban interfaces (places where people’s homes and infrastructure come into contact with wildlands) by addressing all of the factors that contribute to major wildfires.
- stopping corporate interests from abusing landscapes and making them more susceptible to fire
- unravelling corporate capture in the five federal agencies responsible for wildland fire management — theForest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service
- restoring and regenerating degraded lands
- maintaining ecologically healthy, resilient, and fire-resistant forests and grasslands
- protecting the nation’s remaining old-growth forests, which are more resistant to fire, and revamp forest management
- keeping combustible materials at manageable levels using controlled burns and other methods
- utilizing firebreaks and managing potential fuels in wildland-urban interfaces
- creating community fire resilience zones in at-risk urban areas
- cleaning up toxic chemicals released by materials burned in urban fires
- establishing better wildfire emergency response protocols
- providing more support for wildfire victims
- shifting agricultural subsidies so as to encourage regenerative practices. Today, a new generation of farmers and ranchers is building soil, replenishing groundwater, and detoxifying land, all while producing just as much food as conventional farmers and earning a decent livelihood
- incentivizing the transition of industry to zero-waste cycles and clean energy sources, and forging agreements with other countries to implement these policies throughout the global supply chain. These first two policies will vastly reduce the toxic waste, industrial poisons, and harmful pesticides
- protecting wild lands from further development, by curbing mining, logging, oil drilling, and suburban sprawl, and becoming a global advocate for rainforest preservation and marine restoration



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY

### **Environment**

The party states that:

- competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources
- governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection
- protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required

### **Energy and Resources**

The party states that:

- while energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. It opposes all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production



## REPUBLICAN PARTY

The party advocates:

- canceling the electric vehicle mandate and cutting costly burdensome regulations

### **Climate change**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on climate change.

### **Energy & Resources**

To make America once again energy independent, and then energy dominant, the party advocates:

- increasing energy production across the board, including streamlining the permitting process and ending market-distorting restrictions on oil, natural gas, and coal, lowering energy prices even below the record lows achieved during its prior term of administration.

### **Conservation & Sustainable Development**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on conservation or sustainable development.

### **Species, Diversity & Wildlife**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on species, diversity, or wildlife.

## Points to Ponder: Stewardship of Creation

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

Some candidates and parties have expressed doubt that human activities are adversely affecting the climate. Many authorities, scientific and academic, including the Vatican, have disagreed, suggesting that there is broad and relatively close agreement among qualified environmental scientists that humans are having an effect, and that in order to avoid catastrophic global heating - with resulting unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events, loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, and collapse of ecosystems - global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to achieve such a limit, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide ("greenhouse gasses," or "GHGs") must be cut in half by 2030 and brought to zero net increase by 2050.

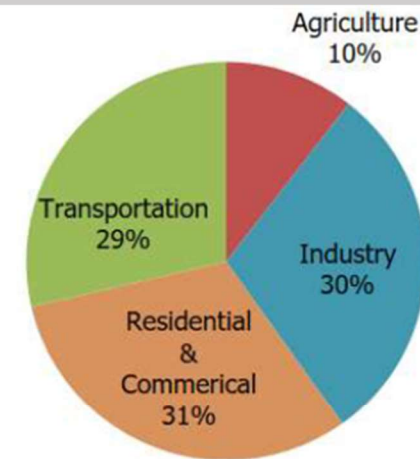
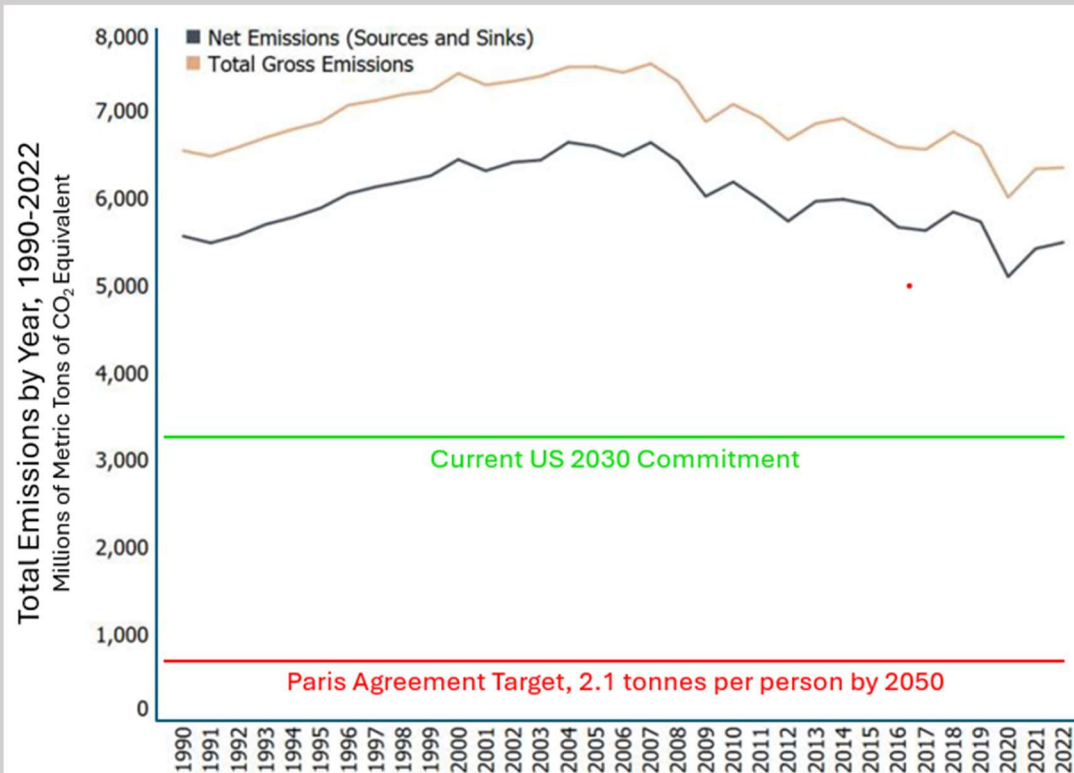
The charts below were published by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The graph on the left shows total GHG emission within the United States. The pie chart on the right shows the relative contributions of the various sources of those emissions.

- In the total emissions graph on the left, the brown upper line represents total emissions, while the black line beneath it represents net total emissions following absorption of carbon by forests and other "sinks". The flat green line represents the current US commitment to reduce emissions by 2023, as announced by the White House in April 2021. The red line at the bottom of the graph represents the Paris Agreement target for net zero increase, based on a global average per capita use.



The total emissions graph seems to suggest that if the US's commitment and the Paris Agreement targets are to be met, progress has been made but that much remains to be done.

1. As noted above, some people doubt that climate change is truly being influenced by human activity, while an apparently solid consensus among scientists says that it is. In such circumstances, what do the Christian principles of prudence and humility suggest? What would a wise and prudent course look like, when the interests of future generations are taken into account?
- The pie chart seems to suggest that the greatest responsibility for emissions is fairly evenly divided between industry, home and office buildings, and transportation, with a further significant input from agriculture.
    2. How do the parties' platforms propose to address emissions with the various sectors shown in the chart?
    3. What do the Catholic principles of solidarity, the common good, subsidiarity, and the sanctity of life have to say about the emissions and proposed responses?



**Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector Including Electricity End-Use Indirect Emissions**

## U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Note: All emission estimates are sourced from the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2022* <<https://epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks>>.

Source of both charts, accessed 19 August 2024:

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Paris Convention target and current US commitments annotated by Catholic Conscience from White House Fact Sheet 22 April 2021 and OECD *Regions and Cities at a Glance* 2022

As of 1 November 2023, the environmental consortium of New Climate Institute and Climate Analytics (<https://climateactiontracker.org>) rated US efforts to meet the 2050 climate targets as “insufficient,” meaning that its efforts are currently trending toward a global temperature rise of more than 3°C. The consortium states: “As of 2022, the US has achieved about one third of its 2030 emissions reduction target. CAT current policies projections, which include the IRA, show a more pronounced reduction in emissions until 2030. Although CAT projections suggest that the US will close the gap by an additional 30%–44% by 2030, it is still 23%–37% short of meeting the required 2030 emissions reductions, evidence that further action is critically needed. The current US target of 50–52% reductions below 2005 by 2030 is not 1.5°C compatible.”

- What can or should federal, state, and local governments, non-governmental organizations, families, and individuals do, if anything, to help prevent irreversible and possibly catastrophic damage to the earth’s atmosphere?
- How can or should state governments help guide the United States toward a sustainable, adaptable, and resilient economy and life style, in order to protect future generations and those who live in other parts of the world, while enabling Americans to work at materially-sustaining and spiritually-fulfilling jobs?

# Family, Community & the Common Good

Role of the Family | Health Care & Elder Care | Education & Young Workers | Culture, Arts & Tourism

*The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)*

## Catholic Teaching

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom. Nor must one forget the contribution that every nation is required in duty to make towards a true worldwide cooperation for the common good of the whole of humanity and for future generations also. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 164-166*

The common good consists of three essential elements: respect for and promotion of the fundamental rights of the person; prosperity, or the development of the spiritual and temporal goods of society; the peace and security of the group and of its members. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1925*

### The Role & Development of the Family

*"Honor your father and mother."  
— the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment*

The family is the primary unit in society. It is where education begins and the Word of God is first nurtured. The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. – 209-214, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 209-214*

The Church teaches that the proper role of government and other human institutions is to foster human life and dignity by maintaining social conditions that enable and encourage us grow authentically and to serve God in one another, and thereby to promote that which is truly in the common interest. This begins with nurturing and enabling families, as well as supporting the elderly and other marginalized members of society.

### Health Care

Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic healthcare, and the lack of safe



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Role and development of the family

The Party's Credo states that at the Party's heart lies a fundamental conviction that it is the responsibility of government to achieve a society:

- which recognizes that the strengthening of the family and the protection of children are essential to the health of the nation
- where a sound education, proper nutrition, quality medical care, affordable housing, safe streets and a healthy environment are possible for every citizen

The party further states that in order to help families:

- its tax plan will ensure that no American earning less than \$400,000 a year will pay one single penny more in federal taxes.
- during the pandemic, the administration expanded the Child Tax Credit, saving nearly 40 million families with 65 million children up to \$3,600 per child per year, and cutting child poverty nearly in half to its lowest rate on record.
- it expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit as well, saving over 17 million low-paid workers an average \$700 a year.
- it expanded the health insurance premium tax credit, saving millions of families who buy coverage on an Affordable Care Act exchange about \$800 a year.

### Family Planning and Maternal Health

With respect to family planning and maternal health equity, the party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

- allocating \$390 million, a 36-percent increase above the 2023 enacted level, for the Title X Family Planning program to increase the number of patients served to 3.6 million
- to address the national maternal mortality rate, which is the highest among developed nations, with disproportionately high rates among Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, and rural women, allocating an additional \$376 million to support the ongoing implementation of the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis, including expansion of Medicaid maternal health support services during the pregnancy and post-partum period by incentivizing States to reimburse a broad range of providers including doulas, community health workers, peer support initiatives, and nurse home visiting programs

### Child Care

#### The child care economy

The party states that:

- high-quality early care and long-term care are critical to the Nation's economic growth and economic security. Early care and education give young children a strong start in life, while long-term care helps older Americans and people with disabilities live, work, and participate in their communities with dignity
- to help families and individuals struggling to access the affordable, high-quality care they need, during its term in office the administration invested over \$60 billion from the American Rescue Plan in the care economy, including \$24 billion to help child care providers and to provide child care workers with higher pay, bonuses, and other benefits. To date, these efforts have helped over 225,000 child care programs serving as many as 10 million children across the Nation
- the President's Council of Economic Advisers found that these investments saved families with young children who rely on paid child care approximately \$1,250 per child per year, and boosted maternal labor-force participation by up to three percent, bringing hundreds of thousands of mothers into the workforce
- the administration also worked with Congress to secure an additional \$2.1 billion in annual Child Care and Development Block Grant program funding since 2021, a 36-percent increase
- in April 2023, Executive Order 14095, "Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers" charged federal agencies to lower the cost of care for families; boost the supply of high-quality early care and education and long-term care; provide more options for individuals and families increase access to affordable care for families; and improve job quality and support for care workers and caregivers
- it advocates guaranteeing affordable high-quality day care from birth until kindergarten, with most families paying just \$10 a day, and free for low-income families.

### Health Care

The party believes that health care is a human right, and undertakes to continue to seek universal health care, reduced premiums and prescription prices, with control of overall costs and elimination of systemic discrimination.

drinking water and sanitation. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 166, 447

Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into the needs of others and the common good. Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living-conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2288

### Support for the Elderly

If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but and above all they need to be treated with love. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 222

### Education

*May Nazareth remind us what the family is, what the communion of love is, its stark and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character; may it help us to see how sweet and irreplaceable education in the family is; may it teach us its natural function in the social order. May we finally learn the lesson of work.*

Pope St Paul VI, *Address at Nazareth (5 January 1964)*

Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 289

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of "deconstructionism", whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today's culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism *Fratelli tutti*, 12

### Culture, Arts & Tourism

Faced with rapid technological and economic progress, and with the equally rapid transformation of the processes of production and consumption, a great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the*

The party states that:

- enrollments for Medicare have increased by more than 9 million people to a record 21.3 million, through the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces for 2024
- in addition, more than one million people in the four States that have adopted the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion have gained Medicaid coverage
- in response to the administration's call, more than 40 States have agreed to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from two months to 12
- recent signing of Inflation Reduction Act is helping millions of Americans save an average of \$800 per year on health insurance by extending the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credit, resulting in record enrollments in Affordable Care Act insurance while capping the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for seniors per insulin prescription, making recommended vaccines free, and requiring drug companies to pay rebates to Medicare if they raise prices faster than inflation
- it has acquired authority for Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices, starting with ten costly drugs used to treat blood clots, cancers, arthritis, and diabetes
- it has banned unwarranted "facility fees" for telehealth and certain other outpatient services in commercial insurance
- the President and First Lady launched the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research to promote both public and private investment and innovation in women's health
- in response to the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the President signed Executive Orders to: protect access to abortion, including medication abortion; strengthen access to contraception; and support women's ability to travel across State lines to access care
- the administration has also strengthened privacy protections for patients and doctors, and defended in court women's ability to access medication abortion and emergency medical care required under Federal law
- the administration continues to call on the Congress to pass legislation restoring the protections of *Roe v. Wade* in Federal law

The party advocates:

- increased funding for research into how the social determinants of health contribute to differences in health outcomes
- a sustained, government-wide effort to eliminate racial, social, ethnic, gender and geographic gaps in insurance rates, access to quality care, and health outcomes
- expanding Medicaid to enroll low-income people in a high-quality public option without premiums, and to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage
- strengthening of the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid, and VA systems
- ensuring that health care is available to all at no more than 8.5% of their income
- doubled investments in community and rural health centers, and expanded mobile health units
- investing to build capacity of Medicaid to eliminate waiting lists for home and community-based care
- elimination of requirement for patients to hold low-paying jobs in order to qualify for Medicaid
- in order to save mothers' lives, expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year after birth, promote maternal health in rural areas and increase diversity of perinatal workforce, implement bias training for health professionals
- increasing medical price transparency, reducing paperwork, implementing uniform billing practices
- pursuing anti-trust action to stop health care mega-mergers
- providing direct, increased supports to states for adult Medicaid enrollment and increase federal percentage of bill coverage
- increased funding for CDC and state and local health departments
- creating a tax credit for unpaid informal and family caregivers
- improving standards for nursing homes and staff
- continued commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- a minimum wage of \$15/hr for health care workers whose employment is funded by taxpayer dollars

To expand access to health care, the party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

- making permanent the expanded premium tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act providing Medicaid-like coverage to individuals in States that have not adopted Medicaid expansion, paired with financial incentives to ensure States maintain their existing expansions
- extending the existing 12-month continuous eligibility under Medicaid and CHIP for all children to 36 months, and allowing States to provide continuous eligibility for children from birth until they turn age six, and prohibiting enrollment fees and premiums in CHIP
- eliminating Medicaid funding caps for Puerto Rico and other Territories while aligning their matching rate with States

With respect to family planning and maternal health equity, the party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

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- to address the national maternal mortality rate, which is the highest among developed nations, with disproportionately high rates among Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, and rural women, allocating an additional \$376 million to support the ongoing implementation of the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis, including expansion of Medicaid maternal health support services during the pregnancy and post-partum period by

Certain economically prosperous countries tend to be proposed as cultural models for less developed countries; instead, each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way and to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. A shallow and pathetic desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming in place of creating, and fosters low national self-esteem.

We forget that “there is no worse form of alienation than to feel uprooted, belonging to no one. **A land will be fruitful, and its people bear fruit and give birth to the future, only to the extent that it can foster a sense of belonging among its members, create bonds of integration between generations and different communities, and avoid all that makes us insensitive to others and leads to further alienation.**” – *Fratelli tutti*, –51-53

incentivizing States to reimburse a broad range of providers including doulas, community health workers, peer support initiatives, and nurse home visiting programs

#### **Disease Treatment and Research**

The party states that during the administration’s current term:

- the Biden Cancer Moonshot was implemented, to mobilize a national effort to end cancer as we know it by spurring action across the Federal Government and from the public and private sectors
- to date, the Biden Cancer Moonshot has announced more than 95 new programs, policies, and resources to address five priority actions including: improving access to cancer screening; understanding and addressing environmental and toxic exposures; advancing cancer prevention; promoting innovation; and boosting support for patients, families, and caregivers

The party’s 2025 budget advocates:

- investments toward the goal of reducing the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years and improving the experience of people who are living with or who have survived cancer, including more than \$2 billion across the National Cancer Institute, FDA, CDC, cancer projects at the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, and additional mandatory funds for the Indian Health Service (IHI) beginning in 2026
- investment of \$9.8 billion in both discretionary and mandatory Prevention and Public Health Fund funding, an increase of \$499 million over the 2023 enacted level, to bolster public health capacity, including strengthening State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments, enhancing public health data systems and collection, and improving the core immunization program
- allocating \$20 billion in mandatory funding for HHS public health agencies to address biodefense priorities outlined in the 2022 National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan for Countering Biological Threats, Enhancing Pandemic Preparedness, and Achieving Global Health Security
- a national program to significantly expand screening, testing, treatment, prevention, and monitoring of Hepatitis C infections in the United States
- to help end the HIV epidemic, elimination of barriers to pre-exposure prophylaxis—also known as PrEP—for Medicaid beneficiaries and a new mandatory program to guarantee PrEP at no cost for all uninsured and underinsured individuals and provide essential wrap-around services
- a new program to provide uninsured adults with access to routine and outbreak vaccines at no cost
- expanding Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to include all children under age 19 enrolled in CHIP and covers the vaccine administration fee for all VFC-eligible uninsured children

#### **Women’s Health Care**

The party states that:

- it seeks to close fundamental gaps in women’s health care, and to address the maternal health crisis. Women in America are dying at a higher rate from pregnancy-related causes than women in any other wealthy nation, especially Black and Native women.
- the American Rescue Plan enacted during the current administration gave States the option to provide a full year of postpartum coverage to women on Medicaid, increasing it from just 60 days; and 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands now do.
- the administration also expanded access to maternity care coordinators for U.S. military veterans, from eight weeks to 12 months postpartum. And, it established the first-ever national maternal health and safety standards for hospitals across the country, which include requirements that hospitals have resuscitation equipment in labor and delivery rooms and proper protocols and supplies for emergency deliveries.
- it has released a blueprint outlining other federal actions to combat maternal mortality and improve maternal health, and launched a National Maternal Mental Health Hotline which has helped tens of thousands of women.
- to pioneer the next generation of medical discoveries, it launched the first-ever White House Initiative on Women’s Health Research, which aims to fundamentally change the approach to and funding of women’s health research in the United States. It includes a \$100 million commitment to fund the ARPA-H Sprint for Women’s Health, a \$200 million National Institutes of Health-wide effort to catalyze interdisciplinary research, and more than 20 other new actions and commitments to advance women’s health research and especially research on menopause-related conditions and women’s midlife health.

#### **Nutrition**

To help low-income families put nutritious food on the table and address racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes, the party’s 2025 budget advocates allocation of \$8.5 billion for critical nutrition programs, including \$7.7 billion to fully fund participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

#### **Support for the Elderly**

The Party states that:

- as an article of its Credo, it is the responsibility of government to achieve a society where the elderly and the disabled can lead lives of dignity and where Social Security remains an unshakable commitment

- Social Security and Medicare are more than Government programs, they are a promise—a rock-solid guarantee that generations of Americans have counted on—that after a life of hard work, you will be able to retire with dignity and security.

The party advocates:

- reforming social security by increasing benefits for all and protecting surviving spouses
- rejecting efforts to privatize or weaken social security, including raising retirement age or cuts to cost-of-living increases
- addressing social security rights for unpaid caregivers
- requiring high-income Americans to contribute their fair share and reducing prescription drug costs, and extending solvency of the Medicare Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund indefinitely, by modestly increasing the Medicare tax rate on incomes above \$400,000, closing loopholes in existing Medicare taxes, and directing revenue from the Net Investment Income Tax into the HI trust fund as was originally intended
- opposing policies that cut benefits, as well as proposals to privatize Social Security
- investments in Social Security Administration (SSA) services so that seniors and people with disabilities can access benefits, including providing \$1.3 billion for staff, information technology (IT), and other improvements, a nine-percent increase from the 2023 enacted level

### **Medicaid**

The party proposes, through the administration's 2025 Budget:

- to invest \$150 billion over 10 years to strengthen and expand Medicaid home and community-based services, allowing elderly and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and stay active in their communities, and improving the quality of jobs for home care workers
- to increase funding for senior nutrition services by eight percent above the 2023 level, and 21 percent over the 2021 level
- to shift funding for nursing home surveys from discretionary to mandatory beginning in 2026, and increase funding to cover 100 percent of statutorily-mandated surveys, to guard against negligent
- to address safety and quality issues in nursing home care and the backlog of complaint surveys from nursing home residents; expand financial penalties for underperforming facilities; require greater transparency of nursing facility ownership; and increase the inspection of facilities

### **Education & Young Workers**

The party believes that education is a critical public good—not a commodity—and that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every child, everywhere, is able to receive a world-class education that enables them to lead meaningful lives.

#### **Early childhood education**

In order to promote healthy child development, help children enter kindergarten ready to learn, and support families by reducing their costs prior to school entry and allowing parents to work. The party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

- funding voluntary, universal, free preschool for all four million of the Nation's four-year-olds, and expanding preschool to three year-olds, including offering preschool in the setting of the parent's choice—from public schools to child care providers to Head Start
- increasing Head Start funding by \$544 million to support pay parity between Head Start staff and public elementary school teachers with similar qualifications over time

#### **K-12**

The party states that:

- during its term in office the current administration secured the largest investment in public education in history to help students recover academically from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on evidence-based strategies such as addressing chronic absenteeism and increased student access to tutoring and summer, afterschool, and extended learning programs
- it has garnered increases for Federal student support programs to meet needs of historically underserved students and increased funding to Title I schools; and that since the administration took office, the Nation has added 73,000 public school teachers
- it opposes the use of private-school vouchers, tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, and other schemes that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from public education. Public tax dollars should never be used to discriminate.
- it will continue working to increase accountability at charters, holding them to the same transparency standards as public schools.

The party advocates:

- to reduce inequitable funding of public schools, tripling of Title 1 funding for low-income students
- expansion of free lunch programs, health care and nutrition service
- expansion of adult education classes
- expanded vocational and arts magnet schools
- banning federal funding for for-profit private schools

- ending private school vouchers
- working to end violence in schools
- reform of school and student performance testing

To support education for over seven million Pre-K through 12 students with disabilities, the party advocates:

- allocating \$14.4 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Grants, a \$200 million increase over the 2023 level
- allocating an additional \$545 million in IDEA Grants for Infants and Families to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities
- to address nationwide special educator shortages, allocating a further \$125 million, in grants to prepare special education and early intervention personnel

#### ***Post-secondary education***

The party believes that everyone should be able to earn a degree beyond high school, without money standing in the way.

The party states that:

- during its current term in office, the administration has approved a total of over \$137 billion in debt cancellation for over 3.7 million in student debt
- its Saving on a Valuable Education plan will cut undergraduate loan payments in half and prevent student loan balances from growing due to runaway interest
- to alleviate the burden of student loan debt for public servants, the administration has helped almost 750,000 public workers access Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), in contrast to only about 7,000 forgiven loans in prior years
- it has also increased the maximum Pell Grant by \$900 since the beginning of the Administration
- the administration's 2025 budget includes a \$12 billion mandatory Reducing the Costs of College Fund that would fund three strategies to lower college costs for students: (1) by providing competitive awards for public institutions that affordably deliver a quality education, allowing those schools to use those funds either to serve more students or to share best practices so that other schools can become more affordable; (2) providing over \$7 billion for States to provide access to at least 12 credits of transferable career-connected dual enrollment credits to students while in high school—credits that can enable students to obtain postsecondary degrees more affordably; (3) supporting evidence-based strategies, such as the City University of New York's Accelerated Study in Associated Programs Associate Program model, which increase college graduation rates, reduce cost burdens for students, and lower costs per graduate.

The party advocates:

- improving early childhood education
- increased funding to states to guarantee that low- and middle-income families can afford child care
- increased professional requirements for and training of early childhood educators

The party advocates:

- tuition-free public colleges and universities for family earning less than \$125,000 (about 80% of Americans)
- tuition free community colleges and trade schools for all students, including Dreamers
- increased federal support for on-campus child care
- mobilizing a diverse new generation of young workers through a corps and cohort challenged to conserve our public lands
- as a part of the COVID recovery process, forgiving up to \$10,000 per student on federal student loans, forgiveness of interest and debt for others, without tax consequences

#### ***High-needs school districts***

To address the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and student well-being, the party advocates:

- allocating \$8 billion for Academic Acceleration and Achievement Grants to high-need school districts to help close opportunity and achievement gaps and speed the pace of learning recovery, including support for evidence-based strategies to increase school attendance, provide high-quality tutoring and student supports, and expand learning time, including both in the summer and in extended day or afterschool programs
- to ensure that every student receives the high-quality education and support they deserve, allocating a further \$18.6 billion for Title I, a \$200 million increase above the 2023 level, to deliver critical funding to public schools in low-income communities

#### ***Culture, Arts & Tourism***

The party states that:

- the arts are essential to the nation's free and democratic society.
- America is a great nation in large part because of the power of the arts and humanities that's embedded in the DNA of America. The current administration has taken historic action to support the arts, helping libraries, theaters, concert halls, and other venues stay afloat during the pandemic, including strengthening the National Endowment for the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- it has also reestablished a President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and signed an Executive Order to make art more accessible to people from underserved communities, elevate new voices through the arts and humanities, and expand opportunities for artists and scholars.

The party advocates:

- support for non-profit cultural organizations, artists, scholars, and state and local support for participation in the arts.

## GREEN PARTY

### **Role of the Family**

The party advocates:

- social policies focused on protecting families
- programs that ensure that children, as vulnerable members of society, receive basic nutritional, educational, and medical necessities
- support for and expansion of Head Start and Pre- and neo-natal programs
- a universal, federally funded childcare program for pre-school and young schoolchildren
- family assistance such as the earned income tax credit, for working poor families in which the parent supports and lives with the children, to offset regressive payroll taxes and growing inequalities in American society
- no privatization of social security, so that the program remains under the aegis of the Federal Government, attempts to expand its effectiveness
- work of non-profit public interest groups and those individuals breaking out of "careerism" to pursue non-traditional careers in public service.

### **Health Care & Elder Care**

The party states that:

- it supports single-payer universal health care and preventive care for all, and believes that health care is a right, not a privilege
- the United States is the only industrialized nation in the world without a national health care system
- under a universal, comprehensive, national single-payer health care system, the administrative waste of private insurance corporations would be redirected to patient care, and would be more than enough to offset the cost of additional care. Expenses for businesses currently providing coverage would be reduced, while state and local governments would pay less because they would receive reimbursement for services provided to the previously uninsured
- it supports a wide range of health care services, including conventional medicine, as well as the teaching, funding and practice of complementary, integrative and licensed alternative health care approaches
- to improve national health, we must improve the quality of our air, water and food and the health of our workplaces, homes and schools
- it unequivocally supports a woman's right to reproductive choice, no matter her marital status or age, and that contraception and safe, legal abortion procedures be available on demand and be included in all health insurance coverage in the U.S., as well as free of charge in any state where a woman's income falls below the poverty level
- the failure of governments to invest in research for a cure for HIV/AIDS is because mainstream society has the belief that contracting HIV is self-inflicted by "unsafe" or "illegal" behavior
- the largest groups with HIV/AIDS in the USA are men who have sex with men, including gay, bisexual, and trans men, and men of color, particularly of African and Latinx descent. Persons who share needles are the next largest group of persons with HIV/AIDS in the USA

The party advocates:

- a publicly funded health care insurance program, administered at the state and local levels, with comprehensive lifetime benefits, including dental, vision, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, medication coverage, and hospice and long-term care
- participation of all licensed and/or certified health providers, subject to standards of practice in their field, with the freedom of patients to choose the type of health care provider from a wide range of health care choices, and with decision-making in the hands of patients and their health providers
- portability of coverage regardless of geographical location or employment
- cost controls via streamlined administration, national fee schedules, bulk purchases of drugs and medical equipment, coordination of capital expenditures and publicly negotiated prices of medications
- primary and preventive care as priorities, including wellness education about diet, nutrition and exercise; holistic health; and medical marijuana
- more comprehensive services for those who have special needs, including the mentally ill, the differently abled and those who are terminally ill
- hospitals that can afford safe and adequate staffing levels of registered nurses
- establishment of national, state, and local health policy boards consisting of health consumers and providers to oversee and evaluate the performance of the system, ensure access to care, and help determine research priorities
- comprehensive, humane, and competent care of all people with HIV/AIDS



- increased public education in the prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS which includes funding for the purchase and distribution of condoms, gloves, dams, and needles & syringes
- increased funding for age appropriate comprehensive sex education that includes use of barriers for prevention of fluid/blood transmission
- easy access for students to condoms, gloves, and dams in schools
- funding for methods of peer education for sex workers and those who may share needles, and to supply them with condoms, dams, gloves, and needles & syringes
- educating incarcerated individuals in HIV transmission prevention and supplying them with condoms, dams, and gloves
- creation of daily HIV medication distribution centers for individuals who are unable to manage the complex daily medication regimen without assistance
- free, anonymous testing of people for the presence of HIV/AIDS; and elimination of mandated testing
- best governmental efforts to negotiate fair and reasonable prices for associated drugs, rather than allowing manufacturers to extract excessive profits from these life-saving medications
- funding for outreach and treatment to address the particular circumstances and specific needs of the various communities affected by HIV/AIDS
- better condoms
- research for HIV/AIDS vaccine research as well as research on prevention methods such as microbicides
- provision to people of means and support to protect themselves from all sexually transmitted and blood & body fluid borne diseases
- repeal of all HIV criminalization laws and policies and release all prisoners imprisoned solely due to HIV status

## **Education & Young Workers**

### ***K-12 Education***

The party states that:

- a great challenge facing the people of the United States is to educate ourselves to build a just, sustainable, humane and democratic future, and to become responsible and effective citizens of the local and global communities we share
- every child deserves a public education that fosters critical and holistic thought, and provides the breadth and depth of learning necessary to become an active citizen and a constructive member of our society
- our public school system, as it presently operates, helps us reach that goal
- for the first time in this country's history, students of color represent the majority of the PK-12 public education student body
- additionally, now more than half of all school children are classified as "low income"
- nearly 35 percent of all public school students have some specific learning disability and are receiving special education services
- in view of the foregoing, in order for America's schools to truly become effective in teaching our students to think critically and to respond to life challenges, districts, schools and teachers must develop a new consciousness toward students that includes cultural competency, the understanding of the impact of poverty on school performance, asset-based engagement and how to create stable, nurturing school environments that will help students thrive and succeed
- opposing the dissolution of public schools and the privatization of education
- the best educational experience is guaranteed by the democratic empowerment of organized students, their parents and communities along with organized teachers
- students should be challenged with great works of literature, economics, philosophy, history, music, and the arts as regular academic subjects
- we must end disinvestment in education and instead put it at the top of our social and economic agenda. Effective schools have sufficient resources. Too many of our teachers are overworked, underpaid, and starved of key materials.
- it does not believe that schools should turn our children into servile students, employees, consumers or citizens

The party advocates:

- equal access to high-quality education, and sharp increases in financial aid for college students
- dismantling white supremacy in our schools, represented in curricula, discipline, teacher recruitment and more, by seeking to end the school-to-jailhouse track
- freeing teachers from requirements to use exclusively Common Core Standards-aligned materials, which neglect the contributions and struggles of people of color
- allowing teachers to choose whichever materials are academically-challenging and culturally appropriate for their students, and strengthening cultural competency requirements for teachers
- providing robust professional development in cultural competency, and widen the scope of teacher preparation to include cultural competency training
- ending alternative teacher licensing initiatives such as Teach for America which recruit primarily white teachers and inject them into urban classrooms with as little as five weeks' training and only a two-year commitment, creating great destabilization in school communities that need consistent leadership and community connections
- incentivize "grow your own teacher" programs in oppressed communities with targeted recruitment during high school, federal grants and loan forgiveness and mentoring

- invest more resources into recruiting fully bilingual school support staff, such as front-office and family resource personnel and counselors
- eliminating police officers from our schools, and ensuring that school security personnel are trained for, and held accountable to, conflict resolution techniques and anti-bias training
- ensuring that security personnel demonstrate cultural competency and refrain from enforcing white supremacist oppressive tactics
- recognize the impact of poverty on student achievement, which no amount of sanctions, standards, turnarounds, teacher targeting or privatization will fix
- ending inequitable school funding and use of schemes like "student-based budgeting," "behavior policies based on "n" excuses," "character education" and "g"it," "nd school closures
- ending regimes of high-stakes standardized testing and the wholesale diversion of resources away from public schools are provoking crises for which the bipartisan corporate consensus recommends school closings, dissolution of entire school districts and replacement by unaccountable, profit-based charter schools
- recognizing and upholding parents' right to opt their children out of any standardized test, and ending official bullying and threats from school and district officials when parents opt out
- ending all federal competitive grants like Race to the Top (RTTT) and instead equitably fund schools based on a priority of socioeconomic level
- elimination of gross inequalities in school funding, and focusing federal education policy on providing equal access to a quality education

### ***K-12 Curriculum***

The party states that:

- values start with parents and schools should not seek to de-program students from those values

The party advocates:

- providing age-appropriate education on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and safer sex
- prohibiting commercial advertising to children in schools
- providing healthy school meals that are rich in vitamins, minerals, protein and fiber, and offer plant-based vegetarian options and providing opportunities for parents to assist in meal preparation. m. Ban the sale of soda pop and junk food in schools
- including a vigorous and engrossing civics curriculum in later elementary and secondary schools, to teach students to be active citizens
- encouraging parental responsibility by supporting parenting in culturally-sensitive ways and increasing opportunities for parents to be as involved as possible in their children's education
- recognizing the viable alternative of home-based education and support working-class parents who wish to offer it to their children
- opposing efforts to restrict the teaching of scientific information and the portrayal of religious belief as fact
- decreasing the student-teacher ratio in classrooms and increase the number of counselors, nurses, librarians and social workers
- including self-defense skills in the physical education curriculum at elementary school level
- providing researched-based drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse prevention, as well as evidence-based information about the true effect of recreational or medicinal substances such as cannabis on the developing brain
- teaching all students about white supremacy and intersectionality
- ending the militarization of our schools. JROTC programs are an expensive drain on our limited educational resources and a diversion from their important mission to prepare our young to assume their role in a peaceful tomorrow
- ending the use of ASVAB testing to mine public school student bodies for data to support military recruiting
- forbidding military access to student records

### ***Post-secondary education***

The party advocates:

- providing free college tuition to all qualified students at public universities and vocational schools
- abolishing all student and parent loans taken out to finance post-secondary and vocational education
- opposing military and corporate control over the priorities and topics of university academic research
- expanded opportunities for universal higher education and life-long learning

### ***Young People***

The party states that:

- all human beings have the right to a life that will let them achieve their full potential
- young people are one of the least protected classes of human beings, yet they represent our future. We must ensure they have an upbringing that allows them to take their place as functioning, productive, and self-actualized members of their community
- youth are not the property of their parents or guardians, but are under their care and guidance

- youth have the right to survive by being provided adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care, including prenatal care for mothers
- youth have the right to be protected from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect, and exploitation
- youth have the right to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment provided by affordable childcare and pre-school preparation
- youth have the right to an education that is stimulating, relevant, engaging, and that fosters their natural desire to learn
- young people's' creative potential should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible
- young people should have input into the direction and pace of their own education, including input into the operation of their educational institutions
- young people should be provided with education regarding their own and others' 'exuality at the earliest appropriate time
- young people should be provided the opportunity to express themselves in their own media, including television, radio, films and the Internet
- young people should also be given skills in analyzing commercial media
- young people should be kept free from coercive advertising at their educational institutions.

The party advocates:

- to create new opportunities for citizens to serve their communities through non-military community service and challenge young people while encouraging social responsibility by providing them with land and resource management skills, formation of a Civilian Conservation Corps, with national leadership and state and local affiliates, to spearhead efforts to work on the tasks of environmental education, restoration of damaged habitats, reforestation, and cleaning up polluted waterways

### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

The party states that:

- freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and a key element in empowering communities, and in moving us toward sustainability and respect for diversity
- artists can create in ways that foster healthy, non-alienating relationships between people and their daily environments, communities, and the Earth. This can include both artists whose themes advocate compassion, nurturance, or cooperation; and artists whose creations unmask the often-obscure connections between various forms of violence, domination, and oppression, or effectively criticize aspects of the very community that supports their artistic activity
- the arts can only perform their social function if they are completely free from outside control

The party advocates:

- alternative, community-based systems treating neither the artwork nor the artist as a commodity
- elimination of all laws that seek to restrict or censor artistic expression, including the withholding of government funds for political or moral content
- increased funding for the arts appropriate to their essential social role at local, state and federal levels of government
- community-funded programs employing local artists to enrich their communities through public art programs, including public performances, exhibitions, murals on public buildings, design or re-design of parks and public areas, storytelling and poetry reading, and publication
- the establishment of non-profit public forums for local artists to display their talents and creations
- research, public dialogue, and trial experiments to develop alternative systems for the valuation and exchange of artworks and for the financial support of artists
- funding sources not connected with social injustice or environmental destruction
- education programs in the community that will energize the creativity of every community member from the youngest to the oldest, including neglected groups such as teenagers, senior citizens, prisoners, immigrants, and drug addicts. Such programs would provide materials and access to interested, qualified arts educators for every member of the community who demonstrates an interest
- funding and staffing to incorporate arts education into every school curriculum
- integration of the arts and artistic teaching methods into other areas of the curriculum to promote a holistic perspective



### **Role & Importance of Family**

The campaign has published no statement concerning its policies on the role or importance of the family.

### **Health Care & Elder Care**

The campaign states that:

- healthcare is a key aspect of American revitalization, as it consumes nearly one-fifth of GDP. However, it's not just a matter of shifting the burden of who pays: healthcare spending per capita has increased twelve-fold since 1960. Is America twelve times healthier? On the contrary, the nation faces a pandemic of chronic disease. Auto-immunity, allergies, diabetes, obesity, addiction, anxiety, and depression afflict two-thirds of the population, up from a few percent in our grandparents' time.

The campaign advocates going beyond making existing modalities available to all, to include low-cost alternative and holistic therapies that have been marginalized in a pharma-dominated system, and moving a sick care system to a wellness society.

### **Education & Young Workers**

The campaign states that:

- nearly 45 million Americans are struggling to pay back loans to the tune of a combined 1.7 trillion dollars. The volume of student loan debt is greater than any other form of debt in the United States, more so than even credit card debt  
- a default rate expected when the current moratorium is lifted  
- in 2020-2021 dollars, one year's college tuition in 1963 cost just over \$4,300; in 2020, it cost nearly \$14,000. The total cost of a year of college was about \$10,600 in 1963; in 2020, it was almost \$26,000

The campaign advocates:

- repealing provisions of the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act that made student debt non-dischargeable in bankruptcy, putting it into a different category from medical debt or credit card debt. Although corporations use bankruptcy frequently as a financial maneuver to get out of bad investments, the Act made that impossible for many consumers, especially student debtors  
- allowing refinancing of student loans. Unlike most other forms of debt, a debtor cannot, for example, borrow against their home in order to pay off their loans. Allowing students to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates gives them a chance to get a handle on monthly payments. If businesses can refinance loan debt, so should students  
- abolishing interest on student loans, including cutting the interest to zero retroactively, making millions of borrowers debt-free immediately and dramatically shrinking balances and monthly payments for millions more  
- making schools, rather than loan institutions, responsible for defaults. The higher education system is trapped in a vicious circle, where rising tuition forces students to take out loans, and the ready availability of loans encourages universities to raise tuition. Making schools, rather than independent loan institutions, responsible for loan defaults would give them an incentive to keep tuition costs under control, and encourage them to be careful to lend to serious students who are likely to graduate  
- reforming the higher education system. In 1940, about 4 million Americans held 4-year college degrees. Today it is over 100 million, a ten-fold increase relative to total population. Yet that does not mean that everyone is smarter and better qualified for occupations requiring high levels of training. Approximately 41 percent of all recent graduates are working jobs that do not require a college degree. College degrees are now required for many jobs that once only required a high school diploma. The result of herding masses of students through an educational model originally designed to train scholars and intellectuals has not been to raise a nation of scholars, but rather to debase the quality of education. To address this phenomenon of "degree inflation," in which both the quality and the value of higher education have declined, while costs have skyrocketed, the party advocates:  
1. Qualifying micro-credential and nano-credentials for Title IV funding, giving students who don't want an entire 2-year or 4-year program access to the same support as traditional students  
2. Elevating the Trades. Electricians, plumbers, mechanics, builders, paralegals, and technicians of all kinds are just as important to America's prosperity as the laptop class. Those who want to pursue a hands-on career should get just as much support as those who want to become academics and professionals. The campaign proposes to provide trade schools funding equivalent to any funding provided for degree programs  
3. Redesigning and vastly expanding the Peace Corps to offer an alternative to college and the military for skills development, including opening a domestic service corps open to anyone who has graduated from high school, providing opportunities to learn skills and do meaningful work, such as ecological restoration, infrastructure repair, care for the sick and elderly, assistance in the schools, helping the disabled, and many other areas of service.

### **Americorps**

The campaign states that:

- upon graduation from high school, many young people today face a bleak choice between college, which is not for everyone, and low paying jobs in the service or gig economy, military enlistment, or a "career" in the illegal drug trade.  
- it advocates transforming the existing Americorps program to offer a new option to help young people gain skills, step into adult responsibilities, and most of

all, act on their altruism and desire to serve something larger than themselves. Americorps, officially known as the National Civilian Community Corps, was founded in 1994 as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Today, the kind of service the Peace Corps has done in the world is needed urgently in our own country.

- the existing Americorps is only a one-year program open to college grads. The transformed Americorps will be open to all people 18 and older who want to make a four year commitment to service, in urgently-needed areas such as:

- \* Urban renewal
- \* Ecological restoration
- \* Care for the disabled, sick, and elderly
- \* Infrastructure repair
- \* Addiction recovery centers
- \* Organic agriculture

- the expanded Americorps will develop relationships with other organizations such as trade unions and NGOs to ensure the labor and creativity of Americorps volunteers supports existing organizations

- benefits to participants will be on a par with benefits to military veterans, including all food, housing, medical care provided (as in military); a monthly stipend; assistance with college tuition, medical care, and mortgage upon finishing deployment; development of vocational skills; an opportunity to meaningful work; and an opportunity to bond with other young people who care

- the requirements placed upon participants will be challenging, rivaling expectations for soldiers in the military, but they will leave the program capable, confident, and ready to continue contributing to society

- the expanded Americorps can also provide a transition zone for retiring military personnel who want to continue serving their country while learning economically useful civilian skills. The focus areas of the expanded Americorps coincide with high-demand professions, particularly in construction and repair. Americorps will give veterans a place to apply their leadership skills as supervisors and mentors while also developing skills suitable for civilian life.

#### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

The campaign has published no statement regarding its policies on arts, or tourism.



## **LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

#### **Role and development of the family**

The party states that:

- parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected

#### **Education**

The party states that:

- education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability, and efficiency with more diversity of choice
- recognizing that the education of children is a parental responsibility, it would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government
- parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education

#### **Health Care**

The party states that:

- it favors a free market health care system. It recognizes the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions
- people should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.



## **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

### **Role and development of the family**

To empower American families, the party advocates:

- promoting a culture that values the sanctity of marriage, the blessings of childhood, the foundational role of families, and supports working parents, and ending policies that punish families, including:
- cutting federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content onto children
- keeping men out of women's sports
- promoting a culture that values the sanctity of marriage, the blessings of childhood, the foundational role of families, and supports working parents, and ending policies that punish families.

### **Health Care**

The party advocates:

- fighting for and protecting social security and medicare with no cuts, to ensure seniors are able to access care without being burdened by excessive costs
- opposing any changes to the retirement age
- addressing out of control healthcare and prescription drug costs through increased transparency, promotion of choice and competition, and expanded access to new affordable healthcare and prescription drug options.

### **Support for the Elderly**

The party states that:

- it will not cut one penny from Medicare or Social Security. American Citizens work hard their whole lives, contributing to Social Security and Medicare. These programs are promises to our Seniors, ensuring they can live their golden years with dignity. It will protect these vital programs and ensure economic Stability
- it undertakes to work with seniors, in order to allow them to be active and healthy. It commits to safeguarding the future for seniors and all American families.

The party advocates:

- protect Medicare's finances from being financially crushed by the current administration's plan to add tens of millions of new illegal immigrants to the rolls of Medicare
- to support active and healthy living, increasing focus on Chronic Disease prevention and management, long-term care, and benefit flexibility, including expanded access to Primary Care and support for policies that help Seniors remain in their homes and maintain Financial Security
- shifting resources back to at-home Senior Care, overturning disincentives that lead to care worker shortages, and support for unpaid family Caregivers through tax credits and reduced red tape.
- tackling inflation, unleashing American energy, restoring economic growth, and securing national borders to preserve Social Security and Medicare funding for the future generations, and ensuring that these programs remain solvent long into the future by reversing harmful policies and unleashing a new economic boom.

### **Education & Young Workers**

The party advocates:

- cutting federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content onto children
- to reduce the cost of higher education, supporting the creation of additional, drastically more affordable alternatives to a traditional four-year College degree.

### **K-12 Education**

The party advocates cultivating great K-12 schools, to ensure safe learning environments free from political meddling and restore parental rights. It is committed to an education system that empowers students, supports families, and promotes American Values, preparing students for successful lives and well-paying jobs.

To that end, the party advocates:

- support for schools that focus on excellence and parental rights, including ending Teacher Tenure, adopting merit pay, and allowing various publicly supported educational models
- empowering families to choose the best education for their children, including support for Universal School Choice in every State and expansion of 529 Education Savings Accounts and support for homeschooling families equally.
- emphasis on preparing students for great jobs and careers, supporting project-based learning and schools that offer meaningful work experience while exposing politicized education models and funding proven career training programs.
- overhauling standards on school discipline, advocating for immediate suspension of violent students, and support for hardening schools to help keep violence away from places of learning.

- restoring parental rights in education, and enforcing Civil Rights laws to stop schools from discriminating on the basis of race, and trusting in parents.
- rather than critical race theory and gender indoctrination, ensuring that children are taught fundamentals like reading, history, science, and math, rather than leftwing propaganda. It advocates defunding schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children using federal taxpayer dollars.
- to promote love of Country through Authentic Civics Education, reinstatement of the the 1776 Commission, promoting fair and patriotic civics education, and vetoing efforts to nationalize Civics Education, including support for schools that teach America's Founding Principles and Western Civilization.
- championing the First Amendment Right to Pray and Read the Bible in school, and standing up to those who violate the Religious Freedoms of American students.
- in order to return control of education to the states, closing the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. and send it back to the States, to allow the States run our educational system as they deem it should be run. To that end, the party states that the United States spends more money per pupil on Education than any other Country in the World, but is at the bottom of every educational list in terms of results.
- cherishing the nation's teachers, who are so important to the future wellbeing of the country, so that they can do the job of educating our students that they so dearly want to do, with the goal of bringing education in the United States to the highest level, one that it has never attained before.

#### ***Post-Secondary***

The party advocates:

- making colleges and universities sane and affordable, by firing radical left accreditors, driving down tuition costs, restoring due process protections, and pursuing civil rights cases against schools that discriminate.
- overcoming the crisis in liberal arts education, by supporting its proper restoration.

#### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

The party states that it is committed to:

- renewing American civilization with common sense policies that support families, restore law and order, care for veterans, promote beauty, and honor American history
- strengthening the foundations of American society for a brighter future.

The party advocates:

- to empower families, promoting a culture that values the sanctity of marriage, the blessings of childhood, the foundational role of families, and supports working parents, and ending policies that punish families.
- rebuilding cities and restoring law and order, by replenishing police departments, restoring common sense policing, and protecting officers from frivolous lawsuits. It undertakes to stand up to Marxist Prosecutors, vigorously defend the right of every American to live in peace, and to compassionately address homelessness to restore order to the nation's streets.
- making Washington D.C. the safest and most beautiful capital city by reasserting greater federal control over the city, to restore law and order in our Capital City and ensure federal buildings and monuments are well-maintained.
- taking care of veterans, by ending luxury housing and taxpayer benefits for Illegal immigrants and using those savings to shelter and treat homeless veterans, and restoring the reforms of its prior term in office to to expand veterans' healthcare choices, protect whistleblowers, and hold accountable poorly performing employees not giving our Veterans the care they deserve.
- making colleges and universities sane and affordable, by firing radical left accreditors, driving down tuition costs, restoring due process protections, and pursuing civil rights cases against schools that discriminate.
- combating anti-Semitism, by revoking visas of foreign nationals who support terrorism and jihadism, and holding accountable those who perpetrate violence against Jewish people.
- overcoming the crisis in liberal arts education, by supporting its proper restoration.
- restoring American beauty in public architecture and preserving national treasures; building cherished symbols and restoring genuine conservation efforts.
- honoring American history, including organizing a national celebration to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America.

## **Points to Ponder: Family, Community & the Common Good**

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Families & Child Well-Being*

- When, if ever, is it appropriate for governments to place limits on the right of parents to make decisions pertaining to the care or education of their children?
- To what extent is child poverty a problem in the United States? To the extent that it is a problem, what, should be done about it, and by whom? By federal or state governments, by individuals, or by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations?

– Some political parties have suggested that full participation by all eligible work force members, including both parents of two-parent couples and single parents, is critical in order to maximize return from the national economy, so that economic well-being can be optimized, and that in order to maximize those returns and ensure full economic participation, it is critical to ensure that affordable child care is accessible by all families. Which is more important for children, a stable and dignified home with two loving parents, or maximized national economic returns?

#### *Health Care*

- What can or should be done, by federal or state governments or by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations, to ensure that quality health care is available in timely, humane, and cost-efficient manner to all who need it?
- With respect to Medicaid and other forms of publicly-supported health care, does there exist any obligation for an individual to take reasonable measures to avoid health issues (e.g., wearing a mask in a pandemic, when recommended by public health authorities), so as to avoid becoming a publicly-funded health care burden when preventable illness or injury occurs? If so, what can or should be done to encourage such measures?

#### *Care for the Elderly*

- Some parties are calling for increased space in publicly-funded facilities for the elderly and long-term care patients. Should any other solutions, such as nurturing a culture of life-long intergenerational family cohesiveness and support, including home caregivers, be considered also, in addition or as alternatives to long-term residential care?
- Who should be responsible for long-term support for the elderly? Themselves? Their families? The federal or state governments? Charitable institutions? Some combination of these? To what extent?

#### *Education*

- It has been suggested that too many Americans fail to understand democratic principles, such as the responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments, and the proper roles of non-governmental institutions such as charities, schools, businesses, news media, and moral and religious organizations. What, if anything, can or should the federal government do in order to promote a more comprehensive understanding of civics in the United States?



# An Economy for All

The Dignity of Work | Housing & Poverty Reduction | Jobs, Unions, & Employment | Industries, Corporations, and Consumers

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. (Matthew 6:33)*

## Catholic Teaching

*Jesus said to the crowds, "Therefore I tell you, **do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."***

Matthew 6:25-33

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis – *Fratelli tutti*, 109

### The Dignity of Work

The use of one's gifts to seek and serve God necessarily includes work, by which humans cooperate with God in God's continuing act of creation. Work has a place of honour because it is a source of the conditions for a decent life, and is, in principle, an effective instrument against poverty. But one must not succumb to the temptation of making an idol of work, for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life is not to be found in work. Work is essential, but it is God — and not work — who is the origin of life and the final goal of man.

The underlying principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. The demand of justice, which stems from it, precedes concerns for profit: "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it" (Prov. 15:16). "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice" (Prov. 16:8). *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 257.

Work is not only an essential part of life, but when we work in accordance with our inner passions – our individual vocations – it is a joy. And it is also an obligation to one's family, neighbors, and



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Economy to Serve People

#### Cost of Living

The party states during its current term in office:

- the administration's top economic priority is lowering costs for hardworking Americans, including reducing prescription drug costs, health insurance premiums, utility bills, and costs for everyday goods
- it also proposes to address junk fees that some airlines, banks, and other companies use to rip off consumers
- during its current term in office, the global pandemic and Russia's illegal war against Ukraine have led to inflation all over the world
- significant progress has been made in bringing down inflation. Over the last six months of 2023, core inflation was at the pre-COVID-19 pandemic benchmark of two percent—with average hourly earnings adjusted for inflation higher now than before the COVID-19 pandemic and rising faster than inflation over the last year
- it has released nearly 200 million barrels of gasoline from the national strategic reserve, and is lowering prices by 25 cents per gallon by making ethanol-blended gasoline available during the summer
- it is working to ensure that no American earning less than \$400,000 a year will pay one single penny more in federal taxes.

#### The Dignity of Work

The Party's Credo states that it believes it is the responsibility of government to achieve a society in which:

- all people can find jobs in a growing full-employment economy; and
- all workers are guaranteed without question the legal right to join unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively for decent wages and conditions of employment

#### Artificial Intelligence

The party states that:

- by executive order it has taken a lead in seizing the promise and managing the risks of AI, including by establishing new standards for AI safety and security, protecting Americans' privacy, advancing equity and civil rights, standing up for consumers and workers, promoting innovation and competition, and advancing American leadership around the world
- it advocates funding to responsibly develop, test, procure, and integrate transformative AI applications across the Federal Government, including causing the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish the U.S. AI Safety Institute to operationalize NIST's AI Risk Management Framework by creating guidelines, tools, benchmarks, and best practices for evaluating and mitigating dangerous capabilities and conducting evaluations including red-teaming to identify and mitigate AI risk.

#### Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- it remains committed to ending poverty and enabling all Americans to live up to their God-given potential.
- it knows that most folks fundamentally want the same things – not a hand out, but a fair shot.

The party advocates:

- 10-20-30 funding, to provide 10% of federal funding to communities in which at least 20% of population has lived beneath the poverty line for 30 years or more
- increasing funding for federal food assistance programs, to alleviate child hunger
- boosting funding for economic development in impoverished communities through grants, investment, and tax credits
- insuring access to low-cost, language accessible banking to low and middle income families programs, to alleviate child hunger
- improving economic mobility for people of color
- limiting gentrification of neighborhoods
- ending housing discrimination by equalizing access to credit and expanding first-time homebuyer's support

nation. Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and in order to respond to the need to maintain and develop his own humanity. We are heirs of the work of generations and at the same time shapers of the future of all who will live after us. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 274*

But work, and particularly dignified work, is not readily available for all who seek it. Those who are unemployed or underemployed suffer the profound negative consequences that such a situation creates in a personality and they run the risk of being marginalized within society, of becoming victims of social exclusion... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 289*

### Poverty Reduction

The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern. To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force... Today, this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future." *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 182*

What we do to the least among us, we do to Christ. *Matthew 25:31-46*

*Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work.*  
— Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 128

### An Economy to Serve People

*I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of one of the sages of antiquity: 'Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs...'*

**Money must serve, not rule!**

—Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 57-58

Economic activity and growth in production are meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. For many people, a living wage and dignified housing are beyond reach. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2426*

The planning capacity of a society oriented towards the common good and looking to the future is measured... above all on the

- strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act to invest in low-income communities
- using federal procurement to incentivize private companies to recruit and advance people of color
- budgeting \$4.1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to help families access home energy and weatherization assistance
- following expiration of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program at the end of 2023, allowing States to use a portion of their LIHEAP funds to provide water bill assistance to low-income households

To benefit lower- and middle-income workers and families, the party's 2025 budget advocates:

- restoring the full Child Tax Credit enacted in the American Rescue Plan, expanding the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children six years old and above, and to \$3,600 per child for children under six, in addition to permanently reforming the credit to make it fully refundable, so that it no longer excludes children in the lowest-income families from receiving the full credit, and allowing families to receive monthly advance payments
- making permanent the Earned Income Tax Credit expansion for workers not raising children in their homes, which would boost the income of 19 million very low-paid workers.

### Housing

The party states that:

- although housing remains a challenge for many families, homeownership is higher now than before the COVID-19 pandemic, including for African Americans and Hispanic Americans
- rental costs have moderated in 2023-2024; and a record number of apartments are under construction
- in 2023, the administration lowered Federal Housing Administration annual mortgage insurance premiums by about one third, saving more than 400,000 borrowers approximately \$800 over the first year of the mortgage with continued savings in subsequent years
- the administration secured rental assistance for over 100,000 additional low-income households for the Housing Choice Voucher program, guaranteeing rents at 30 percent of those families' incomes

To reduce homelessness, the party advocates:

- allocation of \$4.1 billion, an increase of \$427 million over the 2023 level, for Homeless Assistance Grants to continue supporting approximately 1.2 million people experiencing homelessness each year and to expand assistance to approximately 25,000 additional households, specifically survivors of domestic violence and homeless youth
- in addition, allocating approximately \$100 million in program recaptures to fund coordinated interventions to support nearly 11,000 additional homeless individuals and families, pursuant to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- allocating \$505 million, or \$6 million above the 2023 level, for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, serving a population with a disproportionately high rate of homelessness and providing a critical link to services
- allocation of a further \$8 billion for acquisition, construction, or operation of housing to expand options for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, as well as \$3 billion to provide counseling and emergency rental assistance to older adult renters at-risk of homelessness

To make housing more affordable, the party advocates:

- investing \$1.3 billion in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to construct and rehabilitate affordable rental housing and provide homeownership opportunities
- to further address the critical shortage of affordable housing in communities throughout the Nation, providing \$20 billion in mandatory funding for a new Innovation Fund for Housing Expansion, which would be a competitive grant program for municipalities and other entities that develop concrete plans for expanding housing supply, with additional funding for housing affordability pilots
- providing \$7.5 billion in mandatory funding for new Project-Based Rental Assistance contracts to incentivize the development of new climate-resilient affordable housing
- expanding the existing Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and establishing a new Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit, to expand the supply of safe and affordable housing, bring new units to market, and help curb cost growth across the broader rental market

To assist first-time homebuyers, the party advocates:

- a new Mortgage Relief Credit for middle-class first-time homebuyers of up to \$10,000 over two years
- to unlock starter home inventory for first-time homebuyers and help middle-class families who are "locked in" to their current homes due to rising mortgage rates a credit of up to \$10,000 for one year to middle-class families who sell their starter home—a home at or below the area median home price—to another owner occupant
- \$10 billion in mandatory funding for a new First-Generation Down Payment Assistance program to help address homeownership and wealth gaps
- up to \$50 million for a HOME down payment assistance pilot program to reduce mortgage down payments for first-generation as well as low wealth first-time

basis of the employment prospects that it is able to offer. Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 271-290*

### **Small businesses, trades, and crafts**

The decentralization of production, which assigns to smaller companies several tasks previously undertaken by larger production interests, gives vitality and new energy to the area of small and medium-sized businesses. In this way, alongside traditional artisans there emerge new businesses characterized by small production interests at work in modern production sectors or in decentralized activities of larger companies.

Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness. In these sectors, however, there are more than just a few cases of unjust treatment, of poorly paid and, above all, uncertain work. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 315*

### **Industries, Innovation, & Agriculture**

Thanks to technological innovations, the world is being enriched with new professions while others are disappearing. In the present phase of transition there is a continuous movement of workers from the industrial sector to that of services... In particular, there is an increase in...part-time, temporary and “non-traditional” employment... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 313*

### **Unions & Workers' Rights**

The demands of competition, technological innovation and the complexities of financial fluxes must be brought into harmony with the defense of workers and their rights. – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 313*

**Any form of materialism or economic tenet that tries to reduce the worker to a mere instrument of production, a simple labour force with an exclusively material value, would hopelessly distort the essence of work and strip it of its most noble and basic**

### **homebuyers**

To assist renters, the party advocates:

- to increase the number of families that can be supported through the HCV program, which currently assists 2.3 million low-income families in obtaining housing in the private market, providing \$32.8 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$2.5 billion over the 2023 level, which assumes Public Housing Agencies will draw \$963 million from HCV program reserves to maintain and protect critical services for all currently assisted families
- expanding assistance for those those who are experiencing homelessness or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence or other forms of gender-based Violence
- to assist youth aging out of foster care and extremely low-income (ELI) veterans, providing \$9 billion to establish a housing voucher program for all 20,000 youth aging out of foster care annually, and \$13 billion to incrementally expand rental assistance for 400,000 ELI veteran families

To protect families from health hazards imposed by lead water pipes and paint, the party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

- allocating a total of \$101 million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for remediating lead contamination in drinking water
- allocating an additional \$2.4 billion for EPA's State Revolving Funds for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, an increase of more than \$1 billion over the 2023 enacted level for those programs
- allocating \$350 million in HUD grants for States, local governments, and nonprofits to reduce lead-based paint and other health hazards, especially in the homes of low-income families with young children, including \$67 to prevent and mitigate lead-based paint and housing-related health hazards, such as fire safety and mold, in public housing, an increase of \$2 million above 2023 level

### **Living wage**

The party advocates:

- raising wages for working people and improving job quality and security, including by raising the federal minimum wage so it reaches \$15 an hour by 2026
- guaranteed equal pay for women
- reforming social security by increasing benefits for all, protecting surviving spouses
- rejecting efforts to privatize or weaken social security, including raising retirement age or cuts to cost-of-living increases
- addressing social security rights for unpaid caregivers

### **Jobs, Unions, Employment**

The party states that:

- a four-year post-secondary degree is not and should not be the only route to a good job
- during the administration's term in office the economy has added nearly 16 million jobs, including nearly 800,000 manufacturing jobs, not only recovering all the positions lost during COVID, but adding 6.3 million more than existed before.
- 30 states from Mississippi to Pennsylvania have seen record-low unemployment; and the run of low unemployment nationwide hasn't been this long in over 50 years. Wages are up across the board, and rising fastest for lower-income workers, Black workers, Latinos, and women. Today's recovery is the fairest on record
- in just four years, 40 percent of the wage inequality gap has been erased.
- a record 18 million small business applications have been filed

### **Job training**

The party states that:

- it is committed to ensuring high labor standards, involving workers in decision-making, and enforcing rules against unfair labor practices, at home and abroad
- the current administration has invested in pathways to jobs in growing sectors, supporting both critical workforce programs at community colleges and career pathways programs in the K-12 system through the first-ever Career-Connected High Schools grants

The party advocates:

- increased investment in adult literacy and other skills development programs
- investment in career and technical education, including apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs
- increased support for Registered Apprenticeships, including investment of \$335 million, a \$50 million increase, with expanded programs in clean energy-related occupations and to increase participation by historically underrepresented groups, including people of color, women, and people with disabilities, who participate in Registered Apprenticeships

### **Unions & employment**

The party advocates:

- investment in clean energy, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing

human quality. 270-271, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**Among the rights of workers, the Church recognizes:**

- the right to a just wage;
  - the right to rest;
  - the right “to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers’ physical health or to their moral integrity”;
  - the right that one’s personality in the workplace should be safeguarded “without suffering any affront to one’s conscience or personal dignity;
  - the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families;
  - the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents;
  - the right to social security connected with maternity;
  - the right to assemble and form associations.
- 301, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church recognizes the fundamental role played by labour unions... Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life. Work, because of its subjective or personal character, is superior to every other factor connected with productivity; this principle applies, in particular, with regard to capital.

The Church’s social doctrine teaches that relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation: hatred and attempts to eliminate the other are completely unacceptable. This is also the case because in every social system both “labour” and “capital” represent indispensable components of the process of production.

No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-12). Rather, all are charged... to make it a point of honour to work with their own hands, so as to be dependent on nobody (1 Thes 4:12), and to practise a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labour with “those in need” (Eph 4:28). *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 264, 305-307

**Corporations, Competition, and Consumers**

***You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.***  
– the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment

The individual profit of an economic enterprise, although legitimate, must never become the sole objective. Social utility is an objective of even higher order. When the free market carries

- repeal of right-to-work legislation, to strengthen unions
- eliminating systematic racism and discrimination in employment by strengthening and increasing funding for the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission
- putting American workers first in trade negotiations
- implementing paid sick days and comprehensive paid family and medical leave for all workers
- major investment in quality, affordable child care, increase Child & Dependent tax credit
- increased wages for caregivers in all settings

**Workers’ rights**

To empower and protect workers, the party advocates:

- repealing right-to-work legislation to strengthen unions
- strengthening whistleblower and anti-retaliation legislation to protect workers
- personal accountability for executives who interfere with worker organization
- increased staff and funding for the Labor Department to enforce labor laws
- passing the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act to provide better pay and benefits for public sector employees
- investing \$2 billion in its 2025 budget, to ensure that workers are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace through DOL worker protection agencies, including protection of workers’ wages and benefits, ensuring that children are working only in conditions that are safe and legal, addressing misclassification of workers as independent contractors, and improving workplace health and safety
- supporting the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the implementation and enforcement of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, and advancement of pay equity through the collection and analysis of employer pay data, and ensuring that use by employers of automated employment systems, including those that incorporate AI, does not result in discrimination against employees or job applicants

**Child labor**

The party states that:

- since 2019, DOL has seen an 88-percent increase in illegal child employment
- it is focused on preventing and addressing child labor exploitation, and has assessed more than \$16 million in child labor penalties, including related to migrant children, who are particularly vulnerable

**Family, medical, and sick leave**

The Party states:

- that the vast majority of America’s workers do not have access to employer-provided paid family leave, including 73 percent of private sector workers, and that among the lowest-paid workers, who are disproportionately women and workers of color, 94 percent lack access to paid family leave through their employer
- in addition, as many as one in five retirees leave the workforce earlier than planned to care for an ill family member, which negatively impacts families, as well as the Nation’s labor supply and productivity

In its 2025 budget, the party proposes:

- establishment of a national, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program administered by SSA to ensure that all eligible workers can take up to 12 weeks to bond with a new child, care for a seriously ill loved one, heal from their own serious illness, address circumstances arising from a loved one’s military deployment, find safety from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking—otherwise known as “safe leave”; or up to three days to grieve the death of a loved one. The program would provide workers with progressive, partial wage replacement to take time off for family and medical reasons; include robust administrative funding; and use an inclusive family definition.
- requiring require employers to provide seven job-protected paid sick days each year to all workers, and ensure that employers cannot penalize workers for taking time off to address their health needs, or the health needs of their families, or for safe leave.

**Unfair wage practices**

The party states that during its term in office, the current administration:

- has recovered more than \$770 million for more than 485,000 workers by enforcing laws for the protection of workers from wage theft and exploitation, including when they were not paid minimum wages or overtime, were denied tips, or were misclassified as independent contractors
- has proposed a new rule to extend overtime pay for up to an additional 3.6 million workers by raising the income threshold, meaning workers like fast-food managers or executive assistants could qualify
- announced the publication of a final rule that will raise wage standards of construction workers by updating prevailing wage regulations, affecting more than one million workers constructing \$200 billion in federally funded or assisted projects.

**Corporations, Consumers, & Competition**

out the important functions mentioned above it becomes a service to the common good and to integral human development. When focused on profit alone, however, the market can degenerate into an inhuman and alienating institution, with uncontrollable repercussions.

Freedom in the economic sector... must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it will be placed at the service of integral human freedom... A great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed, including the **education of consumers in the responsible use of their power of choice**, the formation of a strong sense of responsibility among producers and among people in the mass media in particular, as well as necessary intervention by public authorities. In order to balance the principle of solidarity with the rights and obligations of the individual, the State's intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society's real needs. "The State has a duty to sustain business activities by creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities, by stimulating those activities where they are lacking or by supporting them in moments of crisis. The State has the further right to intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 305-307, 351, 376*

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of "deconstructionism", whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today's culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. *Fratelli Tutti, 12*

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. Among other things, these demands concern commitment to the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 166*

The party states that:

- tech platforms and companies help keep us connected, inspire ideas and innovation, and create a global marketplace. At the same time, they collect, share, and exploit data; risk our children's mental health; and deepen extremism and polarization.
- there is growing scientific evidence for what so many Americans already know: social media and other online platforms can affect our mental health and well-being – particularly for our kids.
- in addition, a handful of dominant tech platforms and companies increasingly control much of the market, allowing them to exercise enormous power over Americans' daily lives – and, too often, use that power to exclude competitors and undermine consumers and innovation.

The party advocates:

- review of recent mergers and acquisitions, with priority for pharmaceutical, health care, telecom, tech, and agriculture industries, to ensure no improper concentration, price increases, worker harm, inequality, reduced competition or innovation, etc.
- rewriting legislation to restrict non-compete clauses and mandatory arbitration for employment law disputes
- strengthening the anti-trust act, including in the agriculture industry
- updating of Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights to include national standards of protection
- enhanced privacy protection for children and students

### **Research**

To maintain world-leading research capabilities, the party's 2025 budget advocates investing \$20 billion across major research agencies, an increase of \$1.2 billion above the 2023 level, including:

- at the National Science Foundation (NSF), support for regional innovation programs, investments in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum information science, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce programs
- at the National Institute for Standards and Technology, supporting "Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence," and funding construction and maintenance of research and development facilities
- in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science, supporting AI, high performance computing to improve climate modeling, clean energy technologies including fusion, and meeting national demand for isotopes

To promote science and exploration, the party's 2025 budget advocates:

- allocating \$7.8 billion for the Artemis space program, which would bring astronauts— including the first women, first people of color, and first international astronauts—to the lunar surface as part of a long-term journey of science and exploration, including a small lunar rover and a large cargo lander for use in delivering larger rovers and habitats to the surface in the 2030s.

### **Supply chain restoration and resilience**

The party states that:

- the administration made restoration of supply chain resilience a top priority on day one, collaborating with industry and labor to address acute shortages and bottlenecks and securing critical supply chain investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. As a result, critical supply chains are significantly more fluid and resilient than they were at the start of the current term
- in addition, the administration has announced a new White House Council on Supply Chain Resilience to support enduring supply chain resilience

### **Small businesses**

The party states that during the administration's term in office:

- a record 18 million small business applications have been filed

The party advocates:

- providing technical and manufacturing expertise to small domestic manufacturers
- increased grants and loans to small businesses, including those owned by women and people of color, including increased lending levels across the Small Business Administration's (SBA) business lending programs, including: the 7(a) business loan guarantee; capital for major fixed assets, known as a 504 loan guarantee; the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program; and Microloan programs

### **Agriculture**

The party states that:

- farmers are the backbone of America. They feed America, and help feed the world. But rural America has been hard hit by trickle-down economics.
- as a result of corporate approaches to agriculture, the country has lost over 400,000 farms in the last 40 years. Many young people have had to leave their hometowns to find good-paying work. The administration believes that no one should have to leave the community where they grew up just to find opportunity.

- its Investing in America agenda is investing in all of America, including farms and rural areas. It's creating new sources of income for farmers and increasing competition among suppliers, to both lower the cost of farm inputs and to get small and mid-size farmers a larger share of profits.
- its Inflation Reduction Act is helping farmers and ranchers adopt climate-smart practices, which make the land more resilient and increase profitability, while connecting them to new markets and premiums for sustainably produced commodities.
- it has supported independent meat and poultry processing, reducing producers' reliance on big companies to buy their product; and it's working to make livestock and poultry markets fairer and more transparent. Today, family farms have more income from more varied sources, so their children have more opportunity to stay family farmers.
- the administration is also helping family farmers service distressed loans in order to keep their lands and ultimately pass them down to their kids, and has worked with many farmers to boost the production of expensive fertilizer, increasing supply and easing costs.
- the U.S.D.A. also expanded farm insurance to allow for more double cropping, a practice that increases farm earnings, expands the food supply, and helps lower average food prices for American families.

The party advocates:

- getting farmers the right to repair their own equipment, without having to pay big equipment makers for diagnostic tools and repairs.
- further limiting foreign ownership of U.S. farmland, to protect the national food supply and national security.
- continued support for farm workers, including improving safety at meat processing facilities, continued enforcement and advancement of labor and environmental rules, for example promoting organizing rights and requiring overtime pay, and boosting protections against harmful pesticides and extreme heat.

### ***Manufacturing***

The Party states that:

- as an article of its Credo, at its heart lies a fundamental conviction that it is the responsibility of government to achieve a society where the livelihoods of our family farmers are as stable as the values they instill in the American character
- during its term in office it has created nearly 800,000 manufacturing jobs

The party advocates:

- disincentivizing off-shore manufacturing, and acceleration of on-shoring of critical supply chains
- expansion of tax credits for domestic manufacturing
- investment in innovation hubs, provision of technical and expertise to small manufacturers
- robust Buy America and Buy Clean standards for federally-supported projects

### ***Tech & Communications; Artificial Intelligence***

The party states that:

- artificial intelligence (AI) holds extraordinary potential for both promise and peril. While AI is helping to cure diseases, predict the weather, and transform education, it's also being used to clone voices, commit fraud, institutionalize bias, and undermine democracy.
- the nation needs to act now and act fast to realize the promise of AI and manage its risks to ensure that AI serves the public interest.
- it is finding solutions to make sure that as AI's capabilities grow, the implications for Americans' rights, safety and security can be managed. For example, the administration issued an Executive Order directing federal agencies to establish new high standards for AI safety and security, protect Americans' privacy, advance equity and civil rights, stand up for workers and consumers, promote competitive markets for AI development and use, and more.
- it is committed to ensuring that workers get a voice in how AI is used in the workplace, and that they share fairly in any economic gains AI produces.
- it being known that AI can deepen discrimination, bias, and other abuses in justice, health care, education, and housing, the administration has taken action by publishing a Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and issuing new guidance from federal agencies on combating algorithmic discrimination across the economy.
- to ensure that the brightest minds are working to understand new technologies, the administration has launched an AI Talent Surge to accelerate hiring of AI professionals across the federal government, with a pilot program to enhance successful initiatives for training additional scientists in AI, and an AI Safety Institute at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to set rigorous standards for extensive testing of powerful AI models to ensure safety before public release.

The party advocates:

- continuing to advocate for the safe and secure development of AI, including investing in the AI Safety Institute to create guidelines, tools, benchmarks, and best practices for evaluating dangerous capabilities and mitigating AI risk and prioritizing funding for research to advance AI safety.
- banning voice impersonations, along with heightened protections in critical sectors such as health care, financial services, education, housing, and transportation.

### ***Transportation & infrastructure***

The party believes that transportation is a public good, and that transit jobs should be good jobs

The party states that during its term in office the current administration:

- it signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the largest infrastructure bill since the Eisenhower Administration, and has announced \$400 billion for 57,000 infrastructure projects across 4,500 communities throughout every State, including \$250 billion to improve roads and bridges, airports, and more reliable public transit and rail service, as well as affordable, reliable high-speed rural internet, clean drinking water, and reliable electricity
- through the Inflation Reduction Act, has spurred over \$600 billion in private sector investments, including more than \$160 billion announced investments in battery and EV supply chains, and creating more than 210,000 new clean energy jobs across the Nation with a projected 1.5 million additional jobs over the next decade
- through implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, announced 31 Tech Hubs to help communities across the Nation become centers of innovation critical to American competitiveness
- in order to ensure that every American has access to affordable broadband internet while creating high-paying union jobs, has provided through the Affordable Connectivity Program high-speed Internet service to over 23 million eligible low income households at low or no cost; through the Department of Commerce has allocated nearly \$42 billion in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program funding to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five Territories to deploy reliable high-speed Internet service; and USDA has provided \$2.3 billion to people living and working across 35 States and Territories expand broadband access to more than 137,000 households.

The party advocates:

- job creation through investment in repair, modernization and expansion of transportation infrastructure, including addition of 500,000 public electric-vehicle charging stations
- use of safe modern designs to allow cars, pedestrians, cyclists and others to share roads
- investment in high-speed rail and renovation of Amtrak, including \$2.5 billion for grants to Amtrak, along with \$250 million for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program, in addition to the \$13.2 billion in rail funding directly provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and additional funding for funding for critical rail safety programs.
- requiring that US-made cargo be carried on US-flagged ships
- creation of a public infrastructure bank to leverage public and private resources for projects of national or regional significance
- union protections for federal infrastructure projects
- allocating, in its 2025 budget, a total of \$78.4 billion for highway, highway safety, and transit formula programs, supporting the amounts authorized for year four of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This includes \$62.1 billion for the Federal-aid Highways program, to support the continued repair and upgrading of highways and bridges
- an additional \$14.3 billion for Transit Formula Grants, a \$645 million increase above the 2023 level, to support core capital and planning programs for transit agencies across the Nation, as well as transit research, technical assistance, and data collection
- an additional \$9.5 billion in advance appropriations provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for bridge replacement and rehabilitation, electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- allocating \$17.5 billion in discretionary budget authority for FAA, an increase of \$2.1 billion above the 2023 enacted level, to support robust hiring and training of air traffic controllers started in 2023, to rebuild the pipeline of new controllers needed to safely meet projected air traffic demands, and continuing to reform aircraft certification and safety oversight capabilities
- allocating \$8 billion to significantly modernize FAA's major facilities and radars
- increasing the fuel tax for high-end business jets, to better align the costs of the services provided to those users on the system.

### **Competition**

The party states that:

- capitalism without competition isn't capitalism, it's exploitation.
- during the current administration, it launched a Competition Council tasked with coordinating and advancing competition; and Agencies have taken dozens of actions to increase competition across markets and industries – from making hearing aids available over the counter, to reducing cargo and rail shipping costs for goods, to support efforts to allow farmers and other Americans to repair their own equipment.
- the Justice Department and the FTC have increased antitrust enforcement, releasing updated merger guidelines, and halting a slate of big mergers in the airline, food, and defense sectors that would have increased consumer prices.
- working to shore up a safe, secure banking system that protects consumer deposits and holds investors accountable. It has pushed for legislation to hold executives at all failed banks accountable, clawing back compensation and banning them from the industry.
- it is working to limit out-of-control Wall Street bonuses that encourage risky bank practices that jeopardize our whole economy, and will continue pushing to pass an updated Glass-Steagall Act, more clearly separating commercial and investment banking and expanding Volcker rule safeguards.

In its 2025 budget, the party advocates:

- allocating \$288 million in the 2025 Budget for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ), an increase of \$63 million over the 2023 enacted level and \$103 million over the 2021 enacted level, to strengthen antitrust enforcement efforts to promote vigorous marketplace competition and reduce costs and raise wages for the American people.

#### **Consumer protection**

The party states that:

- hidden, surprise fees on customer bills cost families tens of billions of dollars each year and stifle competition
- the current administration has used every available tool to address them, including cracking down on hidden fees in airline tickets, banking, investment advice, health insurance, and apartment rentals, and by pushing banks to reduce overdraft and bounced check fees
- the Federal Trade Commission has proposed rules to ban companies from charging hidden and misleading fees and requiring them to show the full price up front, and to require sellers to make it as easy for consumers to cancel their enrollment as it was to sign up
- the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has proposed a rule that would lower credit card late fees from approximately \$30 to \$8
- to help stop price fixing or price gouging in grocery stores, and similar sharp practices, the Department of Agriculture has announced a new partnership with bipartisan State attorneys general
- the Department of Housing and Urban Development has called on industry, housing providers, and State and local governments to adopt policies that promote greater fairness and transparency of fees faced by renters
- it is cracking down to prevent collusion by oil companies that could raise prices
- the administration has met repeatedly with grocery CEOs and business leaders, who agreed this spring to lower prices, and is cracking down on price gouging and promoting competition in agriculture, making everything from fertilizer to poultry processing more affordable for farmers
- it has into law the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which lowers shipping prices and helps American farmers export their goods.

## GREEN PARTY

#### **An Economy to Serve People**

The party states, as part of its ten key values, that:

- all persons must have, as a matter of right, the opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded by society and the environment
- the accumulation of individual wealth in the U.S. has reached grossly unbalanced proportions. It is clear that we cannot rely on the rich to regulate their profit-making excesses for the good of society through "trickle-down economics." We must take aggressive steps to restore a fair distribution of income
- it supports a major redesign of commerce, including endorsement of true-cost pricing and support production methods that eliminate waste
- it opposes capitalism and seeks to build an alternative economic system based on social ecology, decentralization of power, and freedom from state control, an eco-socialist economy based on large-scale green public works, municipalization, and workplace and community democracy. Worker and community empowerment will ensure that decisions that greatly affect our lives are made in the interests of our communities, not at the whim of capitalist CEOs and distant boards of directors. Democratically run enterprises embedded in and accountable to our communities will make more ecologically sound decisions and help end labor exploitation, environmental exploitation, and racial, gender, and wealth inequality and bring about economic and social justice
- it supports establishment of a form of basic economic security open to all
- it calls for moving beyond the narrow 'job ethic' to new definitions of 'work,' 'jobs' and 'income' in a cooperative and democratic economy
- it supports restructuring national patterns of income distribution to reflect the wealth created by those outside the formal monetary economy – those who take responsibility for parenting, housekeeping, home gardens, community volunteer work, and the like
- it supports restricting the size and concentrated power of corporations without discouraging superior efficiency or technological innovation
- all social actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals, seeking to protect valuable natural resources and safely disposing of or 'unmaking' all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival
- the economy must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions
- the quality of all lives, rather than open-ended economic growth, should be the focus of future thinking and policy

The party advocates an Economic Bill of Rights, as part of its Eco-socialist Green New Deal, including:

- Job Guarantee — A public living-wage job for those who cannot find work in the private sector
- Income Guarantee — A guaranteed minimum income above poverty built into the progressive income tax structure as monthly payments to bring people above the poverty line whose incomes are below it
- Housing Guarantee — An expansion of public housing until every person has an affordable housing option
- Universal Health Care — A single public payer covering all medically necessary services for all



- Lifelong Public Education — Tuition-free public education from child care and pre-K through post-secondary college and trade schools
- Secure Retirement — An increase in Social Security benefits so every recipient has an income above poverty

### Measuring Economic Health

The party states that:

- economic growth remains a primary goal of U.S. policy, with corporations and others advocating a theory of unlimited economic growth through technological progress
- the physical and biological sciences, however, suggest that there is a limit to economic growth
- there is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and ecological health (for example, biodiversity conservation, clean air and water, atmospheric stability)
- we cannot rely on technological progress to solve ecological and long-term economic problems

The party advocates:

- promoting lifestyle choices that reinforce a general equilibrium of humans with nature, including conscious choices to foster environmentally sound technologies, whether new or old, and to discourage conspicuous consumption and waste
- pursuit of a steady-state economy, including a stable or mildly fluctuating product of population and per capita consumption and GDP
- an alternative way to measure the economy is to assess the value of non-monetary goods and services and measure the rate of infant mortality, life expectancy of people, educational opportunities offered by the state, family stability, environmental data, and health care for all people
- another measure includes quantifying human benefit (in terms of education, health care, elder care, etc.) provided by each unit of output. Measuring the gap between the most fortunate and the least fortunate in our society, for example, tells us how well or poorly we are doing in creating an economy that does not benefit some at the expense of others
- for nations with widespread poverty, increasing per capita consumption (through economic growth or through more equitable distributions of wealth)
- acknowledgment that ultimately the global ecosystem will not be able to support further economic growth
- an equitable distribution of wealth among nations, in order to maintain a global steady-state economy

### Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- it is time for a radical shift in our attitude toward support for families, children, the poor and the disabled
- such support must not be given grudgingly; it is the right of those presently in need and an investment in our future
- we should recognize that the work of their caregivers is of social and economic value, and reward it accordingly
- ensuring that children and their caregivers have access to an adequate, secure standard of living should form the cornerstone of our economic priorities. Only then can we hope to build our future on a foundation of healthy, educated children who are raised in an atmosphere of love and security
- all people have a right to food, housing, medical care, jobs that pay a living wage, education, and support in times of hardship
- work performed outside the monetary system has inherent social and economic value, and is essential to a healthy, sustainable economy and peaceful communities. Such work includes: child and elder care; homemaking; voluntary community service; continuing education; participating in government; and the arts
- we must take an uncompromising position that the care and nurture of children, elders and the disabled are essential to a healthy, peaceful, and sustainable society
- we have a special responsibility to the health and wellbeing of the young
- our community priorities must first protect the young and helpless
- local decision-making is important, but, as we learned during the civil rights era, strict federal standards must guide state actions in providing basic protections

The party advocates:

- as single mothers are the largest and most severely impoverished group in the United States, which explains why 22% of the children in our country live below the poverty line, and since welfare reform has forced mothers to abandon their children while they travel to work at minimum wage jobs, it advocates supports real reforms to end poverty and return dignity and opportunity to all mothers, including:
  - innovative programs that work with the particular and special needs of motherhood, in addition to general programs such as a universal basic income
  - restoration of a federally funded entitlement program to support children, families, the unemployed, elderly and disabled, with no time limit on benefits
  - funding of such a program through the existing welfare budget, reductions in military spending and corporate subsidies, and a fair, progressive income tax
  - a graduated supplemental income, or negative income tax, that would maintain all individual adult incomes above the poverty level, regardless of employment or marital status
- reinvestment of a significant portion of the military budget into family support, living-wage job development, and work training programs

- publicly funded work training and education programs which have a goal of increasing employment options at finding living-wage jobs
- public funding for the development of living-wage jobs in community and environmental service. For example, environmental clean-up, recycling, sustainable agriculture and food production, sustainable forest management, repair and maintenance of public facilities, neighborhood-based public safety, aides in schools, libraries and childcare centers, and construction and renovation of energy-efficient housing
- ending of enterprise zone giveaways, which benefit corporations more than inner-city communities
- tax incentives for businesses that apply fair employee wage distribution standards, and income tax policies that restrict the accumulation of excessive individual wealth
- requiring corporations receiving public subsidies must provide jobs that pay a living wage, observe basic workers' rights, and agree to affirmative action policies

### ***Livable Income***

The party affirms the importance of access to a livable income, and advocates:

- a universal basic income (sometimes called a guaranteed income, negative income tax, citizen's income, or citizen dividend), to go to every adult regardless of health, employment, or marital status, in order to minimize government bureaucracy and intrusiveness into people's lives
- assuring such incomes in amounts sufficient so that anyone who is unemployed can afford basic food and shelter, with supplementation by state and local governments from local revenues where the cost of living is high
- prioritizing job banks and other innovative training and employment programs which bring together the private and public sector
- for people who are unable to find decent work in the private sector, options through publicly funded opportunities
- workforce development programs aimed at moving people out of poverty
- a clear living wage standard should serve as a foundation for trade between nations, and a "floor" of guaranteed wage protections and workers' rights should be negotiated in future trade agreements, with the United States taking the lead on this front
- ending destructive, predatory corporate practices under the guise of "free" international trade.

### ***Housing***

The party states that

- people have a right to a home and to be secure in their tenancy. However the supply of affordable housing is not meeting the need, while in an era of increasing deregulation, many tenants are losing important legal protections
- funding for affordable housing is decreasing, while rent control and tenant eviction protections do not exist in many jurisdictions
- housing discrimination also remains rampant against people of color, immigrants, disabled, single people, gays and lesbians, and families with children
- long-term stagnation of workers' real wages further exacerbates the lack of housing availability and affordability
- moreover, although increased affordable housing can help alleviate the problem of homelessness, the homeless have additional needs that go far beyond housing

The party advocates:

- guaranteed rights for tenants, including: freedom from harassment and evictions without just cause; well-enforced habitability standards; strong anti-discrimination enforcement, including family protection laws and domestic partnerships; continuation of established services and amenities; the right to reasonable guest visitation; maintenance of roommate privileges; and the right to communicate with other tenants about conditions or circumstances in their buildings, with strong penalties for landlords who violate these rights
- funding of public and non-profit tenant-related counseling and legal assistance for renters
- defense and expansion of cities' right to enact local rent control laws, including vacancy control/recontrol, that fit the needs of their communities
- publicly elected Rent Control/Stabilization Boards for communities with local rent control laws
- preservation and increase of affordable housing inclusionary ordinances that fit the needs of their communities, so that the private sector will contribute its share of affordable housing construction
- funding for publicly built affordable housing, including funding for non-profit corporations that build affordable housing
- zoning to promote mixed-use development along transit corridors to locate housing next to jobs and public transportation
- ensuring that fair housing principles are emphasized in programs addressing the mortgage and financial crisis
- prevention of homelessness before it occurs by addressing its structural causes, through raising the income floor under the working poor, creating living-wage jobs, providing job training and education that will enable low-wage workers to obtain living-wage jobs, preserving and expanding affordable housing, providing affordable health care, ensuring sufficient mental health care and substance abuse services, availability of healthy food and providing effective, holistic assistance that connects vulnerable individuals with sources of income and essential services
- recognition that there are multiple, related and individualized causes of homelessness, and develop solutions that address them
- to increase employment for homeless people, setting aside a share of public-sector jobs for homeless people who are able to work, and ensuring that public agencies devoted to job creation are active in providing job training and work opportunities for homeless residents, with support non-profit agencies engaged in such work

- involving homeless people in decision-making about short- and long-term solutions to homelessness
- educating homeless people about their right to vote, and encouraging voter registration and voter participation among homeless people

### **Jobs, Unions, & Employment**

The party states that:

- it proposes a third alternative to a job or no job dichotomy: to provide everyone a sustainable livelihood. The need of our times is for security, not necessarily jobs. We need security in the knowledge that, while markets may fluctuate and jobs may come and go, we are still able to lead a life rooted in dignity and well-being
- the concept of a "job" is only a few hundred years old; and the artificial dichotomy between "employment" and "unemployment" has become a tool of social leverage for corporate exploiters. This produces a dysfunctional society in various ways: (1) It is used to justify bringing harmful industries to rural communities, such as extensive prison construction and clear cutting of pristine forests. (2) It has been used to pit workers (people needing jobs) against the interests of their own communities. (3) It has created a self-esteem crisis in a large segment of the adult population who have been forced into doing work that is irrelevant, socially harmful, or environmentally unsound.
- the right to organize unions, bargain freely and strike when necessary is being eroded by employers and their representatives in government
- nearly one out of ten workers involved in union organizing drives is illegally fired by employers who want to keep workers from exercising a genuinely free choice
- as union membership falls, so do the wages of all working people, union and non-union alike
- it supports the irreducible right of working people, without hindrance, to form unions and to bargain collectively with their employers, as guaranteed under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935
- it supports the right of workers, without penalty, to inform other workers on the premises of a union being formed, including the right to advertise and recruit
- a major consequence of enacting living wage laws that apply to all workers would be lessening of the ever-widening gap between CEOs' income and workers' pay. The growing gap between rich and poor is destructive of democracy and creates an uneven playing field for economic opportunity
- public welfare that depends on hand-outs from the corporate rich reduces democracy by that same amount
- every citizen is entitled to the leverage necessary to become a productive member of the economy and the society in which we live

The party advocates:

- creation of work that does not jeopardize our future or widen the gap between the richest and the poorest in our society, and that can enrich our communities
- creating alternative, low-consumption communities and living arrangements, including a reinvigorated sustainable homesteading movement in rural areas and voluntary shared housing in urban areas
- establishing local non-profit development corporations.
- providing people with information about alternatives to jobs
- adopting a reduced-hour (30-35 hours) work week as a standard. This could translate into as many as 26 million new jobs
- subsidizing renewable energy sources, which directly employ 2 to 5 times as many people for every unit of electricity generated as fossil or nuclear sources yet are cost competitive
- supporting small business by reducing tax, fee and bureaucratic burdens
- opposing the trend toward "binding" off contracts that minimizes opportunity for small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses
- reducing consumption to minimize outsourcing — the exportation of jobs to other countries—thus reducing the relative price of using U.S. workers.
- a complete overhaul of this country's labor laws
- a right of employees to sit equally with management on company the Boards of Directors
- the right of members to fair and democratic elections of their own union officers
- prohibiting the permanent replacement of striking workers
- the prohibition of forced overtime
- flexible working schedules so employees can arrange their own time to deal with personal and family concerns
- the right of all workers, temporary or permanent, to a living wage
- a federal minimum wage for all workers of at least \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation
- health care coverage for all workers, at least half paid by employer, until the passage of universal health care
- unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and access to a jobs search program for all unemployed workers, including farm workers as well
- fully vested and portable pension benefits, which do not reduce social security benefits, for all workers
- mediation as the first available solution to labor-management disputes, with an agreed-upon time limit
- labor's first right to buy out a company that is for sale or is going bankrupt, or being outsourced to another state or another country
- requiring employers who purchase or merge with other companies to honor all existing collective bargaining agreements and contracts
- labor's right to stock ownership and oversight of the investment of its own funds in the company where it works

- encouragement of cooperative ownership and management of enterprises
- restriction of management's ability to close its workplace and move to a lower-pay locale, to protect the local workforce and their job security
- establishment of a reduced-hour work week and at least one month of vacation per year for all workers
- to ensure that all workers have safe and humane working environments, protection and enforcement of OSHA laws, adequate testing of equipment and funding of enforcement procedures, informing workers of workplace hazards

#### **Pension Reform**

The party advocates:

- to give workers options concerning investment of their pension funds, including those used for corporate mergers, acquisitions and leveraged buyouts, decisions that undercut workers rights, employment, and retirement while generously rewarding non-productive speculation, joint control of corporate-sponsored pension funds (the biggest category of funds) by management and workers, not exclusively management
- implementation of federal laws to enable pension funds to simply seek a reasonable rate of return, not the prevailing market rate which greatly restricts where investments can be made
- establishment of a secondary pension market by the government to insure pension investments made in socially beneficial programs must be considered as one method that could greatly expand the impact of this capital market

#### **Small Businesses, Trades & Crafts**

The party states that:

- small businesses are where the jobs are being created. Over the past decade and a half, all new net job growth has come from the small business sector
- conservation should be profitable, and employment should be creative, meaningful and fairly compensated
- access to capital is often an essential need in growing a business
- the present tax system acts to discourage small business as it encourages waste, discourages conservation, and rewards consumption.
- big business has used insider access to dominate the federal tax code. The tax system needs a major overhaul to favor the legitimate and critical needs of the small business community
- retention of capital through retained earnings, efficiencies, and savings is central to small business competitiveness. Current tax policies often act to unfairly penalize small business

The party advocates:

- going beyond the dedicated good work being done by many "socially responsible businesses" to present new ways of seeing how business can help create a sustainable world, while surviving in a competitive business climate
- reduction of unnecessary restrictions, fees, bureaucracy, including in particular use of the Paper Simplification Act should as a way to benefit small business the self-employed
- full tax deductions for health insurance premiums paid by the self-employed
- examination of the use of pension funds (the result of workers' investments) as additional sources of capital for small business
- reduction of insurance costs by means of active engagement with the insurance industry, and expansion of insurance pools
- one-stop government offices to assist individuals who want to change careers or go into business for the first time
- support for home offices

#### **Corporations**

The party states that:

- the legal imperative of profit above all else is damaging the nation and our planet in countless ways. We must change the legal design of corporations so that they generate profits, but not at the expense of the environment, human rights, public health, workers, or the communities in which the corporation operates

The party advocates:

- reducing the economic and political power of large corporations, ending corporate personhood, and re-designing corporations to serve our society, democracy and the environment
- strong and effectively enforced antitrust laws and regulation to counteract the concentration of economic and political power that imposes a severe toll on people, places and the planet. Greens believe the legal structure of the corporation is obsolete
- prevention and justice are at the heart of consumer protection
- millions of lives will be saved or lost depending on the strength of our consumer protection laws
- it aims to stop corporations and others from defrauding consumers or endangering them with defective products or negligence

- it stands with consumers who have been injured or defrauded by corporations and others, and with whistleblowers, who are often the public's best protection against corporate crime, fraud and waste

### ***Banks and Finance***

The party states that:

- because finance, banking, and insurance institutions occupy a privileged position of power at the center of commerce, this special advantage brings with it special social responsibilities
- the nation must ensure that institutions chartered for these roles take that responsibility seriously and serve the public interest
- it aims to reform the financial industry to eliminate usury (exorbitantly high interest rates on loans) and ensure that they meet their obligations to taxpayers and local communities

The party advocates:

- overhauling the financial industry to end its culture of impunity and to prevent it from committing fraud or malfeasance so severe as to drive our nation into a massive recession or depression
- breaking up the nation's largest banks and financial institutions so that none is "too big to fail" - ending taxpayer-funded bailouts for banks, insurers and other financial companies
- regulating all financial derivatives, banning predatory or gambling use of derivatives, and requiring full transparency for all derivative trades, to control risk of systemic financial collapse.
- requiring regulatory preapproval of exotic financial instruments
- reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act, which prohibited bank holding companies from owning other financial companies and engaging in risky economic transactions
- ending federal government guarantees for speculative investments
- ensuring that relief provided by the federal government during a financial crisis is provided in an equal manner and at the most local level possible, so that benefits are equitably dispersed and burdens are equitably born
- ensuring that low- and middle-income people have access to banking services, affordable loans, and small-business supporting capital, especially through credit unions
- ending disinvestment practices in which lending and financial institutions move money deposited in local communities out of those same communities, damaging the best interests of their customers and community
- extension of the Community Reinvestment Act to provide public and timely information on the extent of housing loans, small business loans to minority-owned enterprises, investments in community development projects, and affordable housing
- strengthening of disclosure laws, anti-redlining laws, and openness on the part of lenders regarding what criteria they use in making lending decisions
- development of charter community development banks capitalized with public funds and working to meet the credit needs of local communities
- prosecution of criminal banking speculation
- a moratorium on foreclosures. An ongoing mortgage-related crime wave is occurring around fraudulent foreclosures, rushed through without proper legal clearances or documentation, often on properties which foreclosing entities cannot even prove they own
- restructuring of the monetary system, to prevent misdirection of resources to speculation, toxic loans, and phony financial instruments that create huge profits for the few but no real wealth or jobs
- to reverse the privatization of control over the money issuing process of our nation's monetary system; reverse its resulting concentration of wealth and income; and to end the regular recurrence of severe and disruptive banking crises, nationalizing the 12 Federal Reserve Banks, reconstituting them and the Federal Reserve Systems Washington Board of Governors under a new Monetary Authority Board within the U.S. Treasury
- insurance reform, including elimination of special-interest protections, collusion, over-pricing and industry-wide practices that injure the interests of the insured when they are most vulnerable

### ***Anti-Trust Enforcement***

The party states that:

- the anti-trust division of the Justice Department has had its scope and powers reduced
- growth in unregulated mergers and acquisitions, spinoffs, and leveraged buy-outs has overwhelmed the federal government's capacity to provide effective Oversight
- financial and trading markets have become particularly vulnerable to insider trading. Securities and Exchange Commission regulation of these markets has seriously fallen short

The party advocates:

- strong and effective enforcement of anti-trust regulations to counteract the concentration of economic power

- redefinition of "relevant market share" in assessing mergers
- Congressional action to stop illegal monopolistic practices

### **Technology & Defense**

The party states that:

- it supports defense technology transfer towards a peacetime technology-based economy, particularly new industrial applications and developments in the areas of advanced communications, alternative energy, non-toxic battery technology and waste management
- consolidation of the nuclear weapons complex should move toward alternative civilian technologies and non-proliferation work, not toward a new generation of nuclear weapon design and production

The party advocates:

- going forward with government and civilian space programs; research initiatives in sustainability science, environmental protection, ecological economics and transportation, appropriate technologies and technology transfer; environmental sampling and monitoring; systems testing; laser communications; and high speed computers
- ending patenting or copyrighting life forms, algorithms, DNA, colors or commonly used words and phrases, and broad interpretation and ultimate expansion of the Fair Use of copyrighted works

### **Nanotechnology**

The party states that like nuclear science and biotechnology, nanotechnology is being pursued largely outside of public debate, risking great harm and abuse in its use and application

The party advocates halting nanotechnology development until the following conditions are met:

- development of full and open public debate about the implications of nanotechnology and the fusion of nanotech with biological, materials and information sciences
- development of democratic public control mechanisms to regulate the direction of nanotechnology research and development
- expanded research into the environmental and health consequences of exposure to nano-scale materials
- development of technology and precautionary safety measures for containment and control over nano-scale materials and development

### **Consumers**

The party advocates:

- strong consumer protections against fraud, dangerous products, usury, corporate greed and rip-offs, including strengthening of product safety standards and enforcement for a variety of products, including food, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals and airplanes
- restoration of state health, safety, and consumer protection laws by striking federal pre-emptions that weaken state law
- preservation and expansion of product labeling requirements to ensure that consumers are informed about the origin, ingredients and ecological life cycle of all products, including animal testing and the product's organic, recycled and genetically-engineered content, and inclusion of information about the nutritional value and the vegetarian or vegan status of food products
- prohibiting corporations from concealing information about public health, labor conditions or environmental safety via protective orders or confidential settlements
- expansion of class action rights against manufacturers of unsafe products and practices, and strengthen the civil justice system and supply the resources necessary to bring to justice to those corporations that injure innocent consumers
- protection for whistle blowers against demotion, job loss, and other forms of retaliation
- ending of "tort reform" that undermines consumers' ability to seek redress, and "medical malpractice reform" that relieves negligent doctors of responsibility for injuring or killing their patients
- granting consumers the right to limit collection and secondary use of personal information by any commercial entity
- prohibiting loan and credit card interest rates higher 12% annually, indexed for inflation
- prohibiting the widespread practice of price gouging against women and the poor
- restoration of Chapter 7 bankruptcy as a viable final safety net for consumers caught by health crises, unaffordable mortgages, credit card debts and student loans
- banning the use of mandatory arbitration clauses in consumer contracts, to protect consumers from anti-consumer and unfair dispute resolution processes
- establishment of new independent government consumer advocacy agencies to protect the interests of consumers and restoration of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs
- policies to encourage citizens, taxpayers, ratepayers and consumers to form Citizens Utility Boards to advocate for the public interest.

## ***Agriculture***

The party states that:

- all people have a right to adequate, safe, nutritional and high quality food; and those who grow it have a right to a fair return for their labor
- the nation's industrialized agriculture system is highly destructive of our environment, of our people's health, and of our society's future. Unless it changes radically, we face desertification, ecosystem collapse, mass extinctions, and starvation. Our civilization itself is threatened by the loss of the ecosystem services on which it depends for its existence
- agriculture is the high-order term in climate change, not only because of the amount of carbon it contributes to the atmosphere, but more importantly because of the vital role it could play in sequestering carbon and restoring a healthy carbon cycle
- among other things, the adoption of regenerative agriculture throughout the food system will put a stop to unethical confined animal operations, improve the diversity and nutritional content of our food, and rationalize the pricing and distribution of food

The party advocates:

- legislation that assists new and existing farmers and ranchers to convert their operations to regenerative agricultural methods that promote widespread ownership of small and medium-sized farms and ranches, and that revitalizes and repopulates rural communities and promotes sustainable development and stewardship
- legislation and regulations that promote foods produced using regenerative methods, including no-till/minimum till, natural soil building techniques, development of natural soil biomes, and set-asides for wildlife alongside cultivated areas
- a regionalized food system and decentralization of agriculture lands, production, and distribution
- promotion of producer and consumer cooperatives, community kitchens, Community Supported Agriculture, urban agriculture, and community farms and gardens
- creation of a Food Policy Council composed of farmers, including small farmers and consumers, to oversee the USDA and all food policies at the local, state, and national level, without powers to adjudicate conflicts of interest that arise when industries police themselves
- shifting price supports and government subsidies to organic, regeneratively produced food products so that they will be competitive with chemically produced food
- banning of sewage sludge or hazardous wastes as fertilizer, and of irradiation and the use of genetic engineering in all food production
- phasing out of man-made pesticides and artificial fertilizers in favor of Integrated Pest Management techniques
- food prices that reflect the true cost of food, including the health effects of eating processed foods, antibiotic resistance, pesticide effects on growers and consumers, soil erosion, water pollution, pesticide drift, and air pollution
- ethical and sustainable methods of animal husbandry, including a rapid phase out of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and a complete transition to an integrated, regenerative agriculture approach to the cultivation, treatment, and use of livestock, not only for environmental reasons, but also for the sake of food safety (e.g. disease epidemics), public health, and animal protection
- application of the Precautionary Principle to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), including a moratorium until safety can be demonstrated by independent (non-corporate funded), long-term tests for food safety, genetic drift, resistance, soil health, effects on non-target organisms, and cumulative interactions
- elimination of patent rights for genetic material, life forms, gene-splicing techniques, and bio-chemicals derived from them
- mandatory, full-disclosure food and fiber labeling, including contents, method of production, source of origin, presence of GMOs, use of irradiation, pesticide application (in production, transport, storage, and retail), compliance with organic standards
- coverage of agricultural and other excluded workers by federal labor laws, except where existing state laws offer more protection
- coverage of agricultural workers under the jurisdiction of OSHA
- ending industrialized agriculture methods, including monocropping, reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and the use of confined animal operations, all of which are high-order contributors to atmospheric greenhouse gases
- converting food producing systems to small-scale organic, regenerative agriculture (agroecology) systems to restore soil health, sequester carbon, foster biodiversity, discourage the currently unsustainable level of meat consumption, and secure robust ecosystem services for a sustainable future
- replacement of subsidized, industrially-produced agricultural products with support for small producers employing organic, regenerative agricultural methods
- localized food distribution systems to minimize waste, build rural communities, and eliminate reliance on fossil fuels
- relocalization and decarbonization of the food system

## ***Infrastructure & Transportation***

The party advocates:

- increased development of clean public transportation, including electric vehicles of all types
- decentralization of the electric power grid into a bioregional system for generation and distribution of electricity, with smart grid updates and net metering

## ***Pedestrians & Cyclists***

The party advocates:

- encouraging pedestrians and bicyclists, by making streets, neighborhoods and commercial districts more pedestrian friendly, increasing the greenery of streets, and utilizing traffic-calming methods, where the design of streets promotes safe speeds and safe interaction with pedestrians.
- creating auto-free zones by developing extensive networks of bikeways, bicycle lanes and paths and maintain free community bicycle fleets

### ***Rail***

The party advocates:

- expanding the national network of rail lines, including high-speed regional passenger service
- transferring ownership and operation of all intercity railroad trackage currently under control of freight railroads to responsible and adequately funded public agencies, as is done with highways, to provide for efficiency and safety of all rail traffic

### ***Autos & Trucks***

The party advocates:

- a moratorium on highway widening, appropriating funds instead for mass transit and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- mandating HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on freeways, and lower tolls for carpools
- discouraging unnecessary auto use by eliminating free parking in non-residential areas well served by mass transit, and preferential parking rates for HOV
- regular increases in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAIstandards to levels which truly challenge automakers to improve the state of the art, using the fuel economy performance of vehicles worldwide for reference
- a Fee & Dividend system on the carbon content of gasoline, Diesel fuel and E85, and a fuel-economy-based Federal sales tax that creates a significant incentive for people to select more efficient vehicles, and for automakers to make them available
- electrification of truck stops, freight terminals and loading docks
- enactment and enforcement of anti-idling regulations
- encouraging carpooling programs, telecommuting, and other creative solutions to reduce commuter traffic congestion

### ***Air Travel***

The party advocates:

- making airports accessible by local transit systems
- further incremental reductions in airplane noise and air pollution

### ***Innovation***

The party advocates:

- creation of an inclusive program to train workers for the new, clean energy economy. Focusing on both the environment and social justice, prioritize the creation of green jobs in communities of color and low-income Ecological Sustainability communities
- transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 using wind, solar, ocean, small-scale hydro, and geothermal power
- end the use of nuclear power, which is massively polluting, dangerous, financially risky, expensive and slow to implement, and diverting funds to wind, solar, geothermal, conservation and small-scale hydroelectric



### **An Economy for All**

The Campaign states that:

- the guiding principles of its economic policies is that people who work hard should be able to afford a decent life
- once upon a time, a blue-collar worker with a high school education could support a family, take vacations, and even save for retirement
- technology has made our productivity many times higher, but life is life poorer than in the 1960s
- it is possible to restore the middle class by reversing missteps of the last 50 years: a massive military machine has nearly bankrupted the country; Washington has put corporations in charge, enriching the wealthiest as working people have dropped out of the middle class



- official unemployment is low, but most of the new jobs are in the low-pay service sector
- wealth inequality in the country is at a 100-year high. More than 60% of Americans live paycheck-to-paycheck, with no savings for an emergency. Take-home pay after inflation and taxes has fallen 9% under the current administration.
- under the current administration, the price of an average home has risen from \$250,000 to around \$400,000, and mortgage rates have more than doubled. Rents have followed the trend

The Campaign advocates:

- raising the minimum wage to \$15, which is the equivalent to its 1967 level
- prosecuting union-busting corporations so that labor can organize and negotiate fair wages
- expanding free childcare to millions of families with programs like that pioneered by the state of New Mexico
- dropping housing costs by \$1000 per family and make home ownership affordable by backing 3% home mortgages with tax-free bonds
- cutting energy prices by restricting natural gas exports
- supporting small businesses by redirecting regulatory scrutiny onto large corporations
- securing the border and bring illegal immigration to a halt, so that undocumented migrants won't undercut wages
- negotiating trade deals that prevent low-wage countries from competing with American workers in a "race to the bottom."
- reining in military spending and using the resources to fund infrastructure, health care, higher education, child care, and domestic prosperity
- reversing the chronic disease epidemic that is a \$3.7 trillion drag on families and the American economy
- cleaning out corruption in Washington, D.C., which funnels so much of our nation's wealth to giant corporations and billionaires
- establishing addiction healing centers on organic farms across the country
- making student debt dischargeable in bankruptcy and cutting interest rates on student loans to zero
- cutting by half to bring them in line with other nations

To finance the above measures, the campaign advocates:

- ending military adventures and regime-change wars, like the one in Ukraine. The wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Libya \$90,000 per family of four, enough to pay off all medical debt, all credit card debt, provide free childcare, feed every hungry child, repair our infrastructure, and make college tuition free — with money left over
- ending the corruption in Washington: the corporate giveaways, the boondoggles, the bailouts of the too-big-to-fail that leave the little guy at the mercy of the market. Corporations right now are sitting on \$8 trillion in cash. Their contribution to tax revenues was 33% in the 1950s — it is 10% today

### **Poverty Reduction**

The campaign states that:

- the nation faces a widening wealth gap (the most unequal since the 1920s), rampant debt, decaying infrastructure, and a hollowed-out industrial base
- every night, tens of millions of American children go to bed hungry. Millions of Americans must choose between food and medicine; millions more are living on the edge, just a single car repair away from disaster. And these problems are worse for Black, Native, and other minority populations
- government assistance to the nation's most vulnerable is a high priority, but even more important is to reverse policies that have led to such poverty in the first place. It proposes to rebuild the industrial infrastructure, ruined by forty years of off-shoring and misguided "free trade" schemes
- it advocates policies that favor small and medium businesses, which are the nation's real job creators and the dynamos of American enterprise
- it supports labor in reclaiming its fair share of American prosperity, breaking up "too-big-to-fail" banks and monopolies, instead bailing out homeowners, debtors, and small business owners in crises
- global developments, particularly the end of the US dollar's status as the world's unchallenged reserve currency, portend turbulent economic conditions ahead. Yet at the same time, we know that America is fundamentally a wealthy nation, blessed with vast lands, rich resources, and a creative population, and that is the tap the campaign intends to tap into to turn the national economy around
- healthcare is another key aspect of American revitalization, as it consumes nearly one-fifth of GDP. However, it's not just a matter of shifting the burden of who pays: healthcare spending per capita has increased twelve-fold since 1960. Is America twelve times healthier? On the contrary, the nation faces a pandemic of chronic disease. Auto-immunity, allergies, diabetes, obesity, addiction, anxiety, and depression afflict two-thirds of the population, up from a few percent in our grandparents' time. It advocates going beyond making existing modalities available to all, to include low-cost alternative and holistic therapies that have been marginalized in a pharma-dominated system, and moving a sick care system to a wellness society.

### **Housing**

The Campaign states that:

- the dream of home ownership is slipping away for many Americans with high mortgage rates, rising prices, and stagnant income
- venture capital firms and hedge funds are buying up single-family homes by the millions
- as home ownership costs rise beyond reach, rents follow them

The campaign cites these statistics:

- American homeownership is declining at the highest rate since the great depression; the nation lost more than 1 million homeowners in 2021 —more than in the housing crash of 2008 —and then another million in 2022
- the median home price has risen from \$250,000 in 2019 to \$400,000 in 2023
- mortgage interest rates have more than doubled under the current administration
- the rise in interest rates, combined with rising housing prices, has pushed the average monthly payment for someone buying a home from \$1,050 in 2019 to over \$2,600 per month
- at the same time, take-home pay after inflation and taxes has fallen by 9%
- at the current pace, by 2030 60% of single-family homes will be owned by corporations
- home ownership is now out of reach for all but the top income bracket
- younger Americans in particular barely dream of ever owning a home. They face a future at the mercy of corporate landlords who will raise rent to the highest level the market will bear

The Campaign advocates:

- tax-free 3% government-backed mortgage bonds, to bring the mortgage interest rate back to 2019 levels and even lower. Because the financing will come from investors, the cost to taxpayers will be minimal while helping home buyers. This measure alone will reduce monthly costs for the average home purchase by \$1,000
- bringing derelict land and buildings back online, by incentivizing local governments to buy back the thousands of vacant lots and buildings that have been seized in many cities for tax arrears or other reasons, and bring city-owned land and buildings back onto the market
- encouraging municipalities to change zoning laws to allow ancillary dwelling units (granny flats) on more properties, to make housing available, bring families together, and provide homeowners with rental income
- amendment of the tax code, including for example changing business depreciation rules and reforming the “enterprise zones” that have contributed so much to gentrification, in order to restore home ownership to tens of millions of Americans, and lower costs for tens of millions more and get large corporations out of the single-family home business

#### **Unions & Employment**

The campaign states that:

- Candidate Kennedy is a strong supporter of labor rights, going back to his youthful involvement with Cesar Chavez. He believes that capitalism can function only in the presence of a strong labor movement. If workers cannot bargain collectively, they will always be at a disadvantage negotiating with large corporations, who will relentlessly drive down wages and erode working conditions.
- it intends to make defense of the rights of workers a cardinal principle of governance.
- a Kennedy administration will defend worker’s rights: (i) to organize; (ii) to collective bargaining; (iii) to strike; (iv) to meaningful wages and benefits, including a significant increase to the minimum wage; (v) to a healthy and safe workplace with appropriate working conditions; (vi) to compensation if injured on the job; (vii) to a dignified and secure retirement

The campaign advocates:

- vigorous enforcement of laws against union-busting corporations so that workers at places like Starbucks and Amazon can organize
- a federal tax deduction for union dues, in recognition that strong unions are a boon to the nation
- raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, with automatic further increases to keep pace with inflation
- supporting legislation, such as the PRO Act, to boost worker protections and unionization
- amending bankruptcy laws so that collective bargaining agreements are preserved through bankruptcy and assumed by the new owner, so that corporations cannot use bankruptcy maneuvers to strip workers of their agreements, benefits, and pensions
- strengthening protections for workers in the gig economy, so that corporations can no longer use gig workers to undermine wages for regular employees
- protecting worker rights in trade agreements. Neoliberal free trade policies set American workers into competition with workers in low-wage countries that have few labor protections where, in some cases, unions are non-existent.
- promoting the on-shoring of industrial production, again so that American workers are not pitted in competition against workers from low-wage countries

#### **Corporations, Consumers, & Competition**

The campaign states that:

- it’s “We the People,” not “We the Corporations”
- one of its priorities is to dissolve the corrupt merger of state and corporate power, to free government agencies from the control of big corporations
- the nation’s food is unhealthy because Big Ag controls the Department of Agriculture. It has endless wars because military contractors control the Department

of Defense, State Department, and intelligence agencies. The middle class is being decimated because Wall Street controls the Federal Reserve, Treasury, and SEC. The environment is a toxic mess because big polluters and extractive industries control the EPA. Healthcare costs and chronic disease run rampant because Big Pharma controls the CDC, FDA, and NIH.

- only an independent President beholden to neither major party can free our government from corporate capture. The previous administration promised to drain the swamp, but appointed corporate lobbyists and other “swamp creatures” to key posts; and the current administration has been wallowing in the corporate-controlled Washington swamp for 50 years
- candidate Kennedy has the experience to reclaim our government for the American people. For 40 years, he has sued countless government agencies. He knows all the tricks that corrupt officials use to advance the corporate agenda

The c51ampaign advocates:

- installing honest, competent leadership throughout the federal bureaucracy, agency by agency
- rooting out corruption and replacing corporate-friendly agency leaders with reformers and whistle-blowers dedicated to the national interest
- shutting revolving door by executive order with a five year ban on administration officials lobbying their former government agency
- making government agencies transparent to public view, so that the American people can once again have faith that their government works for them — not big corporations.



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY

### **An Economy for All**

The party states that:

- it wants all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner
- each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected
- all efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society

### **Poverty Reduction**

The party states that:

- the proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. It believes members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm

### **Property and Contract**

The party states that:

- the freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one’s property must be upheld. Libertarians would free property owners from government restrictions on their rights to control and enjoy their property, as long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others
- eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of such fundamental rights
- in voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable

### **Marketplace Freedom**

The party states that:

- it supports free markets, and defends the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association
- it opposes all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest
- government should not compete with private enterprise

### **Labor & Employment**

The party states that:

- employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering
- it supports the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain

### **Licensing**

The party states that:

- it supports the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, it opposes occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege
- it encourages certifications by voluntary associations of professionals

### **Sex Work**

The party states that it supports the decriminalization of prostitution, and asserts the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers

### **Pensions; Retirement and Income Security**

The party states that:

- retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government
- it would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system
- the proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. It believes members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm

### **Money and Financial Markets**

The party states that:

- it advocates free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types
- markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated
- those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts
- it supports ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings
- individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item
- it supports a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws



## **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

### **Economy for All**

The party states that:

- the worst Inflation crisis in four decades has crushed the middle class, devastated family budgets, and pushed the dream of homeownership out of reach for millions
- history shows that Inflation will not magically disappear while policies remain the same
- to defeat inflation and bring down prices, it is committed to unleashing American Energy, reining in wasteful spending, cutting excessive regulations, securing national borders, and restoring peace through strength
- its dedication to the restoration of prosperity, ensuring economic security, and building a brighter future for American workers and their families will make America stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous than ever before.
- its America First economic agenda rests on five pillars: slashing regulations, cutting taxes, securing fair trade deals, ensuring reliable and abundant low-cost energy, and championing innovation.
- it commits to reducing housing, education, and healthcare costs, while lowering everyday expenses and increasing opportunities.

The party advocates:

- unleashing American energy, including making the U.S. the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world by lifting restrictions on energy production and terminating the Socialist Green New Deal, and unleashing energy production from all sources, including nuclear, to immediately slash Inflation and power homes, cars, and factories with reliable, abundant, and affordable energy.
- stabilizing the economy by slashing wasteful government spending and promoting economic growth
- reinstating deregulation policies from its prior term in office, which saved Americans \$11,000 per household and ending the current administration's regulatory policies, which disproportionately harm low and middle-income households
- reversing the current administration's border policies, which have driven up the cost of housing, education, and healthcare for American families

- ending the global chaos, which breeds inflation, by restoring peace through strength and thereby reducing geopolitical risk and lower commodity prices
- stopping outsourcing, and turning the United States into a manufacturing superpower
- large tax cuts for workers, and no taxes on tips, including reinstating provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that doubled the standard deduction, expanded the Child Tax Credit, and spurred economic growth for all Americans, and eliminate taxes on tips for millions of restaurant and hospitality workers, and pursuing additional Tax Cuts.
- reducing the regulatory burden, lowering energy costs, and promoting economic policies that drive down the cost of living and prices for everyday goods and services

#### **Housing & Poverty Reduction**

To help new home buyers, the party advocates:

- reducing mortgage rates by slashing Inflation, limited opening of federal lands to allow for new home construction, promoting homeownership through tax incentives, and support for first-time buyers, and cutting unnecessary regulations that raise housing costs.

#### **Jobs, Unions, Employment, Industries & Corporations**

The party states that:

- American workers are the most productive, talented, and innovative on Earth, yet the national trade deficit in goods has grown to over \$1 Trillion Dollars a year.
- its America First economic agenda rests on five pillars: slashing regulations, cutting taxes, securing fair trade deals, ensuring reliable and abundant low-cost energy, and championing innovation.
- it advocates a robust plan to protect American workers, farmers, and industries from unfair Foreign Competition, including commitment to rebalanced trade, securing of strategic independence, and revitalization of manufacturing, including prioritization of domestic production and ensuring of national independence in essential goods and services.

The party advocates:

- to rebalance trade, supporting baseline tariffs on foreign-made goods, passing a Reciprocal Trade Act, and responding to unfair Trading practices. As tariffs on Foreign Producers go up, taxes on American workers, families, and businesses can come down.
- securing strategic independence from China, by revoking China's Most Favored Nation status, phasing out imports of essential goods, and stopping China from buying American Real Estate and Industries.
- reviving the U.S. Auto Industry by reversing harmful regulations, canceling the current administration's Electric Vehicle and other Mandates, and preventing the importation of Chinese vehicles.
- bringing critical supply chains back to the U.S., and thereby ensuring national security and economic stability while also creating jobs and raising wages for American workers
- strengthening Buy American and Hire American policies, and banning companies that outsource jobs from doing business with the Federal Government.
- becoming the world's manufacturing superpower, by protecting American Workers from unfair Foreign Competition and unleashing American energy, thereby creating jobs, wealth, and investment.

#### **Industries, Corporations & Consumers**

The party advocates:

- canceling the electric vehicle mandate
- cutting costly burdensome regulations that stifle jobs, freedom, innovation and make everything more expensive, and implementing transparency and common sense in rulemaking.

#### **Technology & Innovation**

The party advocates paving the way for future Economic Greatness by leading the world in emerging industries:

- with respect to crypto, the party advocates ending the unlawful and un-American Crypto crackdown, and opposition to the creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency. It undertakes to defend the right to mine Bitcoin, and ensure every American has the right to self-custody of their Digital Assets, and to transact free from Government Surveillance and Control.
- with respect to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the party advocates repealing the current administration's Executive Order that hinders AI Innovation, and imposes radical leftwing ideas on the development of this technology. In its place, it advocates development of AI rooted in free speech and human flourishing.
- to expand freedom, prosperity, and safety in space, the party advocates creating a robust Manufacturing Industry in Near Earth Orbit, sending American Astronauts back to the Moon and onward to Mars, and enhancing partnerships with the rapidly expanding Commercial Space sector to revolutionize the ability to access, live in, and develop assets in Space.

## Points to Ponder: An Economy to Serve People

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Poverty Reduction*

- What can or should be done to ensure that all Americans are encouraged and enabled to apply the full range of their talents and gifts to the care of their families, to lift themselves out of poverty, and in doing so to give praise to God as co-creators, through meaningful creative work?
- How can the United States best strike a balance between the principles of solidarity – ‘we’re all in this together’ – and subsidiarity – ‘everyone should do what he or she can to support themselves, before burdening others?’
- What is an appropriate definition of poverty, particularly in a society overflowing with consumer objects and material wealth? Should such definitions include consideration of the ability of individuals to seek personal fulfillment in pursuing truth?
- What, if anything, should be done to ensure that a dignified living wage, capable of providing a dignified home and opportunity to support a family is available to workers, or those willing to work, or to reduce poverty in the United States? Should a basic income policy be considered? If so, what form should it take? What can or should be done by the states, and what should be left to the federal government, or to private or community organizations?
- It has been observed that debt levels among the elderly are increasing, especially as the costs of long-term, dignified care increase. What can or should be done to alleviate poverty and debt among the elderly?

### *GDP & Well-Being*

For decades, governments have focused exclusively on gross domestic product – a measure of an economy’s sheer productivity – as the best measure of national economic health. More recently, some voices have begun to advocate for a broader index of national well-being, to include factors such as the physical and emotional health of the people, the health of the environment, equity in housing, income, and opportunity, and food security, in addition to raw production.

- Which of these approaches is more likely to reflect the well being of current and future national, state, or local populations, and their ability to achieve personal fulfillment in seeking and finding truth?
- What else can or should be done to ensure that the American economy serves the people, rather than the other way around? Is it reasonable to demand continuous economic growth, or might it be preferable to seek sustainable contentment?

### *Businesses and Corporations*

For decades, corporate lobby groups and business schools have taught that the only legitimate object of a business corporation is to make money for its shareholders. More recently, some business voices have begun to advocate a broader role for corporations, to include service of its employees, its customers, and the community, and protection of the environment, as part of a corporation’s proper role.

- Which of these object definitions is more consistent with church teachings? Should anything be done to encourage development of a corporate and business culture that aims to serve people, communities, and future generations, in addition to profits? If so, what?
- Some parties have called for an unfettered right of free political speech, including unlimited campaign contributions, for corporations. In the event such a right is recognized, what effect might it have on rights, freedoms, and control of government in the United States?

# The Individual & Society: Rights, Responsibilities, & Subsidiarity

Civil Liberties | Human Rights | Responsibilities: Participation & Subsidiarity

*In human society, to one person's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons... Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)*

## Catholic Teaching

### Civil Rights & Liberties

Every member of society is imbued with a number of rights. With them come responsibilities.

In Catholic terms, a "right" has been defined as a subjective moral power, residing in the person posing it, "to do, hold, or extract something," which functions through appeal to another's will through the other person's intellect. It is to be distinguished from might, i.e. the physical force or power to take something away from another. – Fr John Hardon, SJ, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*

Man's history of sin begins when he no longer acknowledges the Lord as his Creator and himself wishes to be the one who determines, with complete independence, what is good and what is evil. "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen 3:5): this was the first temptation, and it is echoed in all the other temptations to which man is more easily inclined to yield as a result of the original Fall. - Pope Saint John Paul II, *Veritatis splendor*

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 164-166*

### Racism & Discrimination

The unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions,



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Civil Rights & Liberties

As a part of its by-laws, the Party's Credo states that at the Party's heart lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but must also live in a fair society, in which:

- the equal rights of women are guaranteed in the Constitution
- the civil rights of minorities are fully secured and where no one is denied the opportunity for a better life
- both public and private discrimination based upon race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, philosophical persuasion or disability are condemned and where our government moves aggressively to end such discrimination through lawful means

### Discrimination

The Party states that during its term in office, the current administration:

- implemented two Executive Orders on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities, mandating a whole-of-Government approach to equity, including steps to decrease the racial wealth gap, including expansion of Federal contracting opportunities for small disadvantaged businesses and action to address racial bias in home valuations
- has addressed gender and racial pay gaps through implementation of salary history bans and pay transparency measures for Federal workers and contractors
- has provided investments to tribal nations and Native communities, including the American Rescue Plan Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- has provided more stable, predictable funding and improved access to healthcare through advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service
- promoted, by executive order, development of new and expanded national networks of individuals, organizations, and communities to share and implement administrative and programmatic best practices related to advancing educational equity, excellence, and opportunity at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs); and re-established the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for HBCUs to increase their participation in Federal programs that offer greater access to funding
- released the first-ever national strategy to counter Antisemitism, announcing the development of a national strategy to counter Islamophobia and related forms of bias and discrimination, signing legislation to enhance State and local law enforcement's ability to respond to hate crimes, and signing legislation to make lynching a Federal crime
- has continued to speak out against discrimination, racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, and more, so that all Americans can live freely and without fear of attack or harassment

The party states that:

- it will root out structural and systemic racism in the national economy and our society, and reform the criminal justice system from top to bottom
- it will ensure that our nation continues to prize diversity and compassion, and to welcome those who yearn to participate in the nation's great democratic experiment
- it will give hate no safe harbor, will never amplify or legitimize the voices of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bigotry, or white supremacy
- it will protect and promote the equal rights of all citizens, including women, LGBTQ+ people, religious minorities, people with disabilities, Native Americans, and all who have been discriminated against

The party advocates:

- diversity in appointment of federal judges, reflecting the diversity of America
- removal of the Confederate flag and statues of Confederate leaders from public properties
- recognition of Juneteenth (June 19) as a federal holiday
- enactment of the Equality Act to outlaw discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in housing, public accommodations, access to credit, education, jury service, and federal programs, in adoption of children, bullying and assault
- banning conversion therapy
- ensuring that federally funded programs for older adults are inclusive for LGBTQ+ seniors

material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 433*

### **Conscience & Religion**

The Catholic Church emphasizes, among other rights, the right to religious freedom. Emphasis is given to the paramount value of the right to religious freedom: all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits. The respect of this right is an indicative sign of man's authentic progress in any regime, in any society, system or milieu. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 320, 321*

With euthanasia and medically-assisted death and abortion legalized, it is critical that healthcare providers whose deepest moral convictions tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate. Catholic teaching says workers should be safeguarded from suffering any affront to conscience or personal dignity.

It is a grave duty of conscience to avoid cooperating, even formally, with practices contrary to the Law of God.

### **Freedom of Speech: truth, the press & the media**

Information is among the principal instruments of democratic participation. Participation without an understanding of the situation of the political community, the facts and the proposed solutions to problems is unthinkable.

It is necessary to guarantee a real pluralism in the dissemination of information, ensuring that there are many forms and instruments of information and communications. Special attention must be given to the phenomenon of the news media being controlled by just a few people or groups. This has dangerous effects for the entire democratic system... The media must be used to build up and sustain the human community in its different sectors: economic, political, cultural, educational and religious. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity. The essential question is whether the current information system is contributing to the betterment of the human person; that is, does it make people more spiritually mature, more aware of the dignity of their humanity, more responsible or more open to others, in particular to the neediest and the weakest.

### **LGBTQI+**

The party states that:

- it advocates passage of the Equality Act to codify protections for LGBTQI+ Americans and their families, and prohibit employment discrimination in the federal government, including contractors, and make federally-funded seniors programs LGBTQI+ inclusive. It will continue to make great strides in protecting LGBTQI+ children and prospective parents in the adoption and foster care systems.
- it is combating the dangerous and cruel practice of so-called "conversion therapy."
- it has invested in support for LGBTQI+ youth mental health, including through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, and taking action to support LGBTQI+ youth in foster care.
- it is fighting book bans that censor LGBTQI+ content
- it will vigorously oppose state and federal bans on gender-affirming health care and respect the role of parents, families, and doctors, rather than politicians, in making health care decisions.
- LGBTQI+ Americans have long faced threats to their safety just for being who they are. It has launched the LGBTQI+ Community Safety Partnership to provide community safety trainings, support health care providers who serve the LGBTQI+ community, and support LGBTQI+ communities to report hate crimes, and build cross-community partnerships to address hate-fueled violence.
- it has caused the Justice Department to take an all-of-department approach to protecting LGBTQI+ rights, in order to end violence against transgender Americans, especially Black and brown transgender women, and prioritize the investigation of hate crimes against trans and non-binary people.

### **Freedom of speech**

The party states that it will restore FCC authority to pursue broadband providers who violate net neutrality principles or artificially raise prices for access

### **Truth & freedom of the press**

The party states that that the free press is essential to our free democracy.

The party advocates:

- appointment of an independent media professional to head the US Agency for Global Media, to ensure that news and information projected by the federal government meets the highest standards of fact-based journalism
- out of concern for potentially harmful effects of corporate consolidation in the media industry, reinstating and strengthening media ownership rules and antitrust review of impacts of mergers
- continued action to combat crimes against journalists, strengthen security for independent media outlets, and provide legal support for investigative journalists around the world
- establishing a coalition to counter proliferation and misuse of commercial spyware.

### **Religion & conscience**

The party states that:

- religious freedom is a core American value, along with standing together against the hate, racism, bigotry, and violence that have long haunted the nation.
- it will protect the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion for everyone, and we will maintain the separation of church and state.

The party advocates:

- protection of the free exercise of religion
- action to advocate religious freedom throughout the world
- increased funding for security and protection at houses of worship
- action against hate crimes against religious minorities
- religious freedom across the world.
- continuing to honor both religious freedom and other civil rights, rather than putting them at war with one another, under the guidance of Ambassador Rashad Hussain, the first Muslim to serve as Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
- continuing to recognize faith communities' acts of service, which are critical pillars of their communities. To that end the administration has reestablished the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

### **Antisemitism**

The party states that:

- it has been a strong and unequivocal voice against antisemitism in America. The current administration released the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, outlining a whole-of-society effort, including unprecedented, coordinated, and bold actions across government agencies, and calls to action for Congress, state and local governments, companies, technology platforms, and others.



A further aspect of great importance is that new technologies must respect legitimate cultural differences. In the world of the media the intrinsic difficulties of communications are often exacerbated by ideology, the desire for profit and political control, rivalry and conflicts between groups, and other social evils. Moral values and principles apply also to the media.... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 414-416*

### **Gender Equity**

The feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society. The first indispensable step in this direction is the concrete possibility of access to professional formation. The persistence of many forms of discrimination offensive to the dignity and vocation of women is due to a long series of conditioning that penalizes women, who have seen themselves relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude... An urgent need to recognize effectively the rights of women in the workplace is seen especially under the aspects of pay, insurance and social security. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 295*

### **Property**

Private property and other forms of private ownership of goods assure a person a highly necessary sphere for the exercise of his personal and family autonomy and ought to be considered as an extension of human freedom ... stimulating exercise of responsibility, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberty. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 171*

The Church's social doctrine requires that ownership of goods be equally accessible to all, so that all may become, at least in some measure, owners. The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 176*

Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well... Other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation. *Fratelli tutti, 188, 120*

- as part of that strategy, the Administration clarified, for the first time in writing, that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits certain forms of antisemitic, Islamophobic, and related discrimination, including discrimination by national origin, in federally funded programs and activities.  
- it continues to take bold action to combat antisemitism on college campuses, and has prioritized fighting antisemitism abroad by appointing Deborah Lipstadt as U.S. Special Envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism, an ambassador-level position.

### **Islamophobia**

The party states that:

- Islamophobia has no place in our society. Across the current administration, agencies are taking action to fight Islamophobia and support Muslim Americans. His Administration is developing the first-ever U.S. National Strategy to Counter Islamophobia and Related Forms of Bias and Discrimination, including hate against Arab, Sikh and South Asian Americans. He is the first president in history to recognize the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, and his Administration released a Dear Colleague Letter reminding schools, including institutions of higher learning, of their legal obligation under Title VI to address discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color or national origin, including discrimination against students who are or are perceived to be Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Hindu or Palestinian based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics.

### **Gender equity**

The party states that:

- no one should be discriminated against based on their sex. America must, as a nation, affirm and protect women's full equality. It will fight to make the Equal Rights Amendment the law of the land.  
- when women thrive in the workplace, our economy is strong. Under its leadership in the current administration, more women are in the workforce than ever, matching the lowest annual women's unemployment rate since 1953, with the narrowest gender pay gap on record.

During the current administration:

- it passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to protect women's rights on the job, ensuring that pregnant and postpartum workers have the basic, long overdue protections they need to stay in the workforce while pregnant and as new mothers.  
- it also passed the PUMP Act, so more nursing mothers have access to break time and a private place to pump.  
- to promote pay equity and curb pay discrimination, the Administration ended the use of salary history in pay-setting decisions for federal workers and will expand this protection to most contractors.  
- as its economic agenda creates millions of jobs, it is making sure that women benefit, including through the Million Women in Construction Initiative, registered apprenticeship programs, and the Good Jobs Initiative. It has also expanded opportunities for women entrepreneurs, increasing SBA loans to women-owned businesses by 70 percent, and awarding more federal contracting dollars to women-owned small businesses than ever.  
- because affordable child care is critical to expanding opportunities for parents, especially women, it helped hundreds of thousands of child care providers keep their doors open to millions of children and saved families thousands of dollars on child care costs.  
- it also signed into law new protections to support survivors and address sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace.

The party advocates:

- guaranteed equal pay for women, including passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and ending pay inequity throughout the economy, with penalties for companies that discriminate against women.  
- guaranteeing affordable high-quality day care from birth until kindergarten, with most families paying just \$10 a day, and free for low-income families.  
- ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.  
- overturning federal and state laws that create barriers to women's reproductive health and rights, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment and protecting and codifying the right to reproductive freedom  
- protecting rights of pregnant women in the workplace, including by requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant and breastfeeding workers and those who have recently given birth, and enacting paid sick days and universal paid family and medical leave

### **Human Rights**

#### **Housing**

The party states that housing should be within reach of all, and that no one should have to pay more than 30% of their income on it

The party advocates:

- providing Section 8 housing support for every eligible family and ending landlord discrimination  
- equal access to credit and improved down payment assistance for families of color, low income families, and rural buyers  
- a new refundable and advanceable tax credit of up to \$15,000 for first-time home buyers

## Human Rights

The Church also recognizes a number of Human Rights, including:

- **the right to life**, an integral part of which is the right of the child to develop in the mother's womb from the moment of conception
- **the right to live in a united family** and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child's personality
- the right to develop one's intelligence and freedom in seeking and **knowing the truth**
- the right to share in the **work** which makes wise use of the earth's material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one's dependents; and
- the right freely **to establish a family**, to have and to rear children through the responsible exercise of one's sexuality.

The Church also emphasizes rights to adequate housing; clean water, and secure, nutritious food; education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 151, 166*

## Individual Responsibilities

"In human society, to one man's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons: the duty, namely, of acknowledging and respecting the right in question." "Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 156*

## Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the principle that each element of society should serve its proper purpose, and support others in serving theirs, the over-arching goal being to encourage and enable the authentic human development of the individual.

One consequence of this principle is that each individual, and smaller groups of people, should be allowed to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them, rather than to larger groups or greater authorities. This is one of the fundamental social teachings of the Church, since it helps to ensure that each individual is empowered to find his or her own way to God.

## Families, Individuals, and Civil Society

- expanding low-income housing tax credits as an incentive to builders
- providing energy efficiency upgrades
- vigorous enforcement of fair housing laws

## Clean Water

The party states that every American has the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live without fear of exposure to toxic waste, especially those who have been left out and left behind for generations

The party advocates:

- historic investments aimed at eliminating legacy pollution
- clean and reliable drinking water for every community in America
- replacement of dangerous lead pipes
- investment in innovative water technologies to increase efficiency, conservation, re-use and recycling of water

## Subsidiarity & Participation

### Civic Organizations

The party advocates:

- using grants and relationships with community organizations to ensure workers know their rights and responsibilities under labor law
- statehood for the District of Columbia
- self-determination for Puerto Rico
- voting rights for US territories
- ending all efforts to privatize the US postal service

## GREEN PARTY

### The Individual and Society

The party states, among its ten key values, that:

- society must consciously confront in itself and in its organizations, any discrimination by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, religion, or physical or mental ability that denies fair treatment and equal justice under the law
- centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization
- it seeks a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system controlled by and mostly benefiting the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system
- decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all
- it encourages individuals to act to improve their personal wellbeing and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony
- it seeks to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet
- the foundation of any democratic society is the guarantee that each member of society has equal rights
- respect for our constitutionally protected rights is our best defense against discrimination and the abuse of power
- it also recognizes an intimate connection between our rights as individuals and our responsibilities to our neighbors and the planet
- it shall strive to secure universal and effective recognition and observance of the principles and spirit expressed in the United National Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an international standard that all nations must meet

The party advocates:

- amending the US Constitution to clarify that human rights and freedoms attach only to living human beings, and not to corporations or other juridical persons, and that juridical persons have no permanent, constitutionally protected rights, though they may have such powers or immunities as are explicitly granted to them by legislative actions at either the federal or the state level

### Gender Equity

The party states, among its key values, that:

- the nation has inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics
- it calls for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, local territorial realities; in short, for that aggregate of economic, social, cultural, sports-oriented, recreational, professional and political expressions to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth. This is the realm of civil society... This network of relationships strengthens the social fabric and constitutes the basis of a true community of persons, making possible the recognition of higher forms of social activity.

The political community is established to be of service to civil society, from which it originates... This vision is challenged by political ideologies of an individualistic nature and those of a totalitarian character, which tend to absorb civil society into the sphere of the State. The political community and civil society are not equal in the hierarchy of ends. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed.

The State must provide an adequate legal framework for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 185, 417-418*

#### **Subsidiary governments: states, municipalities, territories, & Aboriginal & Indigenous nations**

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 185*

- human values such as gender equity, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience
- it recognizes that the processes for determining a nation's decisions and actions are just as important as achieving the outcomes the nation wants

#### **The party advocates:**

- U.S. passage of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and ratified by 173 countries and is also known as the Women's Convention, the Women's Bill of Rights, together with an International Bill of Rights for Women
- passage of the Equal Rights Act
- noting that the illegal international trafficking in humans, primarily women, has reached staggering numbers and consequences around the world, the party supports the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2000 as an important tool to facilitate international cooperation
- investigation and prosecution by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission of sexual harassment complaints
- equal numbers of women and men in Congress, peace talks, and negotiations, not only because these efforts directly affect their lives and those of their husbands, children and families, but also because when women are involved, the negotiations are more successful
- intensified effort to close the unfair male-female wage gap, including support for the Paycheck Fairness Act and similar legislation, and greater effort at enforcement

#### **Adoptee Rights**

The party states that:

- current laws deny millions of adopted adults access to vital records regarding their births. Such access is a basic human right.

The party advocates:

- transparency between adoptees, their mothers and adoptive parents
- immediate and direct access by adult adoptees to all identifying birth, hospital, foster care and adoption agency records and files concerning the adoptee, including the original adoption plans and any contracts that pertain to the adoptee or in which they are mentioned, to assist with researching their genealogy, medical history and the truth regarding the circumstances surrounding their adoptions and, if applicable, their time in foster care
- strict financial penalties when birth/adoption records have been lost or destroyed while under the care of agencies, hospitals, lawyers, etc. that have assumed the responsibility of storing these vital records
- full reparations for historical injustices in adoption.

#### **Discrimination**

The party states, among its key values, that:

- it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across the human spectrum
- the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, including leadership roles for people who have been traditionally closed out of them
- one of its key values is respect for diversity, and it is committed to establishing relationships that honor diversity; that support the self-definition and self-determination of all people; that consciously confront the barriers of racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, class oppression, ageism, and ableism, and the many ways that our culture and laws separate us from working together
- it supports affirmative action to remedy discrimination, to protect constitutional rights, and to provide equal opportunity under the law

#### **US Afrodescendants**

The party states that:

- it condemns any belief in white supremacy, as well as the violence and discrimination borne by people of color in slavery's aftermath, and that both continue to be social problems of paramount significance
- the community of people of African ancestry whose family members were held in chattel slavery in what is now the United States of America have legitimate claims to reparations including monetary compensation for centuries of human rights violations
- as with the Choctaw, the Lakota, the Lambuth, Japanese Americans and the European Jewish community, reparations are now due to address the debt still owed to descendants of enslaved Africans
- it is committed to full and complete reparations to the African American community of this nation for four hundred plus years of genocide, slavery, land-loss, destruction of original identity and the stark disparities which haunt the present, as evidenced in unemployment statistics, substandard and inadequate education, higher levels of mortality including infant and maternal mortality and the practice of mass incarceration
- it recognizes reparations as a debt (not charity)
- while consensus evolves as what would constitute full and complete reparations, it support the following initial steps:

- creation of a claim of action and a right to recover inherited wealth and other profits accumulated from the slave trade for the benefit of a reparations trust fund
- repeal of the slave clauses that survive today in the U.S. Constitution
- restoration of lands stolen through a variety of tactics including: violence, terrorism and the discriminatory access to operating capital that together has robbed black farmers and the broader community
- release of all political prisoners held by the USA
- support of existing Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as well as new and existing Education and Development Funds
- efforts to overcome the effects of over 200 years of racial discrimination
- an end to official support for any remaining symbols of slavery and specifically call for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from all government buildings
- condemnation of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies
- effective enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, including language access to voting
- a national language policy that would encourage all citizens to be fluent in at least two languages
- strengthening of legal services for the poor

#### ***Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity***

The party states that:

- in keeping with its Key Values of diversity, social justice and feminism, it supports full legal and political equality for all persons regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, characteristics, and expression
- it affirms the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender, or gender identity
- it recognizes the full civil rights of sexual and gender minorities
- it affirms the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex
- it affirms the right of choosing non-binary and gender fluid identification, and therefore supports the right of individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex
- it opposes all Federal military aid to national governments whose laws result in the death, other harm, or imprisonment of its citizens and residents who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA)
- it supports adoption of a policy that the U. S. Government recognize all same sex marriages or legal equivalents such as civil unions, in processing visitor and immigration visas
- it opposes security surveillance and covert infiltration of organizations that promote rights for sexual and gender minorities

#### ***Freedom of speech; truth & freedom of the press***

The party states that:

- independent, critical media are essential to an informed and healthy democracy; that citizens must have ready access to news and information to make responsible informed choices as voters and to carry out their other duties of citizenship
- the 1st Amendment guaranteed freedom of the press because an exchange of ideas and an unfettered debate were considered essential components of a democratic society
- it is concerned that today's government policy is designed less to enhance public deliberation than to boost the profitability of media corporations, with the result that mainstream media is increasingly cozy with the economic and political elites whom they might better be investigating
- mergers in the news industry have accelerated, further limiting the spectrum of viewpoints in the mass media

The party advocates:

- strengthening citizens' influence over the broadcast media, breaking up dominant media conglomerates and boosting the number of community and non-profit news outlets
- in view of government interest in controlling the flow of information, guarding constantly against official censorship
- because large corporations are a common source of censorship and privatization of the broadcast airwaves has caused serious deformations of politics and culture, ending privatization of broadcast frequencies and reserving them for the creation of new not-for-profit community broadcasters and for broadband and wifi networks owned and operated by cities, counties and towns which want to deliver this news to their people at reasonable cost
- enacting tough new anti-trust laws for the media, carving up big media conglomerates, and following up with vigorous anti-trust enforcement
- ending commercial broadcasters' free licensed use of the public airwaves, and requiring market-priced leasing of any commercial use of the electromagnetic spectrum. Revenues derived from these license fees should be used to fund the operation of community media. Tax electronic advertising to fund democratic media outlets
- reinstating and strengthening the Fairness Doctrine, to require that holders of broadcast licenses present controversial issues of public importance in an equitable and balanced manner
- establishing substantial public interest obligations for broadcasters and holding them accountable, including revocation of licenses from outlets that fail to satisfy their obligations

- supporting Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Television to ensure that citizens and community organizations have the opportunity to create and present their own programming on cable television
- to expand the role of community radio, expanding licensing of new non-commercial low power FM radio stations
- promoting greater opportunity for women and minority ownership of media outlets
- providing broadband Internet access for all US residents of this country, so that access to information is a right, not a commodity
- efforts to achieve net neutrality, to enable Internet users to access any lawful web content they choose and use any applications they choose, without restrictions or limitations imposed by their Internet service provider or government, except for restrictions that exist to prevent spam e-mail, viruses, and similar content that will harm the provider's network or internet access Democracy
- ensuring free and equal airtime for all ballot-qualified political candidates and parties on radio and television networks and stations
- providing public funding for independent non-profit broadcasters, to ensure high-quality news and cultural programming with the widest possible range of viewpoints
- prohibiting commercial advertising targeted to children less than 12 years old, as well as advertising in public places such as schools, parks, and government buildings
- repealing the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- reducing mailing costs for non-profit and independent magazines and journals, and eliminate them for those that receive less than 20% of their revenues from advertising
- promoting policies to expand investigative reporting on federal, state and local issues
- promoting policies to encourage the people of the United States to watch less television, and instead to spend time with their families, friends and neighbors, and to engage in myriad other constructive, artistic or healthful pursuits

### ***Freedom of Religion***

The party states that:

- it believes that quality of life is determined not only by material aspects that can be measured and counted, but also by elements that cannot be quantified.
- it firmly supports the separation of church and state, but also acknowledges the spiritual dimension of life, and honors the cultivation of various types of spiritual experience in our diverse society
- federal, state, and local governments must remain neutral regarding religion

The party advocates:

- support for U.S. constitutional guarantees for freedom of religion, separation of church and state, and assurance that there shall be no religious test for public office
- eliminating federal, state, and local laws that discriminate against particular religious beliefs or non-belief
- ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, whereby public funds are used to support religious organizations that may not adhere to specified guidelines and standards, including anti-discrimination laws
- ending discriminatory federal, state, and local laws against particular religious beliefs, and non-belief
- eliminating oaths (or affirmations) for holding public office at any level, employment at all government levels, oaths for witnesses in courts, oaths for jury membership, and the oath for citizenship
- prosecution of hate crimes based on religious affiliation or practice
- elimination of displays of religious symbols, monuments, or statements on government buildings, property, websites, money, or documents
- eliminating the politically motivated addition of "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance
- ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, whereby public funds are used to support religious organizations that do not adhere to specified guidelines and standards, including anti-discrimination laws
- ending school vouchers whereby public money pays for students in religious schools
- ending governmental use of the doctrines of specific religions to define the nature of family, marriage, and the type and character of personal relationships between consenting adults
- revocation of the Congressional charter of the Boy Scouts of America, and for any private organization that practices bigotry against certain religious beliefs and classes of people

### ***Environmental Justice***

The party states that:

- environmental justice, which is the crossroads of environmental activism and the civil rights movement, is founded on two fundamental beliefs: that all people have the right to live, work, learn, and play in safe and healthful environments; and that people have the right to influence decisions that affect environmental quality in their communities

- government must ensure the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies

The party advocates:

- implementation of the principle of environmental justice in our practices, policies and laws across the nation, including:
- making "pollution prevention" the preferred strategy for dealing with environmental justice issues, by eliminating environmental threats before they occur and considering cumulative environmental impacts when evaluating risk
- upholding the precautionary principle, requiring polluters to bear the burden of proof in demonstrating the safety of their practices, and expanding the application of the precautionary principle from chemicals and health to land use, waste, energy, food policy and local economic development
- expansion of the public trust doctrine, which holds that government's role is to protect the commons, to include the domains of public health and protection of the natural environment
- assuring non-discriminatory compliance with all environmental, health and safety laws to guarantee equal protection.
- ensuring that rules and regulations are transparent to help communities employ their rights and participate in decision-making
- enforcing corrective justice, ensuring the rights of communities and local agencies to seek judicial redress. Communities and local agencies must not be required to show or prove "intent to discriminate" to achieve redress for problems of disproportionate and/or racist environmental impacts
- supporting, enforcing and strengthening the National Environmental Policy Act

#### **Agencies, States, Municipalities & Territories**

The party states that:

- community is the basic unit of green politics because it is personal, value-oriented, and small enough for each member to have an impact
- community involvement is a foundation for public policy
- it does not place its faith in paternalistic big government
- it calls for a global community of communities that recognize our immense diversity, respect individual personal worth and share a global perspective

#### **Hawaii**

The party states that:

- since illegal annexation in 1898, the federal and state governments have cheated and neglected the native Hawaiian people
- the 1993, the U.S. "Apology Bill" (U.S. Public Law 103-150) states, in part, "the native Hawaiians have never lost their inherent sovereignty nor their national home base."

The party advocates:

- protecting of sacred and culturally significant native Hawaiian sites, and efforts to nurture native Hawaiian culture
- Kanaka maoli leadership and guardianship in protecting gathering rights, and lobbying the legislature to safeguard these rights without interference
- return of, or fair compensation for, ceded lands
- immediate distribution of Hawaiian Homelands, with government funds allocated for the necessary infrastructure
- prohibition of future sale or diminishments of the Ceded Land Trust
- open dialogue among all residents of Hawai'i on the sovereignty option of full independence, in a form that is fair to both native Hawaiians and other residents of Hawai'i

#### **Puerto Rico**

The party states that:

- since Puerto Rico was invaded by the United States in 1898, it has been held by the U.S. in the form of a colony
- after having established "Free Associated State" status for Puerto Rico in 1952, the US has continued to claim that Puerto Rico belongs to, yet is not a part of, the United States, with the result that Puerto Rico has been prevented from taking sovereign decisions to attend to its serious economic and social problems including unemployment, marginalization and poverty

The party advocates:

- the right of Puerto Rican self-determination and independence, in conformity with United Nations Resolution 1514(XV) of 1960
- environmental clean-up and sustainable development of Vieques, the island that was used as a firing range by the U.S. military
- ending recruitment of the youth of Puerto Rico into the U.S. armed forces and their deployment to U.S. wars abroad
- readdressing Puerto Rico's outstanding debt, including review of corporate and other forms of taxation and tax exemptions to help redress economic suffering and the quality of life of the people of Puerto Rico

### **Civil Society**

The party states that:

- it is committed to the strengthening of America's civil society, including the many mediating institutions at the community level

The party advocates:

- support the ability of cities to establish civilian police review boards to increase understanding between community members and police officers, provide a public forum to air concerns on policy matters and to ensure public oversight and accountability of their local police department

### **Community Service**

The party advocates:

- to create new opportunities for citizens to serve their communities through non-military community service and challenge young people while encouraging social responsibility by providing them with land and resource management skills, formation of a Civilian Conservation Corps, with national leadership and state and local affiliates, to spearhead efforts to work on the tasks of environmental education, restoration of damaged habitats, reforestation, and cleaning up polluted waterways



### **Civil Rights & Liberties**

The campaign states that it will make a top priority of protection and restoration of the fundamental civil liberties, enshrined in the Bill of Rights, that hold the essence of what America can be. These liberties have endured constant assault for more than 20 years, starting with the Bush/Cheney War on Terror and accelerating in the era of Covid lockdowns.

- it will respect American citizens and stop treating them like suspects and schoolchildren. It will stop manipulation of the public with propaganda and targeted leaks.
- it will never weaponize the law against political opponents, nor hold our own officials above the law. We will return the intelligence agencies to their proper role as protectors not violators of liberty.

### **Freedoms of Speech and Assembly**

The campaign states that:

- freedom of speech is the capstone of all other rights and freedoms. Once a government has the power to silence its opponents, no other right is safe. It therefore advocates dismantling the censorship-industrial complex, in which Big Tech censors, deplatforms, shadow bans, and algorithmically suppresses any person or opinion the government asks them to.
- it will respect the right to privacy and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, by ending mass surveillance of American citizens and the abuse of civil asset forfeiture.
- it will ensure that the Covid-era suspension of the right to assembly, trial by jury, and freedom of worship will never happen again.

### **Property**

The campaign states that it will ensure that the right to property is protected. During Covid, 3.4 million businesses were forced to close. Many of them, including 60% of Black-owned businesses, will never reopen.

### **Discrimination**

The campaign states that:

- it will take special care to ensure the civil liberties of minorities and the poor
- nearly 60 years after the Civil Rights Act, the condition of Black people in America is better in many respects. However, in terms of income, wealth, education, infant mortality, home ownership, incarceration, health, and life expectancy, they still lag behind the rest of the population
- it believes that this unacceptable situation is the result of the unhealed legacy of racism in this country. Action must be taken to remedy it — not only for the sake of Black people, but for the wellbeing of the entire nation. A Kennedy administration will appeal not to guilt and blame, but to the conscience of Americans of all races who want to repair the wounds of history.

The campaign states that historically, some ethnic American communities were specifically targeted for destruction. With respect to these, the campaign states that:

- communities that were specifically targeted for destruction need to be specifically targeted for repair. During Jim Crow, Black banks, businesses, hospitals, schools, and farms were targeted for destruction. Racists knew that without these, the Black community had no chance of building wealth. We must set federal dollars aside to rebuild Black infrastructure
- benefits for Targeted Community Repair will be available to devastated communities across the country based around need, not skin color. However, because there are so many Black communities in need, this program will channel significant resources toward the rebuilding of these most devastated of communities.
- it advocates undoing the legacy of the 1994 crime bill that disfavors African Americans. It will seek early release for nonviolent offenders, reorient the prison system around rehabilitation rather than punishment. His policy will be tough in the sense of keeping violent people where they can do no further harm, but generous in recognizing the fundamental desire of most human beings to live meaningful lives and contribute to society
- it advocates reorienting the police to serve, not occupy, Black communities; keeping neighborhoods safe rather than harassing their residents. It will cause the federal government to work with localities to change police culture, with pro-community incentives, training in de-escalation, and cooperation with neighborhood organizations
- because Black people are disproportionately represented among the working class, its policies to uplift working people will disproportionately help the Black community, including a \$15 minimum wage, tax credits, childcare subsidies, and home-buying programs. Federally-backed 3% mortgages will extend home ownership to millions of Black families
- Black children bear the brunt of the shameful decrepitude of the schools in the cities and inner suburbs. Its policy team is looking at ways to revive these schools while also supporting parents to choose other options
- addiction afflicts all ethnic groups in America, but is especially devastating in conjunction with the unique legacy of racism and trauma faced by Black people. It proposes a nationwide network of low-cost or free addiction healing centers on organic farms available to anyone who sincerely wants to heal
- Candidate Kennedy believes that all of these policies can be accomplished only by uniting Black and White working people in conscience and compassion. He seeks to inspire a spirit of common cause, that recognizes that no one can thrive when many are left out.
- it will end the failed War on Drugs and grant amnesty to nonviolent drug offenders. We will shut the school-to-prison pipeline, and transition prisons away from a punishment paradigm to a rehabilitation paradigm. Prisons will be an intervention in a life gone wrong, and a way to prevent offenders from harming others again.
- instead of defunding the police, it advocates transforming the police, incentivizing them to prevent violence, not make unnecessary arrests. We will train them in de-escalation and mediation skills and partner them with neighborhood organizations. No longer will their relationship to the public be adversarial. They will focus their attention on serious crimes, not harassing ordinary people.
- in America's most devastated communities, many of them heavily Black, young people have few pathways and little hope to escape their situation. It proposes to expand youth programs to make them available to every young person who wants to learn skills while serving society, the environment, the sick, the elderly, and so on
- today, many marginalized people lack a government-issued ID, locking them out of the banking system, schools, and many other social institutions. It advocates free passport cards available to any American citizen who wants one

### **Civil Society**

#### ***Civic Service***

The campaign states that:

- upon graduation from high school, many young people today face a bleak choice between college, which is not for everyone, and low paying jobs in the service or gig economy, military enlistment, or a "career" in the illegal drug trade.
- it advocates transforming the existing Americorps program to offer a new option to help young people gain skills, step into adult responsibilities, and most of all, act on their altruism and desire to serve something larger than themselves. Americorps, officially known as the National Civilian Community Corps, was founded in 1994 as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Today, the kind of service the Peace Corps has done in the world is needed urgently in our own country.
- the transformed Americorps will be open to people who want to make a commitment to service, in urgently-needed areas such as:
  - \* Urban renewal
  - \* Ecological restoration
  - \* Care for the disabled, sick, and elderly
  - \* Infrastructure repair
  - \* Addiction recovery centers
  - \* Organic agriculture
- the expanded Americorps will develop relationships with other organizations such as trade unions and NGOs to ensure the labor and creativity of Americorps volunteers supports existing organizations





The party states that:

- its core belief is respect for the life, liberty and property rights of each individual. This means that no one may initiate force against another, as that violates those natural rights. While many claim adherence to this principle, only libertarians apply the non-aggression axiom to the state.

### **Civil Rights & Responsibilities**

The party states that:

- individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make
- its support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that it necessarily approves or disapproves of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government
- it rejects the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual

### **Self-Ownership**

The party states that:

- individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate
- individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life

### **Expression and Communication**

The party states that:

- it supports full freedom of expression and opposes government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology
- it favors the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others
- it opposes government actions that either aid or attack any religion

### **Privacy**

The party states that:

- it advocates individual privacy and government transparency, and is committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone
- it supports the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications
- protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records

### **Personal Relationships**

The party states that:

- sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws
- government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships
- until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply

### **Discrimination**

The party states that:

- *it embraces the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights*
- *it rejects the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right"*
- *it condemns bigotry as irrational and repugnant*
- *government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, or sexual orientation*
- *members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions*



## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### **Civil Rights & Liberties**

The party states that:

- it will offer a clear, precise, and USA oriented plan to stop the Radical Left's weaponization of government and its assault on liberty
- it will restore Government of, by, and for the People, ensuring accountability, protecting Individual Liberties, and fixing corrupt Elections
- it commits to upholding the constitution of the United States, appointing judges who respect the rule of law, and defending the rights of all Americans to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- it will maintain the Supreme Court as it was always meant to be, at 9 Justices, opposing any increase

The party advocates:

- defending the constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the fundamental freedoms, including speech, religion, and the right to keep and bear arms
- cutting federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content onto children
- keeping men out of women's sports
- to stop Woke and weaponized government, holding accountable those who misuse the power of government to unjustly prosecute their political opponents, including declassifying records, rooting out wrongdoers, and firing corrupt employees.

### **Free Speech**

The party advocates:

- dismantling censorship & protecting free speech, including banning the Federal government from colluding with anyone to censor lawful speech, defunding institutions engaged in censorship, and holding accountable all bureaucrats involved with illegal censoring, including online
- to protect the right to vote, implementing enhanced election security measures, including voter ID, highly sophisticated paper ballots, proof of Citizenship, and same day Voting, while denying voting rights to illegal aliens.
- to protect Americans in the Territories, including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, which are all of vital importance to our National Security, encouraging their greater participation in all aspects of the political process.

### **Religion & Conscience**

The party states that:

- its members are the defenders of the First Amendment Right to Religious Liberty, seeking to protect not only the right to worship according to the dictates of Conscience, but also to act in accordance with those beliefs, not just in places of Worship, but in everyday life
- its ranks include men and women from every faith and tradition, and respect the right of every American to follow his or her deeply held beliefs.

The party advocates:

- championing the First Amendment Right to Pray and Read the Bible in school, and standing up to those who violate the Religious Freedoms of American students.
- combating anti-Semitism, by revoking visas of foreign nationals who support terrorism and jihadism, and holding accountable those who perpetrate violence against Jewish people
- to protect religious liberty, supporting support a new Federal Task Force on fighting anti-Christian bias that will investigate all forms of illegal discrimination, harassment, and persecution against Christians in America
- protect and defend a vote of the People, from within the States, on the Issue of life. The party proudly stands for families and life. It believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that no person can be denied life or liberty without due process, and that the States are therefore free to pass laws protecting those rights. After 51 years, because its efforts, that power has been given to the States and to a vote of the People.
- it will oppose late term abortion, while supporting mothers and policies that advance Prenatal Care, access to birth control, and IVF (fertility treatments)
- ending gender insanity, including keep men out of women's sports, banning taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries, and stopping taxpayer-funded schools from promoting gender transition, reversing the current administration's radical rewrite of Title IX Education Regulations, and restoring protections for women and girls.

## **Points to Ponder: Rights & Responsibilities; Subsidiarity**

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Civil Rights & Liberties*

As the country continues its recovery from disruptions related to the COVID pandemic, concerns have been raised regarding federal and state tracking, retention, and use of private information, including for example information required for vaccine passports.

– to what extent is the collection and use of such information by governments appropriate, and to what extent should it be limited? How important is the right of privacy during a time of perceived emergency such as a pandemic, and to what types of personal information does it apply?

### *Civic & Individual Responsibilities*

It is clear that the nation and states owe their citizens great respect for each of a broad range of human rights. But with rights come responsibilities. What responsibilities do individuals have toward their communities, states, the nation, and the world? For example, to what extent are citizens called to:

- live sustainable lifestyles, for example by conserving energy, avoiding waste, and ensuring that they minimize their impact on future generations?
- participate in society, for example through informed voting, continued engagement with candidates and elected representatives, and keeping up responsibly with the news?
- lend a hand to their neighbours, for example by volunteering at home or within the community, in addition to paying taxes?
- in addition to human and civil rights, many parties speak of things Americans and others “deserve.” How do the parties determine what citizens do or do not deserve? Do they apply predictable, objective criteria in making such determinations, or can such determinations sometimes seem arbitrary and unfair, or, in the context of elections, opportunistic? What criteria should be applied?
- as lists of our defined rights expand, how do we reconcile conflicts between them? And how should they be enforced, and by whom?

### *Government and Civil Society*

– To what extent, if any, should powers or responsibilities of federal, state, or local governments be expanded, reduced, or redistributed in order to ensure that individuals, public interest groups, and service organizations have opportunities to employ their lives and talents in the service of others, and the common good? To what extent should those powers be shared with non-governmental entities? What roles should other social institutions – for example, the Church, schools, and civic organizations – play in increasing social and civic equity and caring for all?

### *Social Health Care*

- To what extent is it appropriate for federal, state, or local governments to provide taxpayer-supported health care to citizens? Is it appropriate to give any medical services to anyone, any time they ask? If not, how can one properly and even-handedly determine which needs should be met at public expense?
- To what extent is it appropriate to rely on private service providers, including non-profit and community organizations, such as church-supported hospitals, to provide health care services? For example, it can sometimes seem that care for the whole person – including for example spiritual care – is lacking when care is provided by various institutions. Would it be beneficial to make spiritual and other sorts of specialized care, in addition to general health care, available through institutions such as religious organizations? What are the costs and benefits of providing services through the government, private businesses, charities, or other community organizations?

# Solidarity

Supporting the Marginalized | Indigenous Rights & Relations | Rural Communities | Immigration & Newcomers

*The other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)*

**Solidarity** is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbor. The good of one is the good of all, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 193*

## With the Marginalized and the Vulnerable

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis – *Fratelli tutti, 109*

So many needy brothers and sisters are waiting for help, so many who are oppressed are waiting for justice, so many who are unemployed are waiting for a job, so many peoples are waiting for respect. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their head? The scenario of poverty can extend indefinitely, if in addition to its traditional forms we think of its newer patterns. These new patterns often affect financially affluent sectors and groups which are nevertheless threatened by despair at the lack of meaning in their lives, by drug addiction, by fear of abandonment in old age or sickness, by marginalization or social discrimination... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 5*

## Disabilities, Mental Health & Addictions

Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: "in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man." Persons with disabilities are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities... They too need to love and to be loved, they need tenderness, closeness and intimacy according to their capacities. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the*



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### The Marginalized & Vulnerable

The Party's Credo affirms its belief that among the responsibilities of government is the duty to achieve a society in which the disabled can lead lives of dignity and where Social Security remains an unshakable commitment

### With the disabled

The party states that:

- one in four American adults lives with a disability.
- people with disabilities have long strengthened the nation's economy and expanded the nation's possibilities.
- groundbreaking legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act have made significant strides toward equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
- yet people with disabilities are three times less likely to have a job, and when they do, they are often paid less money for doing the same work.
- the current administration signed an executive order establishing a government-wide commitment to advancing equality and equity in federal employment, including for people with disabilities, and ordered the Labor Department to protect workers with disabilities.
- the administration is helping state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofits access federal funds to hire more disabled Americans, and is appointing people with disabilities to positions across government.
- it is helping young people with disabilities transition from education to employment through the Disability Innovation Fund.
- it has barred health care providers from denying medical treatments related to organ donations or lifesaving care for disabled Americans based on their disability alone
- the administration launched long COVID clinical trials and created the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice; and caused the National Institutes of Health to designate people with disabilities a "health disparity population," unlocking new resources for research.

The party advocates:

- aggressive enforcement of federal mental health and substance abuse parity laws, to prevent unlawful discrimination by health insurers and care providers
- hiring of more mental health and addictions professionals, especially in rural areas, and expanding access through Medicaid
- expanded support for incarcerated persons suffering mental health or addiction issues
- strict enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- a holistic approach to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and increasing SSI benefits for millions of Americans, eliminating waiting periods for SSDI
- increases federal funding to expand accessible transportation and accessible, integrated, and affordable housing.

### Mental Health

The party states that during its current term in office the administration it:

- released a comprehensive national strategy to transform understanding and treatment of mental health, and has invested nearly \$1 billion to support the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- is investing in training of more mental health professionals and expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics nationwide
- has taken action to improve and strengthen mental health parity requirements to ensure that more than 150 million Americans with private health insurance can better access mental health benefits under their insurance plan
- is investing to support student mental, including to help hire and train over 14,000 school-based mental health professionals across the Nation

### Behavioral Healthcare

The party states that:

- in 2022, almost a quarter of adults suffered from mental illness, 13 percent of adolescents had serious thoughts of suicide, and overdose deaths continued near record highs
- as a core pillar of his Unity Agenda, the President released a national strategy to transform the way in which mental health is understood and addressed in America

## Indigenous Peoples & Reconciliation

The relationship of Indigenous peoples to their lands and resources deserves particular attention, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. These peoples offer an example of a life lived in harmony with the environment that they have come to know well and to preserve. Their extraordinary experience, which is an irreplaceable resource for all humanity, runs the risk of being lost together with the environment from which they originate. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 471*

The Church supports the work of reconciliation with indigenous people. We are called to support thriving Indigenous communities in United States, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions.

## Rural Communities

Looking after the common good means making use of the new opportunities for the redistribution of wealth to the benefit of the underprivileged that until now have been excluded or cast to the sidelines of social and economic progress. Too often, social services and infrastructure development suffer from neglect in rural areas. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 299, 30, 363*

Agricultural labour merits special attention... considering the many problems that need to be met in the context of an ever more globalized economy as well as its growing significance in safeguarding the natural environment. Radical and urgent changes are therefore needed in order to restore to agriculture — and to rural people — their just value as the basis for a healthy economy... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 363, 299*

## Immigrants & Newcomers

Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. — Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti, 129*

In order to strengthen mental health parity protections, the party's 2025 budget proposal advocates:

- requiring all health plans to cover mental health and substance use disorder benefits, ensures that plans have an adequate network of behavioral health providers, and improves the Department of Labor's (DOL) ability to enforce the law
- allocating \$275 million over 10 years to increase the DOL's capacity to ensure that large group market health plans and issuers comply with mental health and substance use disorder requirements, and to take action against plans and issuers that do not comply
- significant investments in expanding the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which is projected to respond to 7.5 million contacts in 2025, and in related CDC programs
- allocating \$1 billion to advance Health IT adoption and engagement in interoperability

### Addictions

The party states that during its current term in office the administration:

- has made the overdose epidemic a top priority, providing funding to States, localities, and Tribes for overdose prevention efforts like access to naloxone and treatment for opioid-use disorder
- requested \$1.6 billion in supplemental funding for 2024 in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand substance use prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services to address the overdose crisis

In its 2025 budget proposal, the party advocates:

- increased funding for the State Opioid Response grant program, which has provided treatment services to over 1.2 million people and enabled States to reverse more than 500,000 overdoses with over nine million purchased overdose reversal medication kits
- investment in a new technical assistance center to strengthen health providers' understanding and treatment of women's mental health and substance use

The party advocates:

- ending over-prescribing of pain medicines
- expanded mental health support for incarcerated persons
- eliminating incarceration for drug use alone and increasing harm reduction interventions and treatment diversion programs

### Native Americans; Tribal Nations

The party states that during its current term in office:

- it has helped champion a new and better chapter in the story of nation-to-nation relationships with Tribal Nations, including appointment of the first Native American Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, and more than 80 Native Americans to senior Administration roles.
- it relaunched Tribal Nations Summit and reestablished the White House Council on Native American Affairs. He is protecting sacred and Tribal lands, including by restoring protections for Berryessa Snow Mountain, Avi Kwa Ame, and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.
- to further tribal self-governance and self-determination, it signed a historic executive order to promote maximal autonomy in funding and other steps.
- it has taken action to address a decades-long epidemic of unresolved disappearances and killings Indigenous persons crisis. For example, the Departments of Justice and the Interior are working together to accelerate investigations, and it has continued to implement the Not Invisible Act Commission recommendations to address violent crime and the high rates of people reported missing in Native communities and relaunched the North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls.
- it has issued final fee-to-trust land acquisitions rules and changes to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act regulations.

The party advocates:

- adequate and stable funding for HIS, including advance appropriation to end historical underfunding
- allocating \$8 billion in 2025, including increases for clinical services, preventative health, facilities construction, contract support costs, and tribal leases
- reauthorization and increased funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians
- in accordance with feedback from tribal consultations, the Budget continued support for indigenous communities in keeping with U.S. Federal trust responsibilities while working to advance equity, including \$4.6 billion for DOI's tribal programs, an increase of more than \$1 billion over the 2021 level, to support public safety and justice, human and social services, and education
- prioritizing restoration of healthy and abundant wild salmon, steelhead, and other native fish populations in the Columbia River Basin, and honoring United States' obligations to tribal nations, including \$145 million through the Corps of Engineers, \$19 million through the Bureau of Reclamation, and \$34 million through NOAA to enhance restoration efforts in the watershed
- to address reports that Native Americans are seven times more likely to live in overcrowded conditions and five times more likely to have inadequate plumbing, kitchen, or heating systems than other U.S. households, allocating \$1.1 billion at HUD to support tribal efforts to expand affordable housing & improve housing conditions

In the modern world, where there are still grave inequalities between rich countries and poor countries, and where advances in communications quickly reduce distances, the immigration of people looking for a better life is on the increase. These people come from less privileged areas of the earth and their arrival in developed countries is often perceived as a threat to the high levels of well-being achieved thanks to decades of economic growth. In most cases, however, immigrants fill a labour need which would otherwise remain unfilled... Institutions in host countries must keep careful watch to prevent the spread of the temptation to exploit foreign labourers, denying them the same rights enjoyed by nationals, rights that are to be guaranteed to all without discrimination. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 297, 298*

We are called to welcome immigrants and refugees with generosity and good will, as if they were Jesus Christ himself. *Matthew, Chapter 25*

*When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*

Lev. 19:33-34

- allocating \$2.8 billion to the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund, as well as \$226 million in discretionary funding to meet existing settlement obligations
- honoring and strengthening US trust obligations to Tribal Nations consistent with US laws and treaties
- working with Tribal Nations on a nation-to-nation basis to empower Indigenous peoples, increase economic development in Tribal Nations, and protect Tribal lands and assets
- a surge in funding to the Indian Health Service to fight COVID, and to help economic recovery
- restorative justice to address boarding school trauma, and increased funding for the Bureau of Indian Education
- substantial funding increases to address Tribal housing needs
- promotion of Indigenous culture and languages
- pursuing environmental and climate justice, including for Indigenous peoples, and will invest in clean water and wastewater infrastructure
- investing in sustainable and regenerative agriculture
- mandatory full funding for the Indian Health Service
- increasing public investment in Tribal broadband infrastructure

### Rural Communities

The party advocates:

- doubled investments in community and rural health centers, and expanded mobile health units
- expanding USDA ownership and loan programs, to encourage new and beginning farmers, ranchers, and foresters, including particularly farmers of color
- limiting foreign ownership of farms, to protect families and food security
- preventing states from blocking municipal or co-op, publicly-owned broadband internet; increased federal support for municipal broadband
- expansion of local and regional markets for family farmers and ranchers
- zero-emissions agriculture industry
- investment in sustainable, low-carbon and organic agriculture
- enforce labor and environmental protections for farm workers
- 10-20-30 funding, to provide 10% of federal funding to communities in which at least 20% of population has lived beneath the poverty line for 30 years or more

### Refugees & Newcomers

The party states that:

- immigrants are essential to our society and our economy, that they enrich American culture, grow the nation's food, care for our loved ones, serve in our armed forces, and provide critical health care services.
- the immigration framework was last updated in the 1990s, and does not reflect the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many immigrants are forced to wait years, and often decades, to immigrate lawfully to the United States.
- a robust immigration system with accessible lawful pathways and penalties for illegal immigration alleviates pressure at the border and upholds our values. The bipartisan U.S. Citizenship Act would permanently increase family-sponsored and employment-based immigration, and the number of immigrant visas that are available by 250,000 over 5 years.

The party advocates:

- rescinding the state of emergency declared at the US-Mexico border
- termination of discriminatory travel and immigration bans, and corresponding legislation
- expansion and streamlining of protections for Dreamers and parents of American citizen children
- permitting asylum for victims of gang and domestic violence, as well as LGBTQ+ people who are safe in their home countries
- providing roadmaps to citizenship for millions of undocumented workers, caregivers, students, and children
- expansion of annual visa caps for victims of human trafficking
- end workplace and community immigration raids

To accommodate refugees and care for unaccompanied children, the party's 2025 budget advocates:

- allocation of \$9.3 billion to help rebuild the Nation's refugee resettlement infrastructure and support resettlement of up to 125,000 refugees in 2025 and to allow ORR to continue the programmatic improvements in expanding access to counsel to help children navigate complex immigration court proceedings and enhancing case management and post-release services
- establishment of an emergency contingency fund that would provide additional resources when there are unanticipated increases in the number of unaccompanied Children
- to improve immigration courts, allocation of \$981 million, an increase of \$121 million to help address the backlog of over 2.4 million currently pending cases, including support for 25 new immigration judge teams

## GREEN PARTY

### **Supporting the Marginalized**

The party states, among its ten key values, that:

- society must consciously confront in itself and in its organizations, any discrimination by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, religion, or physical or mental ability that denies fair treatment and equal justice under the law

### **The Disabled**

The party states that:

- the physically and mentally challenged are people who are differently abled from the majority, but who are nevertheless able to live independently
- the mentally ill are people with serious mental problems who often need social support networks
- physically and mentally challenged people have the right to live independently in their communities
- the mentally ill also have the right to live independently, circumscribed only by the limitations of their illness
- these people are their own best advocates in securing their rights and for living in the social and economic mainstream
- current Medicaid policy forces many challenged people to live in costly state-funded institutions, excluding and alienating them from society and the workforce, and denying them the chance to use their potentials
- as a result of diminishing funds for care for the growing number of the mentally ill often result in their homelessness, vagrancy and dependence on short-term crisis facilities, and increases the necessity of placing them in long-term, locked facilities

The party advocates:

- full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act to enable all people with disabilities to achieve independence and function at the highest possible level
- Government assurance that children with disabilities are provided with the same educational opportunities as those without disabilities
- increased rehabilitation funding so that persons with disabilities can pursue education and training to reach their highest potential
- participation by the differently abled in allocation decisions of state rehabilitation department fund
- ratification of the United Nations Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities as well as the Optional Protocol
- funding for in-home support services to allow the differently abled to hire personal care attendants while remaining at home
- adequate funding to support community-based programs that provide out-patient medical services, case management services and counseling programs
- making it easier for the chronically mentally ill to apply for and receive Supplemental Security Income
- mainstreaming the differently abled
- increased teacher training in regard to the needs of differently abled students
- discouragement of stereotyping of the mentally and physically challenged by the entertainment industry and the media
- funding for programs to increase public sensitivity to the needs of the mentally ill and differently abled.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

The party states that:

- it has great respect for Native American cultures, especially their deference for community and the Earth
- it recognizes both the sovereignty of Native American tribal governments and the Federal Government's trust obligation to Native American people. Native American nations are just that — nations — and should be treated in like fashion, with the special circumstance that they are located within the United States
- the federal government is obligated to deal in good faith with Native Americans; honor its treaty obligations; adequately fund programs for the betterment of tribal governments and their people; affirm the religious rights of Native Americans in ceremonies (American Indian Religious Freedom Act); provide funds for innovative economic development initiatives, education and public health programs; and respect land, water and mineral rights within the borders of reservations and traditional lands

**The party advocates:**

- efforts to broadly reform the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make this vast agency more responsible and more responsive to tribal governments
- just settlement of the claims of the thousands of Native American uranium miners who have suffered and died from radiation exposure, and condemns the stance of secrecy taken by the Atomic Energy Commission during this era and its subsequent claim of government immunity, taken knowingly and immorally at the expense of Native people
- because Native American land and treaty rights often stand as the front line against government and multinational corporate attempts to plunder energy, mineral,

timber, fish, and game resources; pollute water, air, and land in the service of the military; expand economically; and consume natural resources, the party advocates legal, political, and grassroots efforts by, and on behalf of, Native Americans to protect their traditions, rights, livelihoods, and sacred spaces

- support for the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, their ways of life, and all other rights of free peoples
- adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN, actively supported by the federal government and by governments worldwide

### **Local & Rural Communities**

The party states that:

- successful local communities nurture everyone of all ages, generate good jobs and housing, and provide public services; creating cities and towns that educate everyone, encourage recreation, and preserve natural and cultural resources; building local governments that protect people from environmental hazards and crime; and motivating citizens to participate in making decisions

The party advocates:

- reforms that give communities more control over their own local economies
- economic decentralization, including community-based economics whose aim is local prosperity and self-sufficiency
- protecting local businesses from the predatory pricing practices of chain and "big box" stores
- incentives for co-operative enterprises, such as consumer co-ops, workers' co-operatives, credit unions and other institutions that help communities develop economic projects
- allowing municipalities to approve or disapprove large economic projects case-by-case based on environmental impacts, local ownership, community reinvestment, wage levels, and working conditions
- allowing communities to set environmental, consumer, human rights, labor, health and safety standards higher than federal or state minimums
- investment in the commons: rebuild infrastructure; improve mass transit
- support for local living wage laws
- establishing local currencies such as Time Dollars, Ithaca Hours and BerkShares, to strengthen local economies
- place of origin labeling.
- corporate "good character" laws, requiring corporations, when applying for a permit, to disclose all violations of law they have committed, and empowering officials to deny permits based on such information

### **Immigration & Newcomers**

The party states that:

- the current controversial influx of immigrants in this country has been largely due to unfair US trade policies. If it were economically possible to provide for their families many would choose to remain in their native countries
- any immigration policy should be seen a way to address all people's humanitarian needs as we undo the damage to local communities and chart a course toward sustainable local economies
- it stands firmly for social justice for all those living in this country regardless of their immigration status
- it accepts as a goal a world in which persons can freely choose to live in and work in any county he or she desires, while recognizing that this would be impractical without reciprocity between nations
- it acknowledges the rights of countries to know the identity of persons seeking to enter, and to limit who can come in to protect public safety
- the U.S. needs a complete overhaul of its immigration laws
- millions of people are living and working in the U.S. with no legal status, making them subject to extreme exploitation and abuse; and immigration raids are terrorizing the immigrant community and breaking up families
- immigration issues must be considered from an international standpoint, taking into account international labor and environmental standards, and human rights

The party advocates:

- recognition that there cannot be any true solutions to the conflicts created by immigration until we are able to organize globally to overcome the power of multinational corporations, which seek to drive down workers' living standards everywhere. International cooperation and solidarity among labor organizations are essential to combat this trend.
- undocumented immigrants who are already residing and working in the United States, and their families, should be granted a legal status which includes the chance to become U.S. citizens. Persons should be excluded from this process only if they present a clear and present danger to other members of our society
- any such path to citizenship should include a recognition of past, uncredited payments into the Social Security System
- permanent border passes to all citizens of Mexico and United States whose identity can be traced and verified
- easily-attainable work permits for citizens of Mexico and United States
- all persons fleeing political, racial, religious, or other types of persecution must be welcomed and given permanent resident status, with particular attention being given to those minorities who are political exiles and refugees and those whose lives would be at risk if asylum is not granted



- family reunification must be a priority in accepting applications for permanent residency
- permanent residency should not be denied based on political views, racial or national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, or any other arbitrary basis



#### **Disabilities & Addictions**

The campaign states that:

- healthcare is a key aspect of American revitalization, as it consumes nearly one-fifth of GDP. However, it's not just a matter of shifting the burden of who pays: healthcare spending per capita has increased twelve-fold since 1960. Is America twelve times healthier? On the contrary, the nation faces a pandemic of chronic disease. Auto-immunity, allergies, diabetes, obesity, addiction, anxiety, and depression afflict two-thirds of the population, up from a few percent in our grandparents' time.
- addiction afflicts all ethnic groups in America

The campaign advocates:

- going beyond making existing modalities available to all, to include low-cost alternative and holistic therapies that have been marginalized in a pharma-dominated system, and moving a sick care system to a wellness society
- a nationwide network of low-cost or free addiction healing centers on organic farms available to anyone who sincerely wants to heal

#### **Indigenous Rights & Relations**

The party states that:

- Candidate Kennedy inherited from his father a deep commitment to improving the lives of Native Americans, seeing the poverty and suffering in Indian Country as our country's greatest shame. He views federal government's unfair dealings and broken treaties with the tribal nations as our nation's original sin.
- Candidate Kennedy was inspired by his father's campaign visits to reservation to focus a significant amount of his own career on representing the interests of indigenous Americans in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. He has advocated for these first Americans in courtrooms and in treaty negotiations; he has fought for them against mining, timber, hydroelectric, and oil-industry forces endeavoring to steal their resources and destroy their lands and tribal culture
- Candidate Kennedy has been on the front lines of recent battles in Indian country, joining water protectors at Standing Rock, he and his son Conor were arrested protesting the Keystone XL pipeline.

The campaign advocates:

- addressing historical wrongs done to Native American communities, including honoring the spirit as well as the letter of treaties as the highest law of the land: documents made between sovereign nations
- supporting cultural renewal and defense of religious practices and sacred sites
- respecting tribal sovereignty and the right of self determination
- elevating the need for restoration of illegally taken lands and resources, compensation for broken treaties, protection and enhancement of natural resources in Indian Country to matters of national interest and examination
- working in partnership with Native American leaders to learn more and to find the solutions. It is the duty of the federal government to do all that it can to create a better life for all Americans—especially those who have been reprehensibly neglected
- seeking to restore trust between Native Americans and the federal government, working hard to deserve it. It is not enough to apologize for—or even attempt to rectify—past injustices; we need to prevent current and future injustices from occurring.

#### **Immigration & Newcomers**

The campaign states that:

- it sees the situation at the border primarily as a humanitarian crisis which has spread far beyond the border, as a flood of migrants has overwhelmed the resources of cities as faraway as New York. The suffering of the migrants at the hands of drug cartels, human traffickers, and exploitative employers is heartbreaking
- it seeks to end the humanitarian crisis, starting with its most immediate cause — an uncontrolled border. While sealing the border to illegal immigration, it

proposes to enact deeper reforms to stem illegal migration in the long term, while expanding lawful, orderly immigration according to principles of justice and fairness

- Americans must recognize that the foremost victims of a porous, chaotic border are the immigrants themselves. Compassion and decency demand that we do not allow the current situation to continue
- ruthless criminal cartels have woven drugs, immigration, and human trafficking together into a multi-billion dollar business, and American policy has exacerbated the situation. Immigration is being administered by the cartels, not our government
- yet a controlled border is necessary

The campaign advocates:

- first, getting the border under control. There are two ways people enter this country illegally. One way is by sneaking in. The other is by simply walking across at an entry point, claiming asylum, and disappearing. Both must be addressed simultaneously
- second, working with other countries to stem the tide of migrants
- third, to fully fund and prioritize the administrative infrastructure for lawful, orderly immigration to this country

To regain control over the border, the campaign advocates:

- closing the border by returning to use of technology dismantled by the current administration, such as cameras, lights, and motion detectors, coupled with physical barriers in key areas. There is no need to build a wall across the entire 2,000-mile border. We have the technology to prevent people from getting through undetected.
- regaining control asylum of claims by fully funding courts, services, and border agencies to allow lawful immigration in accordance with U.S. law and deny non-compliant access, and appoint more judges to handle asylum cases. There are too few asylum judges to process even the legitimate claims of political refugees. If claimants of political asylum knew their case would be heard swiftly, and that specious claims would be met with swift deportation, the cartels' business model would fail. Hundreds more judges need to be appointed to deal with the backlog of 1.6 million immigrants living in the US while they await their asylum hearing

In working with other countries to stem the tide of migrants, the campaign advocates a new kind of Good Neighbor Policy, to reestablish regional diplomatic, proper planning, and end economic exploitation, including:

- ending military adventurism that destabilizes other nations and generates millions of refugees, as in Syria and Iraq, which sent millions of migrants into Europe. The current flood of arms into Ukraine sends ripples of instability across the continent. Some of the weapons have already ended up in Africa and central Asia, two major sources of immigration.
- ending support for despotic governments, juntas, coups, death squads, and repressive regimes that persecute and impoverish their own people
- ending opposition to governments that seek land reform, labor reform, and social welfare for their people. These create a desperate and miserable population prone to flee their homeland for a better life
- cooperating with Mexico and Central American countries to improve economies and provide economic incentives to build jobs and develop much-needed infrastructure and a better standard of living, so people will be motivated to stay in their home country and enjoy their natural culture and heritage
- pursuing a different trade and economic policy, including ending decades of neoliberal austerity measures and US encouragement of financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank to demand that developing nations gut their social programs, privatize public assets, and strip away environmental and labor protections
- ending appeals to xenophobia and bigotry in calling for a tough border policy and turning toward compassion and humanitarian conscience



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY

The party states that its core belief is "respect for the life, liberty and property rights of each individual. This means that no one may initiate force against another, as that violates those natural rights. While many claim adherence to this principle, only libertarians apply the non-aggression axiom to the state."

**The party has published no official statement concerning its positions regarding:**

- Supporting the marginalized or vulnerable
- Relations with Indigenous Americans
- Rural communities
- Immigration and newcomers



## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### **The Marginalized & Vulnerable**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on support for the marginalized or vulnerable.

### **Indigenous Rights & Relations**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on Indigenous rights or relations.

### **Rural Communities**

The party's 2024 platform comprises no statement concerning its policies on support for or development of rural communities.

### **Refugees & Newcomers**

The party advocates:

- sealing the border, and stopping the migrant invasion, by restoring all border policies of the previous Trump administration and halting all releases of Illegal Aliens into the interior. It advocates completing the Border Wall, shifting massive portions of Federal Law Enforcement to Immigration Enforcement, and use of advanced technology to monitor and secure the Border. We will use all resources needed to stop the Invasion—including moving thousands of troops currently stationed overseas to our own southern border and deploying the U.S. Navy to impose a full fentanyl blockade on the waters of our region—boarding and inspecting ships to look for fentanyl and fentanyl precursors. Before we defend the borders of foreign countries, we must first secure the border of our country.
- enforcing immigration law, including strengthening Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), increasing penalties for illegal entry and overstaying Visas, and reinstating "Remain in Mexico" and other Policies that helped reduce Illegal Immigration to historic lows in the prior Trump administration. We will also invoke the Alien Enemies Act to remove all known or suspected gang members, drug dealers, or cartel members from the United States, ending the scourge of Illegal Alien gang violence once and for all.
- reinstating the Travel Ban, and using Title 42 to end the child trafficking crisis by returning all trafficked children to their families in their Home Countries immediately.
- carrying out the largest deportation operation in American history, reversing the Open Borders policies that have allowed criminal gangs and Illegal Aliens from around the World to roam the United States without consequences, and sending illegal aliens back home and removing those who have violated American law.
- using existing federal law to keep foreign Christian-hating Communists, Marxists, and Socialists out of America. Those who join the country must love it. It advocates use of extreme vetting to ensure that jihadists and jihadist sympathizers are not admitted.
- to stop sanctuary cities, cutting federal funding to sanctuary jurisdictions that release dangerous Illegal Alien criminals onto the streets, rather than handing them over to ICE, and requiring local cooperation with Federal Immigration Enforcement.
- to ensure that the immigration system puts American workers first, prioritizing merit-based immigration, ensuring those admitted to the country contribute positively to society and the economy, and never become a drain on Public Resources, including ending chain migration
- deporting pro-Hamas radicals and making college campuses safe and patriotic again

## **Points to Ponder: Solidarity**

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Mental Health & Addictions*

To what extent would further deregulation, decriminalization and legalization of controlled substances give individuals further freedom to "develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny" (St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year (Centesimus Annus) #39), or lead to additional abuse and suffering? How could desirable outcomes be achieved, through efforts of federal, state, and local agencies, educational institutions, and private benevolent groups, and through support for and encouragement of the family?

### *Refugees & Newcomers*

– Catholics are enjoined by both the Old and New Testaments to welcome strangers in their midst, and to look after those in need as they would look after themselves. What can or should be done to ensure that those in need are offered refuge in the United States?

– What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure that refugees and newcomers are safe, healthy, and enabled to flourish in the United States?

### *Rural Communities*

– What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure vibrant, healthy rural life in America? Of those measures, what should be done at the federal level? By the states? By businesses, residents, and civil associations in rural areas?

– Territorial areas are also of concern. What special circumstances are faced by those living in America's territories, and how should their needs best be assessed?

## Good Government: Democracy, Justice & Peace

Role & Purpose of Government | Stewardship & Reform | States, Territories, Municipalities | Peace, International Relations | Defense & Public Safety

*An authentic democracy is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)*

### Catholic Teaching

#### The Proper Role of Government

It is impossible to understand the role and purpose of government and other social institutions without first appreciating the purpose of life.

If, as the Church believes, the purpose of life is for each soul to search for and find the truth which is God, and to seek to grow closer to God, and to ensure that all other souls are encouraged and enabled to find their own ways to God, it follows that the proper role of government is to provide, with the support of the Church and other moral, educational, and economic institutions, a legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish, in order that the people may accomplish their mission, that is, so that the people may use the freedom God has given them to seek the truth and thereby return to Him.

An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised.

The Church's social doctrine sees ethical relativism, which maintains that there are no objective or universal criteria for establishing the foundations of a correct hierarchy of values, as one of the greatest threats to modern-day democracies. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 407*

Responsibilities of the State include:

– ensuring that all individuals are enabled to achieve their full potential, by maintaining a framework capable of providing all the material, moral, and spiritual goods necessary for the



### DEMOCRATIC PARTY

#### Role & Purpose of Government

The Party's charter states that, under God:

- it seeks for the nation and hopes for all people individual freedom in the framework of a just society, political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens
- bound by the United States Constitution, and aware that a party must be responsive to be worthy of responsibility, its members pledge themselves to open, honest endeavor and to the conduct of public affairs in a manner worthy of a society of free people

The Party's Credo states that:

- it recognizes that the capacity of government is limited, but that it regards democratic government as force for good and a source of hope
- it is the responsibility of government to achieve a society in which:
  - \* taxes are clearly based on ability to pay
  - \* a strong national defense is a common effort, where promoting human rights is a basic value of our foreign policy, and where we ensure that future by ending the nuclear arms race

The Party's 2024 platform states that:

- history has shown that nothing about democracy is guaranteed. Every generation has to protect it, preserve it, choose it. Americans must stand together to choose what they want America to be.
- acknowledging that most Americans agree on more than they disagree on, it is committed to a unity agenda to advance solutions to big challenges that Americans have in common: beating the opioid epidemic, tackling the mental health crisis, holding Big Tech accountable, ending cancer as we know it, and meeting the nation's sacred obligation to veterans.

#### Stewardship of Office

##### Taxes & Financial Responsibility

The party advocates:

- reinstating higher tax brackets for wealthy Americans
- closing tax loopholes and cracking down on overseas tax havens
- requiring investors to pay the same tax rates as workers

The party states that during its term in office the current administration, it:

- has reduced the federal deficit by more than \$1 trillion, partly through the strong economic recovery following the pandemic and the vaccination program that allowed early responsible reopening of businesses
- has enacted another roughly \$1 trillion in savings over the next decade through the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act that empower Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices; and by imposing a 15-percent minimum tax on corporations with profits of more than \$1 billion in profit, to address the unfairness of 55 of the most profitable corporations paying \$0 in Federal income taxes; and by investment in rebuilding and modernizing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to recover taxes from wealthy earners
- is proposing increasing the corporate minimum tax rate to 21 percent, quadrupling the surcharge on stock buybacks, extending the IRS investment, and other reforms, resulting in about \$3 trillion of deficit reduction

common good

– harmonizing the different interests of sectors of society with the requirements of justice, including particularly the reconciliation of private ownership of goods with the common good  
– ordering society not only in accordance with the desires of the majority, but the effective good of all the members of the community, including minorities

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 168*

### Stewardship of Office

Public administration at any level — national, regional, community — is to be oriented towards the service of citizens, serving as steward of the people’s resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good.

Tax revenues and public spending take on crucial economic importance for every civil and political community. The goal to be sought is public financing that is itself capable of becoming an instrument of development and solidarity. Just, efficient and effective public financing will have very positive effects on the economy, because it will encourage employment growth and sustain business and non-profit activities and help to increase the credibility of the State as the guarantor of systems of social insurance and protection that are designed above all to protect the weakest members of society.

Public spending is directed to the common good when certain fundamental principles are observed: the payment of taxes as part of the duty of solidarity; a reasonable and fair application of taxes; precision and integrity in administering and distributing public resources.

In the redistribution of resources, public spending must observe the principles of solidarity, equality and making use of talents. It must also pay greater attention to families, designating an adequate amount of resources for this purpose. In the democratic system, political authority is accountable to the people. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 355, 408, 412*

### Democratic Reform

Representative bodies must be subjected to effective social control. This control can be carried out above all in free elections which allow the selection and change of representatives. The obligation on the part of those elected to give an accounting of their work — which is guaranteed by respecting electoral terms — is a constitutive element of democratic representation.

In order to further reduce the deficit, the party advocates:

- noting the tax code currently offers special treatment for the types of income that wealthy people enjoy, and that while the wages and salaries that everyday workers earn are taxed as ordinary income, billionaires make their money in ways that are taxed at lower rates, and sometimes not taxed at all, and that such special treatment, combined with sophisticated tax planning and tax loopholes, allows many of the wealthiest Americans to pay lower rates on their full income than many middle-class households pay
- in its 2025 budget, imposing a 25 percent minimum tax on the wealthiest 0.01 percent, those with wealth of more than \$100 million
- repealing 2017 tax cuts in favor of the top one percent of earners, restoring the 39.6 percent for single filers making more than \$400,000 a year and married couples making more than \$450,000 per year
- taxing capital gains at the same rate as wage income for those with more than \$1 million in income and finally closes the carried interest loophole that allows some wealthy investment fund managers to pay tax at lower rates than their secretaries

### Corporate Taxation

To ensure that corporations pay a fair share of taxes, the party advocates increasing corporate tax rates. The party states that:

- Corporations received a tax break in 2017, cutting effective U.S. tax rates for U.S. corporations to a low of less than 10 percent. While profits rose, however, their investment in their workers and the economy did not. Shareholders and top executives reaped the benefits, without the promised trickle down to workers, consumers, or communities
- therefore the party’s 2025 budget proposes setting the corporate tax rate at 28 percent, still below the 35 percent rate that prevailed prior to the 2017 tax law
- in addition, the budget proposes raising the Inflation Reduction Act’s corporate minimum tax rate on billion-dollar corporations from 15 percent to 21 percent
- in view of significant rises in executive compensation during recent decades, with Chief Executive Officer pay averaging more than 300 times that of a typical worker in 2022, the party’s 2025 budget proposes to deny deductions for all compensation over \$1 million paid to any employee of a C corporation
- to comply with an agreement on a global tax framework and end international competition for corporations, the party advocates reducing tax incentives to book profits in low-tax jurisdictions, stopping corporate inversions to tax havens, and raising the tax rate on U.S. multinationals’ foreign earnings from 10.5 percent to 21 percent

### Accountability in Office and Campaign Reform

The party advocates:

- a federal ethics commission to aggressively enforce and strengthen federal ethics laws governance laws, including requiring financial and lobbying disclosure.
- requiring all candidates for federal office to publicly disclose at least 10 years of tax returns
- reinstating merit-based federal contracting processes
- restoration of independent inspectors general
- banning of lobbying by foreign governments
- requiring that advocacy groups that run ads to influence elections disclose donors who contribute more than \$10,000, and ban foreign entities from contributing to them.
- expanding political advertising disclaimer requirements for online public communications.
- strengthening of public financing with small-dollar matching for all federal candidates and cracking down on foreign nationals who try to influence elections, including keeping super PACs wholly independent of campaigns and parties and passing a constitutional amendment that will ban all private financing from federal elections.
- ending “dark money” by requiring full disclosure of contributors and banning 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on elections. And, to curb the influence of special interests in our elections, prohibiting corporate PACs and lobbyists from donating to anyone they lobby.

### Democratic Reform

The party states that:

- democracy has always been America’s sacred cause, and whether that is still true is the most urgent question of our time, and is what the 2024 election is all about.
- it is concerned about attacks by the previous administration on core tenets of American democracy: the Constitution, truth, the rule of law, its system of checks and balances, and even warnings of a “bloodbath” if it is not re-elected.
- it undertakes to defend freedoms, restore essential trust in the nation’s institutions, and preserve America’s vital role as a beacon of democracy across the world

To ensure that voting rights are available to all, the party advocates:

- full restoration of the Voting Rights Act
- full implementation of the Help America Vote Act, and accessible polling places
- mandatory, statistically meaningful post-election audits
- professional, well-trained election officials
- measures to ensure the integrity of the 2020 Census, in order to prevent gerrymandering of congressional districts

Among the deformities of the democratic system, political corruption is one of the most serious. If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. A democracy without values easily turns into totalitarianism. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 406-412*

### **Cooperation and respect between parties**

Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all. Political parties are called to interpret the aspirations of civil society, orienting them towards the common good... An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 407, 413*

### **Peace & International Relations**

Because of the new bonds of interdependence among global operators, the traditional defensive measures of States appear to be destined to failure...

The centrality of the human person and the natural inclination of persons and peoples to establish relationships among themselves are the fundamental elements for building a true international community, the ordering of which must aim at guaranteeing the effective universal common good... [T]he unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable. The coexistence among nations is based on the same values that should guide relations among human beings: truth, justice, active solidarity and freedom.... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 370, 433*

### **Global care for the environment**

Responsibility for the environment should also find adequate expression on a juridical level. It is important that the international community draw up uniform rules that will allow States to exercise more effective control over the

- increased investment in election technology, including cybersecurity
- a Constitutional amendment to eliminate all private financing of federal elections
- strengthening the public funding system, cracking down on foreign nationals who try to influence elections
- eliminating 'dark money' by requiring disclosure of contributors who contribute for or against candidates or parties
- requiring all candidates for federal office to publicly disclose at least 10 years of tax returns

### **States, Territories, Municipalities**

The party states that:

- the current administration has made historic investments in Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa – delivering billions for infrastructure, semiconductor, clean energy, and transportation projects, and creating thousands of good jobs.
- it rejects the unequal treatment of residents of D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories, and unequivocally supports statehood for D.C., which its residents overwhelmingly support
- the people of Puerto Rico have earned and deserve to resolve the political status questions. To that end it supports enactment of the Puerto Rico Status Act/H.R. 2757, and promotes full civic and political representation for Puerto Ricans.
- it will work to end the unequal treatment of Puerto Rico by the federal government, and fight to provide equal access to federal programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and the CTC.
- it advocates speedy access to recovery funds to help Puerto Rico and other territories rebuild.
- it will continue the administration's investments to invest further in energy, infrastructure, economic development, education, health care, housing, energy, and climate resilience in the territories, and help restructure Puerto Rico's debt to relieve its debt burden, and we will work to dissolve the Financial Oversight and Management Board.
- it also supports self-determination for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, and undertakes to create a Congressional task force to study equal voting rights and House representation; and to work to ensure equal access to federal programs like veterans' benefits, the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and SNAP food assistance for all those eligible.
- it advocates investment in agriculture, economic development, education, employment, energy, health care, housing, and infrastructure, and helping U.S. territories diversify their economies.

### **Peace & International Relations**

The party states that:

- the world is in a period of significant global change, in an inflection point between those who argue that autocracy (rule by dictators or single leaders) is the answer to facing today's challenges and those who understand that democracy (rule by the people) is essential to moving our world forward and uplifting people everywhere. America must demonstrate that democracy can still deliver for the nation's people. It must rally the world to address the challenges that impact all of us, from climate change and global health to human rights, technology, food security, and inclusive economic growth.
- the nation must revisit old assumptions and invest in new sources of its power. It has seen aggression from authoritarian powers, the destabilizing impact of a global pandemic, the growing existential danger of the climate crisis, the awesome power of emerging technologies, and the shared vulnerabilities that underlie the 21st century global economy. Most importantly, these challenges underscore how lives and livelihoods across the world are increasingly interdependent.
- for too long, American foreign policy was conducted as if its domestic challenges were disconnected from global ones. The party understands that the two go hand-in-hand, and that leading abroad means being strong and resilient at home.
- it believes that that the United States is strongest when its partners are strong. To that end, the current administration has met the of its first term, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the existential threat of climate change, and intense strategic competition with China, by leading coalitions of nations who share our values to stand together.
- it will lead with diplomacy as its tool of first resort, and mobilize the nation's allies and partners to meet the tests America cannot meet on its own
- it will stand up to the forces of authoritarianism
- it will speak and act with clarity and purpose on behalf of human rights wherever they are under threat

The party advocates:

- expanding the foreign service
- repairing alliances and reinventing them to advance mutual priorities
- rejoining and reforming WHO, the UN Human Rights Council, UN Population Fund
- ensure that the US Agency for International Development is fully funded, at about 1% of the federal budget
- making gender equality a key foreign policy priority
- implementing the Women, Peace and Security Act
- incorporating more women in the peace process

various activities that have negative effects on the environment and to protect ecosystems by preventing the risk of accidents... They must be accompanied by a growing sense of responsibility as well as an effective change of mentality and lifestyle. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 467, 468*

### **Peacekeeping & Embargoes**

States do not always possess adequate means to provide effectively for their own defence. From this derives the need and importance of international and regional organizations, which should be in a position to work together to resolve conflicts and promote peace, re-establishing relationships of mutual trust that make recourse to war unthinkable.

The purpose of sanctions must be clearly defined and the measures adopted must from time to time be objectively evaluated by the competent bodies of the international community as to their effectiveness and their real impact on the civilian population. The true objective of such measures is open to the way to negotiation and dialogue. Sanctions must never be used as a means for the direct punishment of an entire population. Economic sanctions in particular are an instrument to be used with great discernment and must be subjected to strict legal and ethical criteria. An economic embargo must be of limited duration and cannot be justified when the resulting effects are indiscriminate. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 499, 507*

### **Displaced Persons & Humanitarian Aid**

A particular category of war victim is formed by refugees, forced by combat to flee the places where they habitually live and to seek refuge in foreign countries. The Church is close to them not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity: Concern for refugees must lead us to reaffirm and highlight universally recognized human rights, and to ask that the effective recognition of these rights be guaranteed to refugees.”

It is therefore essential to seek out the causes underlying bellicose conflicts, especially those connected with structural situations of injustice, poverty and exploitation, which require intervention so that they may be removed. For this reason, another name for peace is development. Just as there is a collective responsibility for avoiding war, so too there is a collective responsibility for promoting development. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 158, 498, 515*

### **Finance**

- promoting safe access to abortion to women and girls in other countries
- appointing senior leaders to drive and coordinate LGBTQ+ to amplify LGBTQ+ voices around the world
- supporting civil society around the world to promote democracy and the rule of law
- defending freedom of the press
- fighting human trafficking
- working to improve world labour standards, including elimination of child labor, slavery, rights of workers abroad to organize
- international promotion of freedom of conscience and religion

### **The Global Environment**

The party advocates:

- reaffirming US commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, committing the US to capping global warming at 1.5 degrees C.
- reviving and expanding climate related foreign assistance, including aid to the Green Climate Fund

### **Ukraine**

The party states that the administration:

- has rallied the world to support Ukraine’s defense and stand up against dictatorship
- has pursued three core objectives: to help Ukraine defend its sovereignty, maintain unity in our transatlantic alliances, and prevent direct conflict with Russia
- continues to secure critical support for Ukraine while enhancing the collective security capabilities and readiness of the US, its allies and partners, including congressional support to add Finland and Sweden to NATO

### **Russia**

The party states that:

- the threat posed by Russia transcends its war of aggression in Ukraine. Russia is enlisting North Korea, Iran and China in its efforts to attack freedom across the world through military equipment sales and economic partnerships. By strengthening national alliances in Europe and Indo-Pacific, and strengthening the connections among America’s allies, including by inviting Indo-Pacific allies to participate in the NATO Summits in Madrid, Vilnius, and Washington, DC, the United States is countering Russia’s disruptive actions no matter where they occur.

### **Middle East**

The party states that the administration is working to build a durable peace in the Middle East bolstered by regional integration, a strong coalition to counter and deter Iran and prevent it and its terrorist proxies from threatening the security of the region, and a negotiated two-state solution that ensures Israel’s future as a Jewish and democratic state with recognized borders and upholds the right of Palestinians to live in freedom and security in a viable state of their own.

### **Israel**

The party states that:

- the terrorist group Hamas will not succeed in destroying the administration’s attempt to build a durable peace in the middle East. The United States strongly supports Israel in the fight against Hamas. And the hard work of diplomacy under the President’s leadership has made real progress on a way forward that will free the hostages, establish a durable ceasefire, ease humanitarian suffering in Gaza, and make possible normalization between Israel and key Arab states, together with meaningful progress and a political horizon for the Palestinian people.
- it has led the United States to support Israel’s right to itself against the terrorist attacks of Hamas in a way that upholds international humanitarian law, while ensuring the Palestinian people have access to vital humanitarian aid and lifesaving assistance.
- it continues to press for congressional support to provide the necessary security assistance to Israel and to extend humanitarian assistance to civilians impacted by conflict in the region, while working toward a future where Palestinians have a state of their own and Israel’s security is assured.

In response to the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, the party states that the administration:

- believes that a strong, secure, and democratic Israel is vital to the interests of the United States. Their commitment to Israel’s security, its qualitative military edge, its right to defend itself, and the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding is ironclad.
- also recognizes the worth of every innocent life, whether Israeli or Palestinian.
- has unequivocally denounced Hamas’s brutal attack on Israel on October 7, condemned the gruesome violence – including conflict-related sexual violence – demonstrated by Hamas and made clear that the United States wants to see Hamas defeated.
- worked with Congressional leaders to pass an aid package worth \$14 billion to help Israel defend itself and to provide more than \$1 billion for additional humanitarian aid to Gaza.

...in the presence of new areas of competition, the very notion of a national market recedes into the background. If the creation of what is called the “global capital market” has brought benefits... on the other hand it has also increased the risk of financial crises. The financial sector, which has seen the volume of financial transactions far surpass that of real transactions, runs the risk of developing according to a mentality that has only itself as a point of reference, without being connected to the real foundations of the economy.

The more the worldwide economic-financial system reaches high levels of organizational and functional complexity, all the more priority must be given to the task of regulating these processes, directing them towards the goal of attaining the common good of the human family. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 368, 371*

### **Trade**

The Church has time and again called attention to aberrations in the system of international trade, which often, owing to protectionist policies, discriminates against products coming from poorer countries and hinders the growth of industrial activity in and the transfer of technology to these countries.

The continuing deterioration in terms of the exchange of raw materials and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries has prompted the Church to point out the importance of ethical criteria that should form the basis of international economic relations: the pursuit of the common good and the universal destination of goods; equity in trade relationships; and attention to the rights and needs of the poor in policies concerning trade and international cooperation.

Economic and social imbalances in the world of work must be addressed by restoring a just hierarchy of values and placing the human dignity of workers before all else. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 370, 321, 364*

### **Disarmament**

The Church proposes the goal of general, balanced and controlled disarmament. The enormous increase in arms represents a grave threat to stability and peace. The principle of sufficiency, by virtue of which each State may possess only the means necessary for its legitimate defence, must be applied both by States that buy arms and by those that produce and furnish them. Any excessive stockpiling or indiscriminate trading in arms cannot be morally justified.

- has been determined to broker an immediate and lasting ceasefire deal that secures the return of all hostages, including Americans held in Gaza; addresses the immense civilian pain and extreme suffering being caused by the conflict, including the displacement and death of so many innocent people in Gaza; results in a durable end to the war in Gaza; and sets the stage for a lasting regional peace.
- has worked tirelessly – including through the appointment of a senior civilian coordinator for humanitarian relief – to surge and ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.
- seeks a ceasefire deal that will lead to a more secure Israel and unlock the possibility of greater regional integration and normalization with its Arab neighbors, and create the conditions for a better future for the Palestinian people, one of self-determination, dignity, security, and freedom, and ultimately a state of their own
- opposes settlement expansion, including speaking out against extremist settler violence and issuing an executive order establishing U.S. authority to impose financial sanctions against foreign persons engaged in actions that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the West Bank.
- believes that while Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations, it should remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths.

### **Lebanon**

The party states that that the Lebanese people deserve to live in an independent and sovereign Lebanon that is free from the grip of Iran-backed Hezbollah, and a corruption-free, competent, reform-minded government focused on addressing the needs of its people. The administration is committed to facilitating a diplomatic resolution to the ongoing hostilities along the Israel-Lebanon border that would ensure the return of both Israeli and Lebanese families to their homes.

### **Iran**

The party states that:

- through aggressive diplomacy backed by U.S. military power, the administration has worked alongside allies and partners to deter and defend against Iran and its terrorist surrogates. It has postured U.S. military forces in the region and authorized precision airstrikes on key Iranian-linked targets tied to attacks against U.S. troops to deter further aggression by Iran.
- the administration has also continued to protect the American people from terrorism, authorizing military strikes that took out ISIS emirs and the leader of Al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri.
- in response to brazen attacks by Iranian-linked Houthi forces against international commercial shipping, U.S. naval vessels in the Red Sea, and Israel, President Biden ordered military strikes, alongside key allies, against Houthi targets and organized Operation Prosperity Guardian, a coalition of more than 20 nations committed to defending international shipping and deterring Houthi attacks.
- in response to launching by Iran of more than 300 missiles and drones against Israel in April 2024, President Biden led an unprecedented defensive coalition – together with partners from Europe and across the Middle East – to defeat the attack, protect Israel, and stop the spread of a wider war. Through direct defensive action by the U.S. military and its partners, Iranian munitions did not cause significant damage, demonstrating both America’s ironclad commitment to the security of Israel and our unrivaled ability to leverage growing regional integration among U.S. partners to counter Iranian aggression.
- it remains committed to a diplomatic solution with Iran to prevent the building of nuclear weapons, while remaining resolved that Iran will never be allowed to do so.

### **China**

The party states that:

- it recognizes that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is America’s most consequential strategic competitor. The PRC is the only global actor that combines the intention to fundamentally reshape the U.S.-led international order with an increasing military, economic, diplomatic, and technological capacity to do so. President Biden understands the imperative of rising to this challenge while managing the competition between our countries responsibly.
- the administration continues to focus on the Nation’s strategic competition with the People’s Republic of China while promoting American competitiveness worldwide
- the administration has advocated for congressional support to invest in the American defense industrial base to ensure military readiness and strengthen integrated deterrence for the growing security requirements in the Indo-Pacific region
- the administration has increased U.S. foreign assistance in the Indo-Pacific region in support of a more free, open, secure, and connected Indo-Pacific, while also expanding America’s diplomatic presence

### **Indo-Pacific**

The party states that:

- the United States is an Indo-Pacific power. The Indo-Pacific region is home to more than half of the world’s people, nearly two-thirds of the world’s economy, and seven of the world’s largest militaries. In the years ahead, its influence will only grow, along with its importance to the United States.
- standing up for the rules of the road in the Indo-Pacific, and standing by America’s allies, makes the nation safer. To that end the current administration has maintained a commitment to freedom of navigation across the Indo-Pacific, standing with the Philippines and other allies and partners to push back against hostile actions and coercion by China. He also worked to expand US military presence in Japan and secure access to strategic sites in the Philippines through a new defense cooperation agreement.



The doctrine of deterrence gives rise to strong moral reservations. The arms race does not ensure peace. The principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, together with measures of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear tests, are intimately interconnected objectives that must be met as soon as possible by means of effective controls at the international level. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 508, 509*

### **Arms Sales**

War is a scourge and is never an appropriate way to resolve problems that arise between nations. Appropriate measures are needed to control the production, sale, importation and exportation of small arms and light weapons, armaments that facilitate many outbreaks of violence to occur. The sale and trafficking of such weapons constitute a serious threat to peace: these arms kill and are used for the most part in internal and regional conflicts; their ready availability increases both the risk of new conflicts and the intensity of those already underway. The position of States that apply severe controls on the international transfer of heavy arms while they never, or only very rarely, restrict the sale and trafficking of small arms and light weapons is an unacceptable contradiction. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 497, 511*

### **National Defense & Security**

The requirements of legitimate defence justify the existence in States of armed forces, the activity of which should be at the service of peace. Those who defend the security and freedom of a country, in such a spirit, make an authentic contribution to peace.

Everyone who serves in the armed forces is concretely called to defend good, truth and justice in the world. Many are those who, in such circumstances, have sacrificed their lives for these values and in defence of innocent lives. Very significant in this regard is the increasing number of military personnel serving in multinational forces on humanitarian or peace-keeping missions promoted by the United Nations.

A war of aggression is intrinsically immoral. In the tragic case where such a war breaks out, leaders of the State that has been attacked have the right and the duty to organize a defence even using the force of arms. If this responsibility justifies the possession of sufficient means to exercise this right to defence, States still have the obligation to do everything possible to ensure that the conditions of peace exist, not only within their own territory but throughout the

The Party's 2025 budget advocates allocation of:

- over \$4 billion to realize a more free, open, secure, and connected Indo-Pacific that bolsters U.S. alliances and partnerships, including \$2.1 billion in bilateral and regional foreign assistance, including \$100 million for a standalone request for Taiwan military assistance, and \$20 million for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework
- over \$62 million in support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- \$2 billion to support diplomatic presence and programs in the region, including new and planned U.S. diplomatic posts in the Pacific and Indian Oceans
- \$7.1 billion for renewal of the Compact of Free Association relationships with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau

### **The Americas**

The party states that:

- no region impacts the United States more directly than the Western Hemisphere, with \$1.9 trillion in annual trade, shared values and democratic traditions, and family bonds.
- the administration is building coalitions across the region to make America safer and more prosperous. During its current term, the administration has strengthened ties with key allies, including Colombia as a major non-NATO ally, a recognition of the close and unique relationship between the countries that will strengthen our military and economic ties.
- understanding that irregular migration affects every country in the hemisphere, the administration has led development of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, which strengthens cooperation on migration among 22 countries and promotes responsibility-sharing and a more orderly and humane management of migration across the region, and has created over 250,000 new jobs in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala under the Administration's ambitious Root Causes strategy.
- the administration has also hosted the inaugural Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders' Summit to establish an enduring forum to mobilize economic investment for the region, while strengthening bonds with America's closest neighbors, Canada and Mexico, on issues ranging from border security to trade.
- in order to counter corruption, authoritarianism, democratic backsliding, and violence, the administration has continued to seek progress on U.S.-Cuba relations in a manner that benefits Americans, resuming flights between the two nations, reuniting separated families, and restoring diplomatic engagement on discrete issues like migration; and has supported Haiti's stabilization efforts, becoming the largest financial sponsor to the Kenyan Multinational Security Support mission that is countering gang violence in the country and providing humanitarian aid.
- the administration also reinstated sanctions on Venezuela's oil and gas sector in response to President Nicolás Maduro failing to commit to free and fair elections, and cracked down on Nicaragua for repression of their population and abuse of migrants.

The party advocates:

- providing approximately \$1 billion for Central American programming to meet the President's commitment to invest \$4 billion in Central America over four years to address the root causes of migration.
- support for Western Hemisphere programs to advance economic prosperity and regional security through key initiatives such as the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, including \$75 million for a capital increase to the Inter-American Investment Corporation—known as IDB Invest—to advance clean energy projects, modernize agriculture, strengthen transportation systems, and expand access to financing
- reserving \$35 million in additional targeted funding for regional migration management, including \$25 million for the IDB's Migration Grant Facility to support integration efforts for migrants and host communities and address the root causes of irregular migration.

### **Africa**

The party states that:

- by the end of the century, an estimated 40 percent of the world's population will live in Africa.
- the current administration has strengthened partnerships in the region and recognizes African nations' critical role in global stability and economic development.
- in a historic move, the administration successfully advocated for the African Union to become a permanent member of the G20, ensuring Africa's voice in global economic discussions. It also hosted Kenyan President Ruto for a state visit, reflecting a broader strategy of strengthening bilateral ties across the continent grounded in mutual respect.
- the administration has focused on advancing democratic governance, fostering sustainable economic growth, improving health outcomes, and addressing the urgent challenges of climate change. The U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit in 2022 highlighted expansion of partnerships to meet shared challenges.
- the administration has pledged to invest \$55 billion over three years across Africa through initiatives like the African Growth and Opportunity Act and Prosper Africa, the Administration; and has committed to provide nearly \$20 billion in health programs.
- strengthening the capacity of African nations to address security threats, including terrorism and violent extremism, remains a priority, including support for African-led peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution initiatives, ensuring that interventions align with the aspirations of local communities.

### ***Criminal Justice & Public Safety***

In order to protect the common good, the lawful public authority must exercise the right and the duty to inflict punishments according to the seriousness of the crimes committed. The State has the twofold responsibility to discourage behaviour that is harmful to human rights and the fundamental norms of civil life, and to repair, through the penal system, the disorder created by criminal activity... Punishment does not serve merely the purpose of defending the public order and guaranteeing the safety of persons; it becomes as well an instrument for the correction of the offender. There is a twofold purpose here. On the one hand, encouraging the reinsertion of the condemned person into society; on the other, fostering a justice that reconciles, a justice capable of restoring harmony in social relationships disrupted by the criminal act committed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 402

- the administration has emphasized human rights and the rule of law, leveraging diplomatic channels and development assistance to promote these values. It will continue to push for a return to democracy in cooperation with the African Union in areas experiencing violence and instability, including Sudan, where he named a Special Envoy to work towards ending the conflict.

### ***Peacekeeping & Embargoes***

The party advocates:

- developing shared responses to non-military threats like disinformation, corruption, and economic coercion
- improving interoperability with allies, and encouraging allies to build up their defense capabilities and take responsibility for regional conflicts
- enhanced cooperation in fisheries management

### ***Refugees & Humanitarian Aid***

The party advocates:

- addressing the root causes of forced migration, including violence, poverty, corruption, lack of opportunity, and climate change
- working with Central American and Caribbean governments to strengthen security and prosperity
- mobilizing allies, partners, and international institutions to develop a more robust and effective global public health system
- providing more and better disaster relief
- \$10.3 billion in lifesaving humanitarian and refugee assistance to support more than 330 million people in need in more than 70 countries, and to support the President's commitment to resettle up to 125,000 refugees in the United States
- allocating \$1 billion to alleviate global food insecurity, including \$100 million for the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils, as part of the overall U.S. Government's food security initiative Feed the Future

### ***International Development***

The party advocates:

- \$3 billion for bolstering global democracy, including \$345 million for the President's Initiative for Democratic Renewal to foster transparent and accountable governance
- more than \$3 billion to advance gender equity and equality worldwide, including \$200 million for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund
- \$110 million in support of internet freedom, including \$50 million for the U.S. Agency for Global Media Open Technology Fund
- \$594 million (an increase of \$37 million above the 2023 level) for USAID directed high-impact and lifesaving voluntary family planning and reproductive health programs and America's voluntary contribution to the United Nations Population Fund. The Budget continues America's commitment to contributions for the United Nations.

### ***International Finance***

The party advocates:

- ensuring the US International Development Finance Corporation is successfully integrated into broader international and private-sector development efforts
- making anti-corruption efforts a foreign policy priority
- allocating \$231 million to the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to expand Treasury's capacity to provide financial intelligence and conduct sanctions-related economic analysis while continuing to modernize the sanctions process, expanding expand Treasury's ability to craft, implement, and enforce sanctions, including sanctions program targeting the war in Ukraine, and sanctions on key Hamas terrorist group members and financial facilitators in Gaza

### ***Trade***

The party states that:

- more products in homes, stores, workplaces, and communities should be stamped "Made in America"
- it will expand support for American manufacturing

The party advocates:

- working with allies to shape global trade, so that China is not able to manipulate or distort world markets
- ensuring USMCA creates prosperity for American workers, and strictly enforce compliance with labor and environmental provisions
- enhanced Buy-America requirements in federal, state, and local procurement
- requiring US-made cargo to be carried on US-flagged ships
- disincentivizing off-shore manufacturing, and accelerate on-shoring of critical supply chains
- expansion of tax credits for domestic manufacturing
- putting American workers and unions first in trade agreements
- aggressive action against dumping and currency manipulations by China and others

- protection against theft of US intellectual property rights, and cyberespionage against American companies
- elimination of tax advantages for those who ship jobs overseas

### ***Economic Aid***

The party states that:

- its 2025 budget advances the President's goal of mobilizing \$200 billion for infrastructure investment in low- and middle-income countries by 2027. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure & Investment (PGI) aims to promote infrastructure development along critical economic corridors to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth, secure energy supply chains, fortify trusted digital connectivity, and build more resilient food and health systems, as well as critical transport and logistics networks, while advancing gender equality and equity
- to that end the 2025 budget allocates \$50 billion for PGI across all departments and agencies, inclusive of private sector, to support strategic, high-quality infrastructure to connect workers to good jobs, allow businesses to grow and thrive, and advance shared national security priorities
- in addition, the budget allocates \$2 billion in mandatory funding over five years to establish the International Infrastructure Fund to combat People's Republic of China coercive financing
- to promote global health, the budget allocates nearly \$10 billion, to support programs including pandemic preparedness, the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
- the budget further allocates \$30 million in new resources for the World Bank's Global Financing Facility for Women, Children, and Adolescents, a contribution anticipated to leverage at least \$210 million to strengthen health systems
- the budget further allocates \$20 million to better train, equip, and protect the health workforce
- the budget further includes loan guarantees to the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

### ***Disarmament & Arms Sales***

The party advocates:

- maintaining a strong nuclear deterrent force while reducing over-reliance on nuclear weapons, and reducing new weapon expenditures
- strengthening the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- maintaining a moratorium on explosive nuclear testing

### ***National Defense & Security***

The party states that:

- the United States has the finest fighting force in the history of the world. Maintaining the nation's military advantages in the future means making strategic investments now.
- to that end, the administration has invested in cutting-edge capabilities across all services and maintained a commitment to modernize and recapitalize the nuclear triad as the bedrock of deterrence. It has also made historic investments in America's military industrial base, putting billions of dollars to work in America to increase production capacity of critical munitions and other capabilities to support U.S. and allied forces in combat zones such as Ukraine.
- the administration has also maintained its ability to address terrorist threats, evidenced by successful strikes against leaders of al-Qa'ida and ISIS.
- properly investing in our military also means investing in those who are the bedrock of it: our service members. The administration has secured pay raises for military and has allocated over \$10 billion to enhance health care services for veterans and active-duty personnel, including expanded mental health resources and programs to support those suffering from PTSD and other service-related conditions.
- being aware of exacerbated nuclear proliferation challenges that the world is facing as Russia, the PRC and North Korea expand and diversify their nuclear arsenals, and in the context of Iran continuing to enrich uranium at dangerous levels, the administration is showing what it means to act responsibly as a nuclear power. Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The United States is developing and fielding only what is required to deter while signaling openness to future arms control negotiations if competitors are interested. The administration has reaffirmed in U.S. doctrine that U.S. nuclear weapons are reserved for deterring strategic attack by those that threaten us and our allies and partners with nuclear weapons.

The party advocates:

- ensuring that the US military has no peer
- spending defense dollars wisely, focused on a force that can deter and win the conflicts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- reducing defense spending relative to diplomacy and foreign assistance
- reinstating national security policy processes that advance civilian control based on appropriate military advice
- using force as a last resort, with the informed consent of the people
- negotiating a durable and inclusive settlement in Afghanistan, ensuring that al-Qaeda is not allowed to reconstitute and ISIS is not allowed to grow
- ending support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and helping to end the war
- seeking application of diplomacy, intelligence, and law enforcement to resolve conflicts, rather than open-ended military conflicts

In its proposed 2025 budget, the party advocates:

- emergency supplemental allocations totaling \$92 billion to for urgent national security needs through the end of 2024, comprising \$58 billion was for DOD, \$32 billion was for the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and \$2 billion for the Department of the Treasury, including:
- \$61.4 billion to support Ukraine as it continues to defend itself against Russian aggression
- \$14.3 billion to support Israel's defense against terrorism
- \$10 billion for lifesaving humanitarian assistance, including for the Palestinian people
- \$3.4 billion for the Submarine Industrial Base (SIB), and \$4 billion in other national security priorities
- funding to prioritize China as America's pacing challenge in line with the 2022 National Defense Strategy. DOD's 2025 Pacific Deterrence Initiative highlights some of the key investments the Federal Government is making, focuses on strengthening deterrence in the region, and demonstrates the Administration's long-term commitment to the Indo-Pacific

#### ***Nuclear deterrence***

The party states that:

- nuclear deterrence remains a top priority for the Nation and is foundational to integrated deterrence. A safe, secure, and effective nuclear force deters strategic attacks and assures allies and partners
- to ensure the United States' nuclear deterrent remains responsive to all threats, DOD and DOE continue to modernize the nuclear Triad, nuclear command, control, and communications, and nuclear weapons infrastructure, while strengthening extended deterrence commitments to America's allies
- it's proposed budget also seeks to reduce nuclear risks and strengthen the global non-proliferation regime by simultaneously pursuing realistic goals for mutual, verifiable arms control and efforts to protect against the existential threats posed by weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

#### ***Veterans and Personnel***

The party states that:

- the nation has no more sacred obligation than providing for its military service members when they're sent into harm's way and caring for them and their families after they come home.
- during its term in office the administration, it has signed into law over 30 bipartisan bills that address some of the most important issues facing veterans today, including the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 to expand benefits and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances
- in order to end veterans' homelessness, it has provided permanent housing for over 46,000 veterans
- it has worked with Congress to expand access to healthcare, improve access to child and long-term care, and support education and workforce opportunity for veterans and their families
- it has, through VA, delivered \$163 billion in earned benefits to 6.3 million veterans and survivors
- through the First Lady, it has championed meaningful policy solutions to improve military spouse employment and entrepreneurship, military children's education, and military family mental health and wellbeing
- it established Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts for service members; funded universal pre-school for military children living overseas; expanded child care options for military families; increased the amount of child care fee assistance available to offset costs; and reduced military child development center costs for lower income military families by 30 percent

The party advocates:

- rebuilding trust and accountability in the Veterans Administration
- allocating \$135 million within VA research programs, together with \$17.1 billion within the VA Medical Care program, to increase access to quality mental healthcare, to help veterans take charge of their treatment and live full, meaningful lives
- allocating a further \$583 million to further advance veteran suicide prevention initiatives, including continued support of the Veterans Crisis Line's 988, and implementing DOD recommendations from the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee
- funding to support DOD's efforts on Sexual Assault Prevention designed to increase awareness, provide support mechanisms to victims, and significantly reduce the environment for, tolerance of, and occurrence of sexual assault in the Joint Force
- allocating \$13.7 billion for women veterans' healthcare, including \$1.1 billion toward women's gender-specific care
- allocating \$713 million toward opioid use disorder prevention and treatment programs for veterans, including use of predictive modeling techniques and distribution of naloxone to veterans
- ensuring military pay keeps pace with economy
- increased time between deployments

#### ***Criminal Justice & Public Safety***

The party states that:

- the nation needs to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation. It is unacceptable that more than

1,000 people, a quarter of them Black, have been killed by police every year since 2015

- it also recognizes that all too often, systematic cuts to public services have left police officers on the front lines of responding to social challenges for which they have not been trained, from homelessness to mental health crises to the opioid epidemic

The party advocates:

- significant increases in funding the Legal Services Corporation, for those in need of criminal defense.
- Strict national standards barring police use of chokeholds and permitting deadly force only when necessary as a last resort to prevent an imminent threat to life
- rooting out structural and systemic racism in our criminal justice system and our society, and reimagining public safety.
- ending the war on drugs, and focusing on prevention, decriminalization of marijuana
- reinvigorating community policing approaches
- expanding federal judiciary to keep up with population and crime
- ending use of private businesses to run detention facilities
- deepening commitment to redemption and rehabilitation
- fighting to repeal mandatory sentences
- strengthening police misconduct reviews by the Department of Justice
- re-issuing federal guidance from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice to prevent the disparate disciplinary treatment of children of color and children with disabilities

### ***Gun Violence***

The party states that during its term in office the administration has:

- signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act into law, the first significant gun violence legislation in nearly 30 years, which includes background checks for buyers under 21, expanded mental health programs, and support for implementation of red flag laws that keep guns away from dangerous people
- created the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, overseen by the Vice President, and has announced nearly 40 executive actions to keep guns out of dangerous hands

To address the nearly 40,000 deaths each year by firearm in the US, the party advocates:

- making mental health care more available and supporting suicide reduction initiatives
- funding interventions to reduce homicides and gun violence
- ensuring that the Center for Disease Control has sufficient funding to study gun violence as a public health issue
- universal background checks for gun purchases, and abolishment of online gun and ammunition sales
- closing loopholes that allow offenders to buy and possess firearms
- banning manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- legislation requiring safe gun storage at home
- liability for firearm manufacturers and distributors

### ***Law enforcement***

The party states that:

- the current administration recognizes the sacrifices police officers and their families make to keep communities safe. Every day, officers risk their lives for the safety of people they do not know.
- since Day One, the administration has been working to ensure police officers have the tools they need to protect their communities, including more police officers on the street.
- America needs to fund the police, not defund the police.
- it signed the American Rescue Plan, with the largest-ever federal investment in fighting and preventing crime, reducing violence, and investing in public safety.
- to restore public trust in the police, it signed a historic executive order on police reform alongside George Floyd's family, and launched the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database with information on misconduct by federal law enforcement officers, and sharply restricted chokeholds and no-knock warrants for federal law enforcement.
- it is publishing data on the use of force and is also preventing certain militarized equipment from being sold or transferred to local police agencies.

The party's 2025 budget advocates allocating \$17.7 billion, an increase of \$2.6 billion from 2021, for DOJ law enforcement, including:

- \$2 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to effectively investigate and prosecute gun crimes; expand multijurisdictional gun trafficking strike forces; increase regulation of the firearms industry; bolster crime-solving ballistics, gunshot residue, and other forensic technologies as well as analysts; and implement the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
- \$1.9 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) for fugitive apprehension and enforcement operations

- \$51 million to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to support the continued implementation of enhanced background checks
- \$2.8 billion for the U.S. Attorneys, which includes funding for 50 new attorneys to prosecute violent crimes
- \$15 million for the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act
- \$3.3 billion to the DEA to combat drug trafficking, including \$1.2 billion to combat opioid trafficking and \$18 million in Domestic Counter-Fentanyl Threat Targeting Teams at the Drug Enforcement Administration for use against transnational criminal networks
- \$494 million in grants supporting efforts to address substance use, including \$190 million for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program, \$95 million to support Drug Courts, and \$51 million for anti-drug task forces
- \$169 million to counter fentanyl and other synthetic drug production and trafficking

#### ***Support for state, local, and tribal law enforcement***

- The party's 2025 budget advocates allocating \$34 billion to support State, local, and tribal efforts to protect U.S. communities and promote public safety, including:
- support to recruit, train, support, and hire 100,000 additional police officers for effective, accountable community policing
  - fund bonuses for retention of police officers; provide student loan repayment, tuition reimbursement, and higher education grant programs to incentivize service-minded candidates, including women and individuals from underrepresented communities to become officers
  - explore more flexibility in scheduling and work arrangements; expand mental health and wellness care for police officers; and fund life-saving equipment
  - support evidence-based training of law enforcement on topics including crime control and deterrence tactics, community engagement, use of force, interacting with people with disabilities, and responding to persons in mental health crisis and to domestic violence calls
  - promote efforts to advance transparency, accountability, and safety to simultaneously strengthen public safety and public trust through funding to support the purchase and operation of body-worn cameras, modernize police academies and training

#### ***Courts & Victims***

The party states that:

- one of a president's most important duties is appointing judges, who shape the nation's laws.
- judges should reflect the diverse population whose laws they shape. During its current term in office, it has appointed more than 200 highly qualified federal judges, two thirds of whom are women, and nearly two-thirds of whom are people of color.
- it undertakes to continue selecting judges who will protect fundamental rights and who represent the diversity of the American experience.
- the administration is committed to rehabilitation and reentry for people returning to their communities after incarceration, and to building a criminal justice system that lives up to those ideals and ensures that everyone receives equal justice under law.
- no one should be in jail just for using or possessing marijuana. Sending people to prison for possession has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit. Those criminal records impose needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities, disproportionately affecting Black and brown people. The administration took historic action to end this failed approach by pardoning people convicted federally for using or possessing marijuana, and has called on governors to use their pardon power to do the same for state-level offenses.
- in addition to pardoning simple possession and use of marijuana, it has pardoned or shortened the sentences of people convicted of other nonviolent drug offenses and pardoned approximately 2,000 gay, lesbian, and bisexual veterans who were convicted years ago just for being themselves.

The party advocates:

- funding for courts around the Nation to clear their backlogs and improve accountability and deterrence for people on pretrial supervision, and modernized technology and data systems
- support for pretrial and post-conviction supervision staffing and systems, ensuring that persons on release are appropriately monitored and given assistance with the employment, health, housing, and other supportive services that reduce the risk of recidivism

#### ***Domestic violence***

The party states that:

- during its current term in office it increased funding under the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 to combat gender-based violence, and issued a U.S. National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- it advocates continued work to end sexual assault, domestic violence, online abuse, and all violence against women. It continues to strengthen VAWA; keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers; and expand housing and legal services for survivors.
- to keep students safe on campus, it will work with schools to implement and enforce Title IX and end sexual harassment and assault in our nation's schools, and eliminate the rape kit backlog.
- it will strengthen legal protections for and support survivors of deepfake image-based sexual abuse building on the federal civil cause of action established under the president's reauthorization of VAWA in 2022.

#### ***Border protection***

The party states that during its term in office the administration:

- has taken action to process noncitizens to protect and secure national borders at record scale and efficiency.
- has maximized the use of expedited removal processes, placing more than 900 individuals into the process each day on average, and conducting more than 100,000 credible fear interviews, both of which are record highs, and that as a result, DHS has removed or returned more than 565,000 noncitizens who did not have a lawful basis to remain in the United States, the vast majority of whom crossed the Southwest land border, since May 12, 2023. The majority of all individuals encountered at the Southwest land border over the past three years have been removed, returned, or expelled.

The party further states that:

- when the system is overwhelmed, the president should have emergency authority to expel migrants who are crossing unlawfully and stop processing asylum claims except for those using a safe and orderly process at Ports of Entry. The authority should be accompanied by humanitarian exceptions for vulnerable populations including unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking.
- Congress should also dedicate resources to detain and remove individuals quickly, and rapidly process those who cannot be detained in a non-custodial setting under government supervision. Those who pose a threat to public safety or national security must be identified and removed as quickly as possible.

The party's 2025 budget advocates allocation of:

- \$11.8 billion to secure the Southwest border, including building longer-term capacity in the areas of border security, immigration enforcement, and countering fentanyl, hiring 1,300 additional Border Patrol Agents
- \$239 million to hire 1,000 additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers to stop fentanyl and other contraband from entering the United States
- \$755 million to hire an additional 1,600 Asylum Officers and support staff to facilitate timely immigration dispositions
- \$100 million for Homeland Security investigations of transnational criminal organizations and drug traffickers
- \$849 million for cutting-edge detection technology at ports of entry
- \$1.3 billion to fund the hiring of 375 new immigration judge teams to help reduce the immigration case backlog
- \$25.9 billion to hire an additional 350 Border Patrol Agents and 310 processing coordinators; improve border security technology between ports of entry; and bolster air and maritime operational support; support 34,000 ICE immigration detention beds; \$225 million to address increased transportation and removal costs; and \$34 million to combat child exploitation, forced labor, and human trafficking
- to address uncertainty surrounding border conditions in any given year, a \$4.7 billion contingency fund to aid DHS and its components when responding to migration surges

#### ***Emergency Response***

The party advocates:

- ensuring that FEMA has the experienced leadership, staff, and resources necessary to coordinate the federal response to climate change-influenced and other disasters, and is equipped to work in partnership with, and drive federal resources to, state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments
- to protect communities and ecosystems from flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, and drought, allocating \$23 billion in the Department of Commerce, DOI, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and DOD, including resources for flood hazard mapping and investments to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and to assist farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners with production goals in the face of climate change
- allocating \$522 million above 2023 funding levels to address long-standing recruitment and retention challenges for the USDA wildland firefighting workforce

#### ***Terrorism***

The party advocates:

- sustaining the effort to defeat ISIA, al-Qaeda, and their affiliates.
- addressing the conditions that allow violent extremism to flourish
- working with partners to prioritize diplomatic, law enforcement, and intelligence tools

#### ***Communications Security***

The party advocates:

- mobilizing public and private actors to ensure that new communications products and discoveries are bound by law, ethics, and civil liberties
- recommitting to open internet, including net neutrality



**GREEN PARTY**

### **The Role & Purpose of Government**

The party states, among its ten key values, that:

- all human beings must be allowed a say in decisions that affect their lives; no one should be subject to the will of another
- it works to improve public participation in every aspect of government and seek to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them.
- it works to create new types of political organizations that expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in decision-making
- as a matter of right, all persons must have the opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment
- we must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, any discrimination by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, religion, or physical or mental ability that denies fair treatment and equal justice under the law

### **Democratic Reform**

The party states that:

- It seeks to rescue that the nation's proud democratic heritage from the erosion of citizen participation, and to refute ideologies holding that government is intrinsically undesirable and destructive of liberty, and that elected officials should slash spending on social programs in the name of freedom
- it challenges all Americans to think deeply about the meaning of government of the people, by the people, and for the people
- it seeks to repair U.S. electoral system, from how elections are financed, to conducting them in more fair and representative ways, to ensuring accountability and transparency on all levels of government
- We, the People, have a responsibility to participate in self-government through all the means that our Constitution provides

The party advocates:

- enactment of proportional representation voting systems for legislative seats on municipal, county, state and federal levels, so that people are represented in the proportion their views are held in society and are based on dividing seats proportionally within multi-seat districts, compared to the standard U.S. single-seat, winner-take-all districts
- enactment of instant run-off voting (IRV) for chief executive offices like mayor, governor and president and other single-seat elections, to enable voters to rank candidates in their order of preference (1,2,3, etc.)
- substantial expansion of the number of seats in the House, based on proportional election of multi-seat districts
- abolishing the US Senate, by constitutional amendment
- abolishing the Electoral College, and implementation of direct proportional voting
- creation of a publicly-funded People's Commission on Presidential Debates, with debates being open to all candidates who appear on at least as many ballots as would represent a majority of the Electoral College and who raise enough funds to qualify for general election public financing
- full public financing of federal, state and local elections, including free and equal radio and television time on the public airwaves for all ballot-qualified candidates and parties
- prohibiting corporations from spending to influence elections, preferably by constitutional amendment abolishing granting corporations constitutional rights guaranteed to natural persons, or as a condition of receipt of a corporate charter by federal chartering of corporations
- elimination of all ballot access laws and rules that discriminate against smaller parties and independents, and otherwise place undue burden on the right of citizens to run for office
- abolishment of the Electoral College in favor of direct national election of the president by Instant Runoff Voting
- creation of a new publicly-funded People's Commission on Presidential Debates, and open its presidential debates to all candidates who appear on at least as many ballots as would represent a majority of the Electoral College and who raise enough funds to otherwise qualify for general election public financing
- repealing the federal the non-profit tax exemption status that allows corporations to fund the existing Commission on Presidential Debates and other such exclusive privately controlled debate entities
- lowering the percentage of the presidential popular vote required for a new party's candidate to receive first time General Election public funding from 5% in the previous general election to 1%
- inclusion of an option to vote for a binding None of the Above (NOTA) on all party primary and general election ballots
- the right to initiative, referendum and recall at all levels of government
- a national "right to vote" law to guarantee universal, automatic, permanent voter registration, along with fail-safe voting procedures, so that eligible voters whose names are not on the voter rolls can correct the rolls and vote on the same day
- statehood for the District of Columbia, and ensuring that residents of the District of Columbia have the same rights and representation as all other U.S. citizens
- restoration of full citizenship rights to felons upon completion of their sentence, including the right to vote and to run for elected office
- greater enfranchisement of overseas voters
- strong enforcement of the Federal Voting Rights Act and state voting rights acts
- making Election Day a national holiday and/or weekend elections



- amending the U.S. Constitution to require that all vacancies in the U.S. Senate be filled by election rather than appointment
- development of publicly-owned, open source voting equipment and deployment across the nation to ensure high national standards, performance, transparency and accountability
- the use of verifiable paper ballots
- institution of mandatory automatic random precinct recounts to ensure a high level of accuracy in election results
- establishment of a National Elections Commission with the mandate to establish minimum national election standards and uniformity, partner with state and local election officials to ensure pre-election and post-election accountability for their election plans, require nonpartisan election boards, and depoliticize and professionalize election administration across the United States
- establishment of independent and transparent non-partisan redistricting processes to stop partisan gerrymandering and protect minority rights and representation
- increasing the number of polling places, and increase the pay for poll workers
- Ensuring that all important federal, state and local government documents are on the Internet, especially texts of bills, searchable databases of voting records, draft committee and conference reports, and court decisions
- reinvigorating the independent investigative agencies, such as the General Accounting Office and the inspectors general
- enacting tough new federal anti-bribery and gratuity laws to stop corporations and the wealthy from purchasing government action, and vigorous enforcement of anti-corruption laws by the Justice Department
- prohibiting members of Congress, Governors, state legislators and their staffs from accepting for their own personal benefit any gifts of any amount from lobbyists or the general public
- requiring outside counsel to investigate ethics complaints against members of Congress, and toughening of punishments within the congressional ethics processes for corruption, abuse of power and other wrongdoing
- expansion of revolving-door lobbying "cooling off" periods for members of Congress and their top staff to at least two years
- allowing any member of Congress to require a floor vote on any congressional earmark, to stop wasteful spending

### ***National Debt***

The party states that:

- recent presidents have irresponsibly expanded our national debt by trillions of dollars to finance tax cuts for America's wealthiest citizens, war, corporate welfare and bailouts of Wall Street and the automotive industry. This debt and the interest that must be paid on it is not sustainable
- working people and the small business community are bearing a disproportionate amount of the federal debt burden

The party advocates:

- reduce of the national debt by increasing taxes on large corporations, the super-rich and pollution; and decreasing expenditures in some areas, especially for war, armaments and corporate welfare
- opposing the privatization of Social Security
- increased funding for green jobs, Social Security, public housing, higher education, public transportation, environmental protection, renewable energy and energy conservation.

### **Taxes & Public Finance**

The party states that:

- our current tax system is outrageously unjust. It is riddled with loopholes, subsidies and dodges for corporations and the super-rich
- federal and state taxes must be strongly progressive
- most working people pay too much in taxes compared to corporations, multi-millionaires and billionaires. Many of our biggest and most profitable corporations pay little or no tax
- much investment income is taxed at less than the rate workers pay
- the nation can afford to cut taxes for most people if we make corporations and the super-rich pay their fair share. Then we can cut them even more when we halt our nation's wasteful spending on wars, weaponry and militarism
- its 2020 presidential campaign produced a Budget for an Ecosocialist Green New Deal that estimated sector by sector its cost of implementation over ten years, as well as the number of jobs it would create
- it estimates its Green Economy Reconstruction Program to reach 100% clean energy and zero emissions to be a 10-year, \$27.5 trillion program. It would create 30,484,000 jobs, including 8,564,000 jobs in manufacturing.
- its Economic Bill of Rights is estimated to cost \$1.42 trillion a year. It would create another 7,586,000 jobs, including 304,000 manufacturing jobs.
- the total for the Ecosocialist Green New Deal came to \$42 trillion over ten years. Total jobs created is 38,070,000, including 8,868,000 manufacturing jobs.

To finance the Green New Deal, the party advocates:

- Progressive Tax Reform, including closing tax havens and implementing (more) progressive taxes on wealth, estates, personal income, corporate income, and

#### financial transactions

- Ecological Taxes, the point of which is not to raise revenues but reduce pollution and resource destruction. If they are successful, they eliminate the source of their revenue. As such, they should not be considered long-term revenue sources but can be useful for shorter-term financing of environmental goals. Ecological taxes are scarcity rents on the use of natural resources, such as the atmosphere, land, fossil fuels, and mineral resources. While ecological taxes are not a substitute for social ownership and economic planning in a green energy transition, they can be part of economic planning to disincentivize fossil fuel use and natural resource extraction, dumping, and depletion. Three ecological taxes should be instituted to support the Ecosocialist Green New Deal:

- 1\_ a carbon tax to disincentivize fossil fuel use and do so internationally because carbon taxes function as a tariff on high-carbon imports, encouraging firms and nations that want to export products to the US to lower their carbon content
- 2\_ land value taxation enables the whole community to benefit from the land values of a limited resource instead of a landowning class. Its revenues could be dedicated to funding affordable homes, farms, and business locations
- 3\_ federal severance taxes on non-renewable resources, including reform of the 1872 Mining Law that now enables corporations to purchase mineral rights on public lands for a mere \$5 an acre and pay no severance tax for minerals taken

Additional means of financing the Green New Deal include:

- peace conversion — deep cuts in the US military budget on the order of 50% to 75% and reallocating the savings into the Ecosocialist Green New Deal
- public money - monetary reform based on the creation of debt-free public money by a Monetary Authority in the Treasury Department and spending that money into the economy through the federal budget, including the budget for the Ecosocialist Green New Deal
- borrowing — because taxes and reallocation of military spending may not generate enough revenue to make the massive investments immediately needed to rapidly transform the economy to clean energy, the federal government may have to borrow to make the needed investments. In such borrowing, the party favors a program of Green Quantitative Easing where the Federal Reserve creates the money to buy the Treasury securities issued to support the Green New Deal investments. This quantitative easing by the Federal Reserve would be used to bail out the planet and the people instead of the big banks as happened in the wake of the Great Recession. This would include creation of public banks at the local, state, and federal levels to help finance and target Green New Deal and other socially beneficial investments
- sales of public goods and services- the Ecosocialist Green New Deal will be producing and selling public goods and services through the public sector and receiving income for them, including power bill payments, transit fees, housing rents, and green machinery leases. Over time, these revenues should cover the costs of the initial borrowing like any successful business investment

The party advocates:

- progressive taxation
- shifting tax from individuals to corporations
- taxing "bads" not "goods"
- taxing unearned income at the same rate as earned income, taxing speculation on Wall Street, and cutting corporate tax giveaways
- comprehensive tax reform to simplify the tax system
- small business, in particular, should not be penalized by a tax system which benefits those who can "work" the legislative tax committees for breaks and subsidies
- substantive and wide-ranging re- form of the tax system that helps create jobs, economic efficiencies and innovation within the small business community
- exempting people earning less than \$25,000 per year and families earning less than \$50,000 per year (adjusted for inflation) from the federal and state income taxes
- exempt food, clothing, prescription medications, other necessities and second-hand goods from sales taxes
- ending corporate welfare, including bailouts for Wall Street, the big bank and the automobile industry; subsidies for agribusiness, Export-Import Bank loan guarantees; tax abatements for big box stores; the tax loophole for "carried interest" from private equity and hedge fund managers; tax deductibility for advertising and business entertainment; offshore tax avoidance schemes; giveaways for new sports stadiums and casinos
- a financial transaction tax on trades of stocks, bonds, currency derivatives, and other financial instruments
- blocking financial transactions with tax havens, to stop tax evasion
- decreasing the \$1 million home value cap on the mortgage interest tax deduction for federal income taxes, to reduce the tax subsidy provided to those living in the most expensive homes
- restoring the estate tax
- opposing the privatization of Social Security
- a wealth tax of 0.5% per year on an individual's assets over \$5 million
- establishment of a system of carbon taxes on all fossil fuels, to begin to reflect the real environmental cost of their extraction and use
- application of carbon taxes as far upstream as possible, preferably when possession of the carbon-bearing fuel passes from extraction (for ex- ample, coal mine; oil wellhead or tanker; gas wellhead) to the next entity in the supply chain
- eliminating tax subsidies for the oil, gas, coal, nuclear and timber and mining industries

- enacting a system of Community Ground Rent/Land Value Taxation that distinguishes between the socially and privately created wealth of land, by increasing the taxes on the former to retain for society the value that it collectively creates and lowers them on the latter to reward individuals for their initiative and work
- to ensure that prices reflect their true environmental cost, enacting a system of True Cost Pricing (TCP) for goods and services, including immediate or prolonged damage (pollution of air and water) and diminishment of natural resources
- raising taxes on tobacco, alcohol, soda pop and other junk food.

#### **International Relations**

The party states, among its ten key values, that:

- it is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence
- it will work to demilitarize and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments
- it recognizes the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in danger
- it promotes non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide the country's actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace
- public health agencies operating abroad should be allowed to offer family planning, contraception, and abortion in all countries that ask for those services. We oppose our government's habit of cutting family planning funds when those funds go to agencies in foreign countries that give out contraceptive devices, offer advice on abortion, and perform abortions

The party further states that:

- the world and the nation stand poised between the geopolitical conflict of East versus West, marked by the aftermath of the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001; the dangers of global terrorism; the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq; the escalation of conflict in the Middle East; and continued research and development of nuclear weapons and the stockpiling of bio-chemical weapons
- third- and fourth-world economies and resources are being ravaged and the US's economy
- global corporatization, concentrates greater power in the hands of fewer interests who are unaccountable to the vast majority of the world's people threatens job security and other common goods

#### **International Finance and Trade**

The party advocates:

- re-formulation of all international trade relations and commerce as currently upheld by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) to protect the labor, human rights, economy, environment and domestic industry of partner and recipient nations so that the growth of local industry and agriculture has the advantage over foreign corporate domination
- re-structure the rules of performance of the IMF/WB to end the debts of recipient nations, prohibit the use of IMF/WB loans to impose structural adjustment programs that emphasize debt service and export-led development at the expense of social needs, and to install strict standards in the IMF/WB that control the use of grants or loans to prevent fraud, misuse, and subversion of funds by recipient governments
- re-writing the rules for investment of corporate capital in projects operated under the IMF/WB to guarantee the rights of the citizens of the nations receiving the investment and their right to public ownership and control of their own resources, including protections for labor's right to organize, create unions and negotiate with management in all countries receiving U.S. investment, and require U.S. corporations that operate in other countries to adhere to the core labor standards established by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- secure the rights of all US states to establish stricter standards for health, safety, and for the environment than those of our national government, and to protect themselves against substandard, imported goods
- prohibiting U.S. corporations from avoiding or evading payment of their taxes by banking abroad or locating their charters offshore
- to restrict the unfettered flow of capital and currency trade, levying the Tobin tax of .05% on cross border currency transactions
- supporting the funding and expansion of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their missions to educate and train people of less developed nations in initiating local business and economic development, and in providing health care and family planning
- demand that the US government renew and initiate government funding and support for family planning, contraception, and abortion in all countries that request it
- ending the U.S. government's economic blockade of Cuba, lifting the embargo, and restoring normal diplomatic relations and respect for national sovereignty, and ending U.S. government veto of U.N. resolutions pertaining to Cuba
- imposing a Carbon Fee on imported fossil fuel, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and reduce the impact of fuel importation on American foreign policy and the American economy

#### **Peace and Demilitarization**

The party states that:

- under the U.S. Constitution, ratified treaties such as the United Nations Charter hold the authority of U.S. law. Thus the U.S. government is pledged to abide by its principles and guidelines in the conduct of foreign relations and affairs

- the US has an obligation to take disputes with other nations or foreign bodies to the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly forum for negotiation and resolution
- the U.N. and international laws, treaties and conventions that the U.S. has signed are the framework that controls U.S. military actions abroad
- the U.S. must recognize the sovereignty of nation-states and their right of self-determination
- it recognizes and supports the right of the U.N. to intervene in a nation-state engaged in genocidal acts or in its persistent violation and denial of the human rights of an ethnic or religious group within its boundaries, and the right to protect the victims of such acts
- the U.S. is obligated to render military assistance or service under U.N. command to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions
- to act in a crisis situation, the US is obligated to obtain a UN resolution under the Uniting for Peace Procedure when the U.N. Security Council is stalemated by vetoes
- it seeks permanent repeal of the veto power enjoyed by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council
- it urges the US government to sign the International Criminal Court agreement and respect the authority of that institution
- the US has no moral or legal right, or any justification, to pre-emptively attack another nation. The only legitimate use of military force is to repel an actual attack on our nation
- it demands repeal – not amendment -- of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) passed by Congress in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and opposes any other measure purporting to 'authorize' pre-emptive or illegal military action. In passing the AUMF, Congress abdicated its exclusive authority under the Constitution to declare war
- the Congress further violated the Constitution and betrayed its responsibility to the American people by delegating to the president – one person – virtually dictatorial power to commit acts of war whenever he or she chooses
- it supports abolishment of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the government to:
  - \* declare a no-first-strike policy
  - \* declare a no-pre-emptive strike policy
  - \* declare that the U.S. will never threaten or use a nuclear weapon, regardless of size, on a non-nuclear nation
  - \* sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and honor conditions set in the Non-Proliferation Treaty for nuclear nations
  - \* reverse our withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and honor its stipulations
  - \* end the research, testing and stockpiling of all nuclear weapons of any size
  - \* dismantle all nuclear warheads from their missiles
- it supports signature of the Toronto treaty banning the production, stockpiling, use and sale of land mines, and assisting other nations in unearthing and disabling land mines buried in their lands
- it urges an end of US stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons and all research, use, and sale of such weapons; and signing of the convention that will establish the decrease and inspection of all nations' stockpiles of such weapons
- it supports allowing foreign teams to visit the U.S. for verification purposes at least annually
- reduction of the US defense budget to half of its current size
- it supports phasing out all US bases on foreign soil not specifically functioning under a U.N. resolution to keep peace
- it supports repatriation of all US troops stationed abroad, except for the military assigned to protect a U.S. embassy
- closing the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas, in Ft. Benning
- prohibiting all US arms sales to foreign nations and likewise prohibiting grants to impoverished and undemocratic nations unless the money is targeted on domestic, non-military needs
- prohibiting all covert actions used to influence, destabilize or usurp the governments of other nations, or the assassination of, or assistance in any form for the assassination of, foreign government officials

#### ***Demilitarization and Exploration of Space***

The party:

- recognizes a need for the inspiration and education that the peaceful exploration of Space provides; the need for space-based systems to monitor environmental conditions on Earth; the many advances in space technology that benefit all people on Earth; and the inspiration provided to children by Space exploration can prompt them to pursue math, science, and other important courses of study
- states that the last four U.S.—backed military conflicts have used space-based technology to disrupt the computer and communication systems of sovereign states
- funds required for continuing peaceful Space exploration have been used, instead, for the design, implementation and deployment of wasteful and dangerous space hardware, such as the Strategic Defense Initiative

The party advocates:

- ending of space militarization, and any form of space-based military aggression
- peaceful and sustainable exploration of Space, determined on a case-by-case, mission-specific basis, including the signing of the International Treaty for the Demilitarization of Space

- a reduction of human-staffed space flight due to the high cost and risk for human life and the availability of automated technology that can perform necessary functions in space-based research

### ***Middle East***

The party states that:

- its commitments to ecological wisdom, social justice, grass-roots democracy, and non-violence compel it to oppose U.S. government support for "friendly" regimes in the region when those regimes violate human rights, international law, and existing treaties
- it calls on congressional intelligence committees to conduct comprehensive public hearings on the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction by all states in the Middle East region. U.S. policy should support the removal and/or destruction of all such weapons wherever they are found there.
- it supports the "joint comprehensive plan of action" signed in July, 2015 by Iran and the P5+1 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States plus Germany), and the European Union, which confirms Iran's status as a zone free of nuclear weapons
- Iran, which has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has consistently called for a nuclear-free zone in the entire Middle East
- it supports swift elimination of economic sanctions on Iran and looks to the normalization of relations between Iran and the United States
- in keeping with UN resolutions call for a nuclear-free Middle East, it calls on Israel, the only nuclear power in the Middle East with at least 200 nuclear warheads, to dismantle its nuclear weapons program and sign on to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

### ***Palestine***

The party states that:

- its values oblige it to support popular movements for peace and demilitarization in Israel-Palestine, especially those that reach across the lines of conflict to engage both Palestinians and Israelis of good will
- it affirms the right of self-determination for both Palestinians and Israelis, which precludes the self-determination of one at the expense of the other
- it recognizes the historical and contemporary cultural diversity of Israeli-Palestinian society, including the religious heritage of Jews, Christians, Muslims and others, which is a significant part of the rich cultural legacy of all these peoples and must be respected
- it supports equality before international law rather than appeals to religious faith as the fair basis on which claims to the land of Palestine-Israel are resolved
- Jewish insecurity and fear of non-Jews are understandable in light of Jewish history of horrific oppression in Europe. However, it opposes as both discriminatory and ultimately self-defeating the position that Jews would be fundamentally threatened by the implementation of full rights to Palestinian-Israelis and Palestinian refugees who wish to return to their homes
- without wishing to impose US views on the people of the region, it would turn the U.S. government towards a new policy, which itself recognizes the equality, humanity, and civil rights of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and all others who live in the region, and which seeks to build confidence in prospects for secular democracy. – it reaffirms the right and feasibility of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in Israel
- it rejects U.S. unbalanced financial and military support of Israel while Israel occupies Palestinian lands and maintains an apartheid-like system in both the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Israel toward its non-Jewish citizens. Therefore it calls on the U.S. President and Congress to suspend all military and foreign aid, including loans and grants, to Israel until Israel withdraws from the Occupied Territories, dismantles the separation wall in the Occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem, ends its siege of Gaza and its apartheid-like system both within the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Israel toward its non-Jewish citizens
- it also rejects U.S. political support for Israel and demands that the U.S. government end its veto of Security Council resolutions pertaining to Israel
- decades of continuous diplomatic attempts by the international community have failed to bring about Israel's compliance with international law or respect for basic Palestinian human rights. Despite abundant condemnation of Israel's policies by the UN, International Court of Justice, and all relevant international conventions, the international community of nations has failed to stop Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in Israel and the OPT, while Israeli crimes continue with impunity
- ending institutionalized racism (apartheid) in South Africa demanded an unusual, cooperative action by the entire international community in the form of a boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign against apartheid South Africa, and that can become the most effective nonviolent means for achieving justice and genuine peace between Palestinians and Israelis
- Palestinian resistance to ongoing dispossession has mainly been nonviolent, including its most basic form—remaining in their homes, on their land; and that while Palestinian armed resistance is legitimate under international law when directed at non-civilian targets
- it believes that only nonviolent resistance will maintain the humanity of Palestinian society, elicit the greatest solidarity from others, and maximize the chance for future reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians

The party advocates:

- joining with the U.N. to secure Israel's complete withdrawal to the 1967 boundaries and its compliance with international law.
- a much stronger and supportive U.S. position with respect to all United Nations, European Union, and Arab League initiatives that seek a negotiated peace
- and immediate U.N.-sponsored, multinational peacekeeping and protection force in the Palestinian territories with the mandate to initiate a conflict-resolution commission
- investigations by the foreign and military affairs committees of the U.S. House and Senate to conduct full hearings on the status of human rights and war crimes in Palestine-Israel, especially violations committed during Israel's 2008-2009 invasion of Gaza ("Operation Cast Lead") as documented in the 2009 "UN Fact Finding

Mission on the Gaza Conflict" ("The Goldstone Report") authorized by the UN Commission on Human Rights

- it supports a boycott and divestment strategy (BDS) against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era, which includes pressuring our government to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel, until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law
- it views the proposed two-state solution as neither democratic nor viable in the face of international law, material conditions and "facts on the ground" that now exist in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Therefore it supports a U.S. foreign policy that promotes the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis on the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan as the national home of both peoples, with Jerusalem as its capital
- as an integral part of peace negotiations and the transition to a peaceful democracy, it calls for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission whose inaugurating action would be mutual acknowledgement by Israelis and Palestinians that they have the same basic rights, including the right to exist in the same, secure place

#### ***Military Service***

The party advocates:

- requiring full written disclosure of what is expected of military recruits and what they can expect in return from the government
- recognizing the practice of deceiving prospective service recruits about the truth of their service contract as fraudulent, and sufficient grounds for revoking an enlistment contract
- applying all terms of military service contracts to the government as well as recruits

#### ***Veterans***

The party states that:

- support for men and women in the armed forces must go far beyond the rhetoric used to discredit the peace movement in the U.S. today
- the dangerous burden of fighting the war in Iraq is disproportionately borne by families of lesser means
- its first priority in foreign policy considerations is to creating a future without war

The party advocates:

- increased pay levels, including monthly combat pay, imminent danger pay and family separation allowances for those risking their lives in combat zones
- better care for the wounded, sick and injured soldiers, and restoration of full funding for veterans' health programs
- full diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental health conditions resulting from service in combat zones, including post-traumatic stress disorder, including increased funding for additional clinics to provide services which now are too often delayed or denied because of over crowding and budget constraints
- honoring all laws concerning time limits on deployments
- to ensure a smooth transition from active military service to civilian life, providing counseling, housing, emergency management, job protection and other support systems
- a comprehensive program to survey Vets and the impacts of Gulf War Syndrome on them and their families and to provide the best possible medical treatment available to minimize the suffering of these men and women and their families
- establishment of a panel of independent medical doctors to examine and oversee military policies regarding forced vaccinations and shots, especially with experimental drugs
- ending the practice of testing experimental medicines and inoculations on service members without their consent
- a new GI Bill, similar to the one that began after World War II and ended in 1981, to provide tuition grants for four years of college or other educational opportunities, low-interest loans for housing or business start-ups, and free medical care for military personnel and their families for ten years following separation from the armed forces
- a transparent and democratic conscientious objection process free of harassment, imprisonment, or deployment to war zones for conscientious objectors
- the right of individuals in the military service to modify or completely separate from military involvement because of conscientious objection

#### **Police & Public Safety**

##### ***Terrorism***

The party states that:

- since the attacks of September 11, 2001, there has been an erosion of freedom in the United States, from many sources and taking many forms, including the war on drugs and widespread imprisonment of nonviolent drug offenders; the increased use of personal identification, surveillance of employees at work, and the growing use of private security forces by corporations; restrictions on the speech of protesters and students; and random traffic stops of persons of color and the commonplace use of roadblocks

The party advocates:

- complete, thorough, impartial, and independent investigation of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including the role of the administration of George W. Bush, various U.S. based corporations and interests, and other nations and third parties
- repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act, the provisions of which undermine and erode our Bill of Rights and contribute to the destruction of the democratic foundation of checks and balances between the branches of government
- strict enforcement of First Amendment rights of speech, assembly, association and petition, including the right to public, non-violent protest
- ending torture, such as in prisons like Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and other U.S.-controlled facilities, and ensuring that those guilty of ordering or executing torture are held accountable for violations U.S. and international law
- restoration of the right of habeas corpus, a legal action to obtain relief from illegal detention, and ending indefinite detention without trial
- ending abuse of National Security Letters, which the FBI uses to force Internet service providers, libraries, banks, and credit reporting companies to reveal sensitive information about their patrons
- opposing the death penalty in the United States and worldwide
- strict application of Fourth Amendment protections against illegal search and seizure
- confirming that privacy protections of the 4th amendment extend to the Internet
- supporting the ability of cities to establish civilian police review boards to increase understanding between community members and police officers, provide a public forum to air concerns on policy matters and to ensure public oversight and accountability of their local police department
- stronger legislation, programs, and enforcement to address violence against women and all other forms of violence
- replacement of the term "domestic violence" with the term "violence," because "domestic violence" is not perceived as real violence, which leads to it not being treated legally and practically for the violence that it is
- ending use of the term "sex work" in relation to prostitution. With the increasing conflation of trafficking (the violent and illegal trafficking in women and girls for forced sex) with prostitution, it is impossible to know which is which, and what violence the term "sex work" is masking. No source in existence knows which forms of prostitution comprise forced sex and which comprise free will or choice prostitution.

#### **Corrections**

The party states that:

- the United States has the highest incarceration and recidivism rates of industrialized countries, and its criminal justice system in general is too often inhumane, ineffective, and prohibitively expensive
- the current approach to law enforcement places too much emphasis on drug-related and petty, non-violent crimes, and not enough on prosecution of corporate, white collar, and environmental crime
- the poor, the under-educated and various racial and ethnic minorities are overrepresented in the prison population
- negative effects of imprisonment include isolation of prisoners from their communities, media, and education

The party advocates:

- reducing the prison population, investing in rehabilitation, and ending the war on drugs
- prioritizing efforts to prevent violent crime and address the legitimate needs of victims, while addressing the socio-economic root causes of crime and practicing policies that prevent recidivism
- ending the privatization of prison, as profits in such entities are derived from understaffing, which severely reduces the quality of care for inmates
- an end to the "war on drugs", legalization of drugs and treating drug abuse as a health issue
- as alternatives to encouraging and supporting positive approaches to punishment that build hope, responsibility and a sense of belonging, and use of prisons as a last resort, reserved for violent criminals
- handling non-violent offenses through alternative, community-based programs including halfway houses, work-furlough, community service, electronic monitoring, restitution, and rehabilitation programs
- releasing prisoners with diagnosed mental disorders to secure mental health treatment centers, and releasing prisoners who are too old and/or infirm to pose a threat to society to less expensive, community-based facilities
- treating parole as a time of reintegration into the community, not as a continuation of sentence
- providing counseling and other services to the members of a parolee's family, to help them with the changes caused by the parolee's return
- restoring the right to hold public office to felons who have completed their prison sentence
- repealing "three strikes" laws, and restoring judicial discretion in sentencing

#### **Courts & Police**

The party advocates:

- sharp restriction of police use of weapons and restraining techniques such as pepper spray, stun belts, tasers and choke holds
- prohibiting property forfeiture and denial of due process for unconvicted suspects

- establishing freedom on bail as a right of all defendants charged with non-violent crimes
- incorporating mental health and social services in bail agreements
- increased compensation for jurors and provision of childcare for those serving jury duty
- protection of victims' rights, including the opportunity for victims to make victim-impact statements and consideration of restitution to victims
- gun control as is contained in the Brady Bill (1993)
- eliminating sale of weapons without background checks
- redirection of funds presently budgeted for the "war on drugs" toward expanded research, education, counseling and treatment
- amending the Controlled Substances Act to reflect that drug use in itself is not a crime
- legalizing the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis/marijuana, and striking from the record prior felony convictions for marijuana possession, sale, or cultivation, and amnesty for those who have been incarcerated for the use, sale, or cultivation of marijuana



### **Role & Purpose of Government; Democratic Reform**

The campaign states that:

- a democratic government is supposed to be of, by, and for the people
- however, government institutions have betrayed the peoples' trust. Intelligence agencies spy on our own people. Government and tech platforms conspire to surveil and censor the public. Regulatory agencies have been captured by those they are supposed to regulate: Wall Street controls the SEC. Polluters and extractive industries dominate the EPA and BLM. Pharma controls the CDC, NIH, and FDA. Big Ag controls the USDA. Big Tech has captured the FTC. No wonder trust in government is at all-time lows. It's time to earn it back
- Candidate Kennedy understands from experience with systems of power that most people in corporations and government are perfectly decent human beings. They play the game, but a lot of them are fed up with its phoniness, and cynical about the paralysis of the system. They feel trapped in it. Clean government isn't just about removing corrupt individuals, but about changing as system in which perfectly decent people become agents of corruption without even knowing it

The campaign advocates remaking public institutions to serve the public, including

- rolling back secrecy and making government transparent, protecting whistleblowers and prosecuting officials who abuse the public trust
- reining in lobbyists and closing the revolving door that shunts people from government agencies to lucrative positions in the companies they were supposed to regulate, and back again
- getting money out of politics, and opening government institutions to real citizen involvement, to restore integrity to government

### **Respect in civic discourse**

The campaign states that:

- America is more polarized and divided now than at any time in living memory
- both sides seem to agree that the basic problem is the horrible people on the other side
- both sides are wrong. The basic problem is the division itself. A divided public lacks the strength to resist exploitation or to overcome the inertia of the status quo
- the classic American can-do spirit exhausts itself in endless battles, while powerful undemocratic forces have a death grip on the nation
- there is only one way to break that grip and restore power to the people: a broad popular movement that unites left and right, Black and White, urban and rural, young and old, and working people of all ethnicities.
- but such a movement is not to be defined by its enemies. Candidate Kennedy recognizes that even the elites have become prisoners of the system they have created. Many of them no longer believe in it, despite the wealth and power it gives them. They too are welcome to defect to the movement of peoplepower
- the candidate has clear positions on most of today's divisive trigger issues like abortion, guns, and immigration, but he knows that both sides have legitimate concerns and legitimate moral positions. No one is deplorable. Furthermore, most of the disagreements obscure deeper shared values.
- everyone wants their children to be safe. No one wants more abortions, nor do they want to force women to undergo unwanted pregnancies. Everyone wants safe streets, yet few wish for millions of people to languish in prison.

The campaign advocates:



- drawing on the broad moral agreements that exist beneath our divisions. Candidate Kennedy will model careful listening, and create conditions where each group can hear the stories of the other.
- promoting national reconciliation, respectful dialog, and willingness to change, to grow, and to forgive, starting during the campaign. In Kennedy's own words, "Every nation, like every individual, has a darker side and a lighter side. The easiest thing for a politician to do is to appeal to our greed, to our anger, to our fear, to our xenophobia, our bigotry, all of the alchemies of tribalism. I will appeal instead to our generosity as a people, our goodness, our kindness, and our courage."

### **Military & Foreign Relations**

The campaign states that:

- in the long term, a nation's strength does not come from its armies. America spends as much on weaponry as the next nine nations combined, yet the country has grown weaker, not stronger, over the last 30 years
- even as its military technology has reigned supreme, America has been hollowing out from the inside. We cannot be a strong or secure nation when our infrastructure, industry, society, and economy are infirm
- one of its high priorities is to make America strong again. When a body is sick, it withdraws its energy from the extremities in order to nourish the vital organs. It is time to end the imperial project and attend to all that has been neglected: the crumbling cities, the antiquated railways, the failing water systems, the decaying infrastructure, the ailing economy. Annual defense-related spending is close to one trillion dollars. We maintain 800 military bases around the world. The peace dividend that was supposed to come after the Berlin Wall fell was never redeemed
- the country is ailing, but underneath there is vitality still. The nation is rich in resources, creativity, and intelligence. We just need to get serious about healing our society, to become strong again from the inside

To start the process of unwinding empire, the campaign advocates:

- bringing the troops home, and ending the creation of unpayable debt to fight one war after another, returning the military will return to its proper role of defending the nation
- ending the proxy wars, bombing campaigns, covert operations, coups, paramilitaries, and everything else that has become so normal most people don't know it's happening
- as a priority in Ukraine, ending the suffering of the Ukrainian people, victims of a brutal Russian invasion, and also victims of American geopolitical machinations going back at least to 2014, including clarifying the mission: to help the brave Ukrainians defend their sovereignty, rather than using Ukraine as a pawn to weaken Russia, and seeking a diplomatic solution that brings peace to Ukraine and brings American resources home, including offering to withdraw American troops and nuclear-capable missiles from Russia's borders, with Russia withdrawing its troops from Ukraine and guaranteeing its freedom and independence
- providing UN peacekeepers to guarantee peace to the Russian-speaking eastern regions
- turning away from a tendency to see the world in terms of enemies and adversaries, and returning to the sentiment expressed by John Quincy Adams, "Americans go not abroad in search of monsters to destroy.
- ending the imperialistic policies of the past, reining in the CIA, and supporting freedom movements around the world
- to restore America's moral leadership, promoting healing from inside. When a warlike imperial nation disarms of its own accord, it sets a template for peace everywhere. It is not too late for us to voluntarily let go of empire and serve peace instead, as a strong and healthy nation.

### **Border Security**

The campaign states that:

- it sees the situation at the border primarily as a humanitarian crisis which has spread far beyond the border, as a flood of migrants has overwhelmed the resources of cities as faraway as New York. The suffering of the migrants at the hands of drug cartels, human traffickers, and exploitative employers is heartbreaking
- it seeks to end the humanitarian crisis, starting with its most immediate cause — an uncontrolled border. While sealing the border to illegal immigration, it proposes to enact deeper reforms to stem illegal migration in the long term, while expanding lawful, orderly immigration according to principles of justice and fairness
- Americans must recognize that the foremost victims of a porous, chaotic border are the immigrants themselves. Compassion and decency demand that we do not allow the current situation to continue
- ruthless criminal cartels have woven drugs, immigration, and human trafficking together into a multi-billion dollar business, and American policy has exacerbated the situation. Immigration is being administered by the cartels, not our government
- yet a controlled border is necessary

The campaign advocates:

- first, getting the border under control. There are two ways people enter this country illegally. One way is by sneaking in. The other is by simply walking across at an entry point, claiming asylum, and disappearing. Both must be addressed simultaneously
- second, working with other countries to stem the tide of migrants
- third, to fully fund and prioritize the administrative infrastructure for lawful, orderly immigration to this country

To regain control over the border, the campaign advocates:

- closing the border by returning to use of technology dismantled by the current administration, such as cameras, lights, and motion detectors, coupled with physical barriers in key areas. There is no need to build a wall across the entire 2,000-mile border. We have the technology to prevent people from getting through undetected.
- regaining control asylum of claims by fully funding courts, services, and border agencies to allow lawful immigration in accordance with U.S. law and deny non-compliant access, and appoint more judges to handle asylum cases. There are too few asylum judges to process even the legitimate claims of political refugees. If claimants of political asylum knew their case would be heard swiftly, and that specious claims would be met with swift deportation, the cartels' business model would fail. Hundreds more judges need to be appointed to deal with the backlog of 1.6 million immigrants living in the US while they await their asylum hearing

In working with other countries to stem the tide of migrants, the campaign advocates a new kind of Good Neighbor Policy, to reestablish regional diplomatic, proper planning, and end economic exploitation, including:

- ending military adventurism that destabilizes other nations and generates millions of refugees, as in Syria and Iraq, which sent millions of migrants into Europe. The current flood of arms into Ukraine sends ripples of instability across the continent. Some of the weapons have already ended up in Africa and central Asia, two major sources of immigration.
- ending support for despotic governments, juntas, coups, death squads, and repressive regimes that persecute and impoverish their own people
- ending opposition to governments that seek land reform, labor reform, and social welfare for their people. These create a desperate and miserable population prone to flee their homeland for a better life
- cooperating with Mexico and Central American countries to improve economies and provide economic incentives to build jobs and develop much-needed infrastructure and a better standard of living, so people will be motivated to stay in their home country and enjoy their natural culture and heritage
- pursuing a different trade and economic policy, including ending decades of neoliberal austerity measures and US encouragement of financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank to demand that developing nations gut their social programs, privatize public assets, and strip away environmental and labor protections
- ending appeals to xenophobia and bigotry in calling for a tough border policy and turning toward compassion and humanitarian conscience

### **Veterans**

The party states that:

- since the terrorist attacks on 9/11, American servicemen and women have been called upon to support a state of near-perpetual war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unlike any period of conflict in American history, these wars have been fought by an all-volunteer force, of which 77% deployed twice or more. Mr. Kennedy embraces this sacrifice made by veterans to the country, their sense of honor, and their desire to serve.
- it understands veterans' acute awareness of the true nature, enormous cost and sacrifice, and folly of America's engagement in these conflicts. Veterans deserve recognition for their remarkable service. More importantly, they deserve a special voice in the nation's councils of war and peace and in re-uniting our country around shared purposes. The stark absence, except in rare circumstances, of input from veterans in the more extensive debate about the US role in the world is improper. Mr. Kennedy seeks to change this on day one.
- it understands that veterans are not victims. Instead, their steadfast dedication has been misused by politicians and the military-industrial complex, who have deliberately kept the true opinions of those who have served in these wars out of the conversation. For example, veterans have first-hand knowledge of the waste and fraud endemic to the government contracting system, and ideas of how to fix it.

The campaign advocates:

- making the security of America and her citizens the first priority of the military
- establishing a Veterans Council within the President's Executive Office, with the purpose of respond quickly to veteran's issues while by passing the bureaucracy of the VA and, in effect, bringing solutions to the VA for that department to execute, and giving the head of the PVC a seat at National Security Council meetings to bring veterans' unique perspective on war and leverage their experience.
- protecting veterans' benefits and optimizing the VA, including solicit veterans' input on making benefits more impactful to enable veterans to reach the highest echelons of success and prosperity
- encouraging veterans to become community leaders and an economic power, to counterbalance the efforts of those seeking self-enrichment, which have cost this nation its role and reputation as a beacon of hope and a moral leader worldwide

### **Public Safety & Police**

The campaign advocates:

- ending the failed War on Drugs and granting amnesty to nonviolent drug offenders
- closing the school-to-prison pipeline, and transitioning prisons away from a punishment paradigm to a rehabilitation paradigm. Prisons will be an intervention in a life gone wrong, and a way to prevent offenders from harming others again.
- instead of defunding the police, transforming the police, incentivizing them to prevent violence, not make unnecessary arrests, including training them in de-

escalation and mediation skills and partnering them with neighborhood organizations. No longer will their relationship to the public be adversarial. They will focus their attention on serious crimes, not harassing ordinary people.



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY

### **Role & Purpose of Government**

The party states that:

- it seeks a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others
- it believes that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized
- consequently, it defends each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings
- it seeks to build a world in which individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power
- it holds that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose
- the only proper purpose of government is the protection of individual rights. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself
- governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor
- it denies the right of government to regulate the lives of individuals or seize the fruits of their labor without their consent
- where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely:
  - (1) the right to life, accordingly it supports prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others;
  - (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly it opposes all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and
  - (3) the right to property — accordingly it opposes all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation

### **Representative Government & Reform**

The party states that:

- it supports election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels
- as private voluntary groups, political parties should be free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, and conventions
- it calls for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws that restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns
- it opposes laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives
- it advocates initiative, referendum, recall, and repeal when used as popular checks on government
- Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty

### **Government Finance and Spending**

The party states that:

- all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. It calls for the repeal of the income tax, abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service, and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution
- it opposes any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors
- it supports any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and opposes any increase on any tax for any reason
- to the extent possible, it advocates that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner

### **Government Debt**

The party states that:

- government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent

- it supports passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes

### ***Government Employees***

The party advocates:

- repeal of any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment
- it advocates replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent

### ***Courts & Public Safety***

The party states that:

- government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights
- laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm

The party advocates:

- repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services
- restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer
- preservation of the constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty
- the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law
- ending the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains
- ending administration of the death penalty by the state

### ***Self-Defense***

The party states that:

- the only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression
- this right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group
- it affirms the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and opposes the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense
- private property owners should be free to establish their own conditions regarding the presence of personal defense weapons on their own property
- it opposes all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms or ammunition

### ***International Relations & Defense***

The party states that:

- the principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

### ***National Defense***

The party advocates:

- maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression
- avoidance of entangling alliances and abandonment of national attempts to act as policeman for the world
- ending of all forms of compulsory national service.

### ***Internal Security and Individual Rights***

The party states that:

- national defense requires that the nation have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens
- the Constitution and Bill of Rights should not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency

- it opposes governmental use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law
- it opposes the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception

#### ***International Affairs***

The party states that

- American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements
- it would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid
- it recognizes the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights.
- it condemns the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups

#### ***Free Trade and Migration***

The party states that:

- it supports removal of governmental impediments to free trade
- political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries
- economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national border



## **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

#### **The Role of Government**

The party advocates:

- ending the weaponization of government against the America people
- uniting the country by bringing it to new and record levels of success

#### **Stewardship of Office**

##### ***Taxes & Budget***

The party advocates:

- large tax cuts for workers, and no taxes on tips

##### ***Democratic Reform***

The party advocates:

- ensuring secure elections, including same-day voting, voter identification, paper ballots, and proof of citizenship

#### **States, Territories, Municipalities**

The party advocates:

- rebuilding cities, making them safe, clean, and beautiful again
- restoring law and order, by replenishing police departments, restoring common sense policing, and protecting officers from frivolous lawsuits. It undertakes to stand up to Marxist Prosecutors, vigorously defend the right of every American to live in peace, and to compassionately address homelessness to restore order to the nation's streets.
- making Washington D.C. the safest and most beautiful capital city by reasserting greater federal control over the city, to restore law and order in our Capital City and ensure federal buildings and monuments are well-maintained.

#### **Peace & International Relations**

The party advocates:

- promoting a Foreign Policy centered on the most essential American Interests, starting with protecting the American homeland, the American people, national borders, the Great American Flag, and American rights under God.

- preventing World War 3, restoring peace in Europe and in the Middle East, and building a great iron dome missile defense shield over the entire country, all made in America
- keeping the US dollar as the world's reserve currency
- strengthening alliances by ensuring that Allies meet their obligations to invest in common defense initiatives and by restoring peace to Europe, standing with Israel, and seeking peace in the Middle East
- rebuilding the nation's Alliance Network in the region and championing strong, sovereign, and independent Nations in the Indo-Pacific, to build stability and peace, thriving in commerce with others.
- strengthen the nation's economic, military, and diplomatic capabilities to protect the American way of life from the malign influences of Countries that stand against it around the World.

#### **National Defense & Security**

The party states that:

- it advocates strengthening and modernizing the military, making it, without question, the strongest and most powerful in the world
- keeping the American People safe requires a strong America. Its plan is to return Peace through Strength, rebuilding our Military and Alliances, countering China, defeating terrorism, building an Iron Dome Missile Defense Shield, promoting American values, securing national borders, and reviving the defense industrial base
- it advocates building a military that is bigger, better, and stronger than ever before. Its full commitment is to protecting America and ensuring a safe and prosperous future for all.

The party advocates:

- modernizing the military, and ensuring that it is the most modern, lethal, and powerful force in the world, including investing in cutting-edge research and advanced technologies, including an Iron Dome Missile Defense Shield, supporting troops with higher pay, and getting its woke leftwing opponents fired as soon as possible.
- defending the nation's borders, including rapid completion of the southern border wall begun during the party's last term in office and mobilizing military personnel and assets as necessary to crack down hard on the cartels that traffic drugs and people into the country
- reviving the nation's industrial base, which is critical to ensuring good jobs for our people but also the reliable production of vital Defense platforms and supplies, with priority on Defense-critical industries. Equipment and parts critical to American security must be made in the USA.
- using all tools of National Power to protect our Nation's critical infrastructure and industrial base from malicious cyber actors, as a matter of national priority, both raising the Security Standards for our critical systems and networks and defending them against bad actors.

#### **Veterans**

The party advocates taking care of veterans, by ending luxury housing and taxpayer benefits for illegal immigrants and using those savings to shelter and treat homeless veterans, and restoring the reforms of its prior term in office to expand veterans' healthcare choices, protect whistleblowers, and hold accountable poorly performing employees not giving our Veterans the care they deserve.

#### **Criminal Justice & Public Safety**

The party advocates:

- stopping the migrant crime epidemic
- demolishing the foreign drug cartels
- crushing gang violence
- locking up violent offenders

## **Points to Ponder: Good Government**

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### ***The Role and Purpose of Government***

Catholics have definite ideas about the purpose of life and therefore the proper roles of civil society, government, and other social institutions.

– Are those ideas shared by most Americans? Does that matter? If so, to what extent?

– Are any values held in common by most Americans? If so, what are they, and how do they inform the proper role of government and other social institutions? For example, what do we owe each other, and what does that mean for government, charities, schools, etc.?

– Is it possible to meaningfully or responsibly define a role for government – and therefore a party's platform – without reference to the purpose of life, or the roles of other social institutions? Should Catholics look to political parties to share their views on the role and the purpose of government, as informed by their views of the meaning and purpose of life, as a part of their platforms?

### Respect & Good Governance

- It is an unfortunate and nearly universal practice of contemporary political parties, in framing their platforms and policy statements, to focus at least as much on what’s wrong with the other parties as they do on what’s right about themselves. How can we, as citizens and voters, help encourage parties to look for common ground, speak positively about one another, and voice their suggestions for improvement in respectful and collaborative terms?
- We have found, in our conversations with candidates and even the most partisan party adherents, that the greatest number of people agree on far more points of right, wrong, good, and bad than they disagree on. Is it possible for us to start conversations by assessing our points of agreement, and the things we have already achieved, before leaping to differences and deficiencies that might tend to distance us from one another?
- The Church is clear on the conviction that elected leaders should seek to serve the common good, bringing with them to their work deep feelings of humility and deep commitments to wisdom. How can we, as citizens and voters, encourage wisdom, humility and respect in those we elect, rather than selfishness and exclusion?

### Democratic Reform

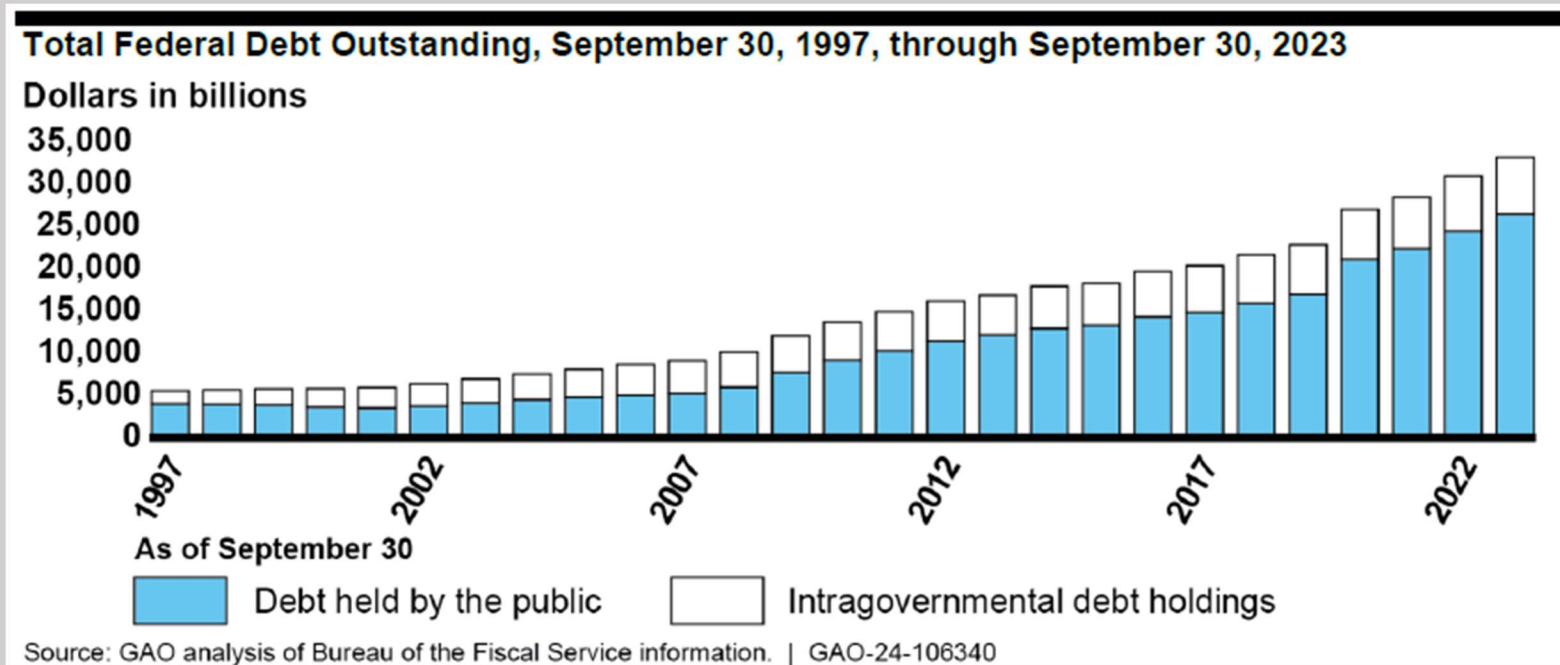
- It is very often the case that party members and candidates – including particularly rank-and-file members and staff members – are very good people, who sacrifice much in order to contribute to a better world. And it seems too seldom that we thank them, or have anything other than criticism to offer. What can we, as individuals, do to thank and support these selfless people, while gently encouraging them to support policies grounded in respect, the common good, and acknowledgement of both the rights and the responsibilities of individuals?

### Public-Private Partnerships

- Cooperation between government and corporations or other private entities can be instrumental in accomplishing great common projects. On the other hand, unwatched they can become instruments of misuse. President Eisenhower, for example, warned more than sixty years ago that we should be very careful of permitting too much corporate influence on government.
- To what extent should public-private partnerships and lobbying be allowed, for research, infrastructure development, or other purposes, and how should such relationships be governed?
  - To what extent should governments, NGOs, or public-private partnerships be allowed or encouraged to engage in social or cultural engineering of other societies or cultures? Under what, if any, circumstances should aid be tied to social objectives such as birth control or ideological control?

### Fiscal Responsibility

The following chart appears in the US General Accounting Office’s (GAO’s) report GAO-24-106340, dated November 2023 and addressed to the Secretary of the treasury (<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106340>):



Report 24-106240 states, in part, that:

*From fiscal year 1997, GAO's first year auditing the schedules, through fiscal year 2023, total federal debt managed by Fiscal Service has increased from \$5.4 trillion to \$33.2 trillion, and the debt limit has been raised 22 times. During fiscal year 2023, total federal debt increased by about \$2.2 trillion, with about \$2.0 trillion of the increase in debt held by the public. Additionally, interest on debt held by the public increased to \$678 billion in fiscal year 2023—up from \$497 billion in fiscal year 2022 and \$392 billion in fiscal year 2021. The primary reason for the increase in debt held by the public was the federal deficit, which was \$1.7 trillion for fiscal year 2023.*

*On January 19, 2023, the Department of the Treasury determined that the federal debt had reached the debt limit and began taking extraordinary actions—consistent with relevant laws—to avoid exceeding the debt limit. On June 3, 2023, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 was enacted, suspending the debt limit through January 1, 2025. On June 5, 2023, Treasury discontinued its use of extraordinary actions and resumed normal debt operations.*

*The current approach to the debt limit has created uncertainty and disruptions in the Treasury securities market and increased borrowing costs. Under current policy, spending is expected to exceed revenue, causing debt held by the public to rise continuously relative to the economy, which is an unsustainable fiscal path over the long term.*

According to the US Census Bureau, the 2022 population of the United States was approximately 333,000,000 people, and the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022 was approximately \$25.44 trillion. This suggests that the federal debt in 2022 may have been higher than the entire economic output of the country, and may have amounted to approximately \$100,000 per person.

At the URL <https://www.gao.gov/federal-financial-accountability>, the GAO's website presents the following statement:

*GAO has been auditing the federal government's consolidated financial statements since FY 1997 (as well as various other federal financial statements). However, GAO continues to be unable to render an audit opinion on the government's accrual-based consolidated financial statements—which present historical information such as assets, liabilities, revenue, and net cost.*

*This is primarily due to:*

- 1. Serious financial management problems at the Department of Defense*
- 2. The federal government's inability to adequately account for intragovernmental activity and balances between federal agencies*
- 3. Weaknesses in the federal government's process for preparing the consolidated financial statements*

Conscientious Catholics might ask themselves:

1. Can this fiscal situation be viewed as prudent or responsible, in the circumstances? The United States has just emerged from the COVID pandemic, and faces conflict in Europe and the Middle East, as well trade competition in other parts of the world.
2. How have the parties addressed these issues? Are the solutions they've offered adequate and responsible?
3. Can any corrective actions be implemented in ways that serve the common good, while encouraging the full participation of all, based on meaningful, dignified work and equitable incomes?