

2022 Carson City Democratic Convention

Approved Platform

1.

WHEREAS, In 2019, the year before the COVID pandemic, Nevada's two appellate courts (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals) handled over 2,500 cases. That is too heavy a caseload for ten jurists to handle.

THEREFORE, The 2023 legislative session should provide funding for a second three-judge appellate court.

2.

WHEREAS, There is money available to build more electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

THEREFORE, EV charging stations should be installed every 100 to 150 miles on major state highways and in Nevada's capital city. This will encourage the use of zero emission vehicles and bring eco-tourists to our state. The Nevada Department of Transportation may consider partnering with other public or private entities to meet the mileage criteria.

3.

WHEREAS, Carson City neighborhood roads are deteriorating, Carson City is now soliciting grants for major road projects, Carson City does not have an adequate plan for the neighborhood roads, Carson City's residential properties benefit from available and maintained roads, and commercial businesses that deliver in neighborhoods benefit from available and maintained roads.

THEREFORE, Carson City must begin building a fund for neighborhood roads similar to what was done for the water and sewer systems, Carson City can increase property tax rates to fund neighborhood roads, and Carson City must implement the full diesel fuel tax.

4.

WHEREAS, Our current society and political climate is filled with dissension, bullying, and intentional misinformation.

THEREFORE, As Democrats, we will work with integrity to heal divides, disavow harassment and bullying, and set an example as worthy citizens and valuable community partners. Democrats will be honest and honorable in our communications and stand up for and support civil society in Carson City and around the nation.

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5.

WHEREAS, Since 1973, *Roe v. Wade* has protected women's health and reproductive freedom. It affirms and exemplifies the broader principle that government should not intrude on private family matters and demonstrates that our living Constitution protects all persons.

THEREFORE, Women's health must be protected, and individual freedoms must be defended. We support NRS 442.250 approved by 1992 referendum. We oppose policies that define "personhood" at a woman's expense, and that remove or limit access to a full range of reproductive healthcare including contraception and abortion. We support medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education in our community.

6.

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood offers women's health services not readily available, offers options without prejudice to clients, competes for Medicaid funds, and uses only private funds for few abortion services.

THEREFORE, Any blanket denial of federal funds will deprive clients, will hinder society, and must be resisted.

7.

WHEREAS, Persons, especially elders, who are subject to a guardianship are susceptible to abuse.

THEREFORE, Nevada is obligated to supervise guardianships and appropriately punish abusers.

8.

WHEREAS, Some persons live with disabilities and/or mental health problems.

THEREFORE, Programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare and Medicaid must remain to benefit our society.

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9.

WHEREAS, Medicaid funds are decreasing while the very low-income population is increasing, the very low-income population risks requiring secondary or tertiary care absent preventive or acute care, federal Medicaid funding supplements state funding, state Medicaid reimbursements are too low, and medical care providers may refuse Medicaid patients.

THEREFORE, Medicaid funding should be commensurate with growth in low-income populations and should ensure reimbursement sufficient for recruitment of physicians and mental health providers for patients.

10.

WHEREAS, The mentally ill are often unable to advocate for themselves and as a result of services that are hard to find, too costly, or of abhorrent quality (housing), they are living severely diminished lives including prevalent homelessness. The cost of not providing services and support for the mentally ill in emergency care and jail is likely beyond the cost of providing a reliable, quality system of care.

THEREFORE, Assure the existence of a multi-disciplinary approach to quality care for the mentally ill that includes healthcare, housing, and recovery treatment and support.

11.

WHEREAS, Democracy cannot function without an educated populace.

THEREFORE, The legislature should enact bills that strengthen, protect, and generously fund public K-12 education, colleges and universities while prohibiting funding and vouchers for religious/church or private schools.

12.

WHEREAS, The level of gun violence in this country has reached intolerable levels.

THEREFORE, We support sensible gun laws regulating the purchase and distribution of firearms and ammunition, universal background checks, bans on military style assault weapons and devices that make other weapons functionally the same as assault weapons, a minimum age of 18 for purchases, and required initial and recurring firearms training.

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13.

WHEREAS, The Dickey Amendment prevents the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from undertaking research relating to the effects of violent use of guns, including mass shootings, and prevents the accumulation of valid information.

THEREFORE, The Dickey Amendment should be repealed, and funding provided for research.

14.

WHEREAS, The lethality created by assault rifles, automatic and semi-automatic weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines enables mass shootings and creates mass loss of life and lifelong trauma for survivors, their families, and their communities.

THEREFORE, Ban assault rifles, bump stocks, high-capacity magazines, and ghost guns.

15.

WHEREAS, HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is an important mandate, it should not prevent communication among healthcare providers, mental health professionals, and law enforcement. This communication could prevent mentally ill individuals from doing harm to themselves or others by having access to guns.

THEREFORE, Examine actions necessary to make mental health information known to law enforcement and those providing background checks so that individuals who are mentally unstable are prohibited from buying or possessing guns until such time as they have been cleared by a qualified mental health professional as outlined in a path to restoration of rights.

16.

WHEREAS, Whereas Nevada receives less precipitation than any other state in the nation; water is the most valuable resource for human, animal and plant life; the state's and region's water sources have been stressed by drought and/or overuse; and a warmer, drier climate is likely in the coming decades, further stressing the water supply.

THEREFORE, The Nevada Democratic Party supports a policy of sustainable water use to be included in all planning decisions which ensures that human needs are met, and environmental health can be maintained.

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17.

WHEREAS, Union membership and collective bargaining offer economic power for many, require employers and workers to resolve mutual problems, and create decision-making efficiencies especially where large numbers of workers are involved.

THEREFORE, Existing collective bargaining and union membership should not be degraded and barriers to union membership should be removed including “card check” as proposed by the Employee Free Choice Act introduced in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

18.

WHEREAS, Government employees are invaluable to a functioning, healthy, and happy society and often possess skills not readily available.

THEREFORE, All government workers should be compensated at or above private industry levels.

19.

WHEREAS, Climate change is occurring at a rapid rate, the rapid increase in greenhouse gases results from human activity, collective responses are possible through government actions, and renewable fuel sources are encouraged through income tax expenditures. Fossil fuels will ultimately disappear, fossil fuel consumption adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, fossil fuel production is subsidized, and subsidies distort free-market decision making. THEREFORE, All direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuel production and consumption should be eliminated. Fossil fuels should have carbon-based taxes. Tax incentives should favor renewable energy resources, all resulting in market pricing encouraging the use of renewable sources over fossil resources.

20.

WHEREAS, Congressional budgeting decisions are not selective enough, inappropriate budget reductions harm revenue collection and do not protect programs from fraud.

THEREFORE, Congress must fully fund all audit and anti-fraud programs in the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs even when program budgets are being reduced.

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21.

WHEREAS, Whistleblowers and a free press can provide effective oversight for government incompetence and fraud.

THEREFORE, Congress should increase protections for whistleblowers and enact a press shield law.

22.

WHEREAS, Society is obligated to care for children.

THEREFORE, Funding for child welfare such as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), S-CHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), the Safe and Stable Families Act, and subsidies for adoption and guardianship should not be curtailed but increased.

23.

WHEREAS, Society offers multiple helping services, drug addictions require continuous supervision, eligible recipients may not be aware of possible assistance services and may not have personal transportation or personal communication.

THEREFORE, Local communities such as cities and counties should establish one-call reference centers using trained professionals and trained volunteers, including virtual telephone networks, single-site offices, and traveling outreach workers.²⁴

24.

WHEREAS, Currently Yucca Mountain is not funded for nuclear waste storage, has serious seismic and aquifer risks for long-term storage, risks additional hazards due to transportation, and is opposed by Nevadans

THEREFORE, The federal budget should not include Yucca Mountain for nuclear waste storage and should not fund fuel re-processing at Yucca Mountain.

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25.

WHEREAS, In 1983, the Greenspan Commission put the Social Security trust fund on a sustainable course by subjecting 90 percent of all earned income to the FICA (Federal Insurance Contribution Act) tax. In the three decades since, the taxed proportion has slipped to 80 percent because of an unforeseen explosion of income inequality from globalization and technological change. Thus, the Social Security trust fund is on course for depletion within 25 years (contributions no longer exceed benefits). The Social Security program pools risk, requires contributions to be eligible for benefits, protects the General Fund from supporting retirees, now supports retirees, has sufficient contributions for expected benefits until 2034, has income from US bonds, and supports current General Fund deficits by buying US bonds.

THEREFORE, Congress should modify the formula for calculating the FICA threshold using the Gini coefficient to compensate for growing income disparity. Phased in over time, this will gradually return the earned income subject to the FICA tax back to the 90 percent mark required for trust fund sustainability. We oppose privatization of Social Security and Medicare.

26.

WHEREAS, Internet service is equivalent to a public utility and equal access to broadband services benefits users and producers.

THEREFORE, Net neutrality which treats all comers equally must be reinstated, maintained, and enhanced.

27.

WHEREAS, Society owes and promises various services to veterans in return for their services and injuries, severely injured veterans now survive their immediate injuries, suffer traumatic brain injury (TBI), suffer post-traumatic stress (PTS), and may require assistance over extended time periods.

THEREFORE, Congress should fund community-based outreach programs to assist veterans needing services. Funding for veteran programs should not be diminished and increased funding is necessary for veterans whose injuries and resulting conditions are not immediately apparent and may require funding for the entire life of the veteran. All service animals should be fully paid for including emotional support animals.

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28.

WHEREAS, The Constitution is being shredded by the Patriot Act and subsequent legislation which allows indefinite and secret arrest of alleged terrorists wherever and whenever, allows extra-territorial assassinations, and allows the massive gathering of data without probable cause.

THEREFORE, Congress should systematically remove all statutes allowing the search, observation, or seizure of persons or property including electronic materials absent a court-approved warrant and apply habeas corpus to any detention or arrest in any location including overseas.

29.

WHEREAS, Military commissions besmirch the Constitution and give credence to the idea that terrorists are capable of changing US policy.

THEREFORE, Congress should allow federal court trials for Guantanamo Bay prisoners similar to the trials held under long-arm US statutes, undo the military commissions, thereby demonstrating that terrorism cannot change US policy.

30.

WHEREAS, Undocumented children brought into the US by their parents did not have the ability to consent, were educated by public and private schools, and are now becoming adults who know no other society.

THEREFORE, Congress should immediately pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act allowing qualifying persons to acquire residency. For the interim, continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

31.

WHEREAS, Human trafficking affects children and adults and is equivalent to slavery. Victims often appear to be willing participants. They are our neighbors and our neighbors' children from all classes of society.

THEREFORE, Schools, courts, employers, government, and all of society must learn to recognize human trafficking and intervene. Laws need to be strengthened and strongly enforced. The purchasers of the trafficked individuals, not the victims, must be prosecuted.

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32.

WHEREAS, The US Constitution provides for “the general Welfare” for all persons through the National Environmental Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Water Quality Act, Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Act, among many others.

THEREFORE, Congress must continue enforcing existing law and continue carefully reviewing changing conditions for improving existing law. Congress must increase the current federal administration's efforts for environmental protections.

33.

WHEREAS, Libraries are fundamental to a functioning democracy, are depositories of our histories, and are centers for access to knowledge.

THEREFORE, Library funding at every level must be adequate, restored to pre-recession levels, and follow inflation and cost increases.

34.

WHEREAS, Public funding for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is supplemented by private donations, expands PBS to rural areas, and expands the educational opportunities for a functioning democracy.

THEREFORE, Continued federal funding to PBS is a necessity for a viable America.

35.

WHEREAS, Revenues for the consumption of resources from US owned lands are not market based, are subsidies for special interests, likely do not promote resource renewal, and have not changed in decades, e.g., grazing fees.

THEREFORE, Congress must require all fees recover the explicit and implicit internal and external costs, promote resource renewal, provide adequate management, and have a free market basis.

36.

WHEREAS, Employee-owned firms, worker and farm cooperatives, and credit unions provide for little-served populations and provide market-based competition.

THEREFORE, Cooperative activity is encouraged, and anti-cooperative legislation is opposed.

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37.

WHEREAS, Prisons are a public obligation and privately operated, for-profit prisons are morally wrong, expensive, and ineffective.

THEREFORE, There should be no privately operated prisons.

38.

WHEREAS, Publicly owned land benefits all the public, attracts tourism, can provide below cost inputs for selected economic activities, and provides shelter for national defense training.

THEREFORE, We oppose transferring public land for private purposes and transferring public land to states and/or local governments absent funding for supporting the transferred land.

39.

WHEREAS, Justice delayed is justice denied, Congress does not fully fund federal and immigration courts, the Senate does not promptly affirm or deny judicial appointments, and private proceedings cannot advance the general welfare

THEREFORE, Congress must fully fund the immigration and federal courts.

40.

WHEREAS, Current immigration laws are harmful to all,

THEREFORE, Congress must examine and reform all current immigration laws to include a path to citizenship, especially for immigrant classes such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) persons, and humane criteria for asylum seekers.

41.

WHEREAS, States and the public recognize benefits from medicinal and recreational marijuana use. Because marijuana continues to be a Schedule 1 drug, research on the harms and the benefits of medicinal and recreational usage is hindered and state recognized marijuana business are banned from the banking system while risking criminal attacks

THREREFORE, Congress must promptly remove marijuana from Schedule 1 and fund research on the harms and benefits of medicinal and recreational marijuana use.

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42.

WHEREAS, The Nevada Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) allows relatively lower current salaries and wages in return for a reasonable defined benefit retirement, is equally funded by the employee and the taxpayer, contributions are deposited monthly, annually reviews contribution rates to reduce unfunded liability, funds future benefits to be paid from exemplary returns, and reduced the amortization period for unfunded liabilities from 30 to 20 years.

THEREFORE, Nevada should continue its successful PERS program, should not close the program to new employees, should not enact any proposed alternative defined contribution plans, and should use PERS to attract and hold highly qualified employees.

43.

WHEREAS, Nevada's recent budget struggles stem from cyclical and structural deficits and a tax system that is too narrowly based.

THEREFORE, The Nevada Legislature must eschew anti-tax ideology, recognize that structural reforms may encompass revenue increases and expenditure decreases, and abandon tax abatements.

44.

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada must compete for employees, the applicant pool for employees with specialized skills is small, and rigorous security requirements disqualify many applicants.

THEREFORE, The State of Nevada must avoid creating a hostile working environment, restore salaries, restore incentive pay, and offer useful affordable employee and family healthcare plans

45.

WHEREAS, Errant plastic bags find rest in trees and shrubs, bottles and cans grace pathways and roadways, Nevada can present a poor scene for visitors, and customer supplied bags will eliminate errant containers.

THEREFORE, Nevada should require a customer charge for retailer supplied bags.

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46.

WHEREAS, All citizens are encouraged to participate in the election process, early voting encourages voting, voting by mail increases voter participation, Nevada verifies voter identification during voter registration, and Nevada effectively prevents voter fraud.

THEREFORE, We support open and fair elections through voter protection programs. We support voting by mail. We support expanding the times and locations for early voting. We oppose photo ID requirements for voting and/or any other efforts aimed at voter suppression.