

## **2021 TCD Platform (2021 additions in Red)**

**Approved On March 13th, 2021 at the Thurston County Democratic Convention.**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the Thurston County Democratic Party, believe that all powers to govern reside with the people. We are committed to be a party open to recognize all who represent our values and principles, regardless of their political affiliation. We strive for maximum participation in the political process, and the defense of civil liberties, human rights, and democratic decision making at all levels.

Thurston County Democrats, as stewards of Earth, adopt this platform as a call to address the challenges that humanity faces, including but not limited to Global climate change; War; Poverty; Racial, Social and Economic injustices. These challenges require systemic solutions and a concerted rethinking of how we view our community, our planet, and our role in each. **We believe Nature has the right to exist, not just as a resource for humans**

We need to treat each other, the earth and ourselves with better care, wonder, respect, and dignity. We must hold the well-being of all people, especially those marginalized by our current institutions, as our highest priority. Our actions must reflect a sense of stewardship that defines and preserves our values.

We believe in the value of civil political dialogue and recognize our diversity as our strength. We will engage in courageous and crucial conversations with all people, especially those with whom we might disagree, in order to find the comprehensive solutions required to cooperatively address systemic problems **that deeply reside both within our Thurston County community and abroad.**

We adopt this platform as a challenge, a responsibility, and an opportunity to ask ourselves this question: What can I do with others in our community, to make our planet a better place for ourselves and future generations; even though the outcome is not assured; and the way forward is not always clear or easy? We recognize that our persistence will be rewarded.

### **EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*We live in a region of great beauty and immense biological diversity that we must protect. The well-being of present and future generations unquestionably depends on the protection and restoration of interconnected natural systems essential to preserve and to sustain the health of our ecosystem. This principle shall be paramount in any policies that affect the quality of our living environment.*

*We all must be responsible stewards of the environment, from local communities, extending to our entire planet. We must proactively address climate change as a crisis that falls most heavily on marginalized communities at home and abroad. All people, including future generations, have the right to clean air and water, healthy food; and to enjoy a healthy and pleasant natural environment.*

We support the restoration and protection of native wildlife and fish habitat, especially threatened and endangered species, and humane treatment of all animals.

We support retention of federal public lands and recognize their strong contributions to our recreation industries and our quality of life, jobs, and local economies, especially adjoining our rural communities.

We recognize the nature of environmental deterioration as it relates to the racial and economic injustices experienced by vulnerable communities. We support broad outreach programs when making decisions concerning the quality of the environment to avoid additional harm to such communities.

**We support a transition to 100% clean energy by 2035 through replacing carbon-based energy sources with renewables such as wind and solar, and concurrent conservation efforts to reduce energy use and establish environmentally sound renewable energy production, such as a Green New Deal. This transition would generate living wage, union jobs, including those workers currently employed in fossil fuel extraction, and generate economic growth through infrastructure spending.**

We support a tax on carbon, and investment in research, development, and job creation in green technologies and infrastructure, including more energy efficient transportation.

We support a ban of all fracking within the State of Washington and elsewhere, and oppose transportation of materials used for fracking through the Port of Olympia.

We expect our government at all levels to fully enforce laws to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable, and oppose opening public lands to carbon or nuclear fuel production. We call for inclusion of methane and carbon dioxide emissions in Environmental Impact Statements.

We support efforts to halt the unsafe transportation of coal and oil through any communities. In solidarity with the Puyallup Tribe, we oppose the construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas plant at the Port of Tacoma.

**In solidarity with our Native neighbors, and in the name of saving our salmon, orca whales, and biodiversity, we oppose the construction of a flood control dam on the Chehalis River.**

**We support funding indigenous-led forest management in order to reduce vulnerability to wildfires and other natural disasters.**

We must address the impacts of climate change immediately! We must confront the threat of Sea Level Rise in a way that considers fair distribution of the costs and the hazards. Policies should be based on best available science and reduce risk for our communities. The impact of climate change on LOTT should be decoupled from the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan and addressed independently as a whole waste and stormwater system. The county and all municipalities should develop effective and adequate Climate Change Response Plans that address all aspects of climate change and require a consideration for climate at the end of the life of projects, instead of exclusively at the time of construction.

We expect our government at all levels to fully enforce toxic waste reduction and the principle that polluters should pay for cleanup. Delays and funding diversions including the use of tax exemptions and loopholes by polluters only perpetuate harm to adversely affected communities. We support full funding for regulators to be able to monitor compliance and carry out enforcement actions.

Hanford is the largest Superfund site in the nation. We call for aggressive safe cleanup of nuclear waste at Hanford that is protective of workers; restores the Columbia River shoreline to safe unrestricted use; respects treaty rights and secures liquid waste held in the aging and failing tank farms.

We support the use of natural climate adaptation strategies such as the following: Habitat protection, healthy forest cover and wetland; estuary and riparian restoration. We also firmly support the removal of the Deschutes dam and daylighting culverted salmon streams as necessary actions to prevent the collapse of the web of life in the South Salish Sea. We support full enforcement of Critical Area ordinances, and oppose new construction that destroys or endangers critical habitat or its restoration.

We support full access for women and girls worldwide to education and comprehensive health care including reproductive health, and political equality as essential to the environmental wellbeing of our planet.

We support elevated awareness and funding for environmental and sustainability education regarding individual and collective changes required to preserve the health and livability of our planet for future generations.

**We call for the establishment of a publicly-owned power utility in Thurston County. Local control of our power generation would allow the residents of Thurston County to directly control clean energy goals, and prioritize**

**reliability and sustainability over profit, as well as equitable rates for**

**customers.**

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

*The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation, generosity, and a mutual respect to support human welfare, freedom, democracy, and justice.*

*We agree with the views of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." We oppose injustice, and choose to put peace building, and fostering self-determination at the center of our foreign policy.*

*We must stop conducting unilateral and preemptive war. We must make diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy. Military action will not effectively address the poverty, oppression, corruption, and scarcity of resources that breed violence.*

We call for the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force which the executive branch has used to justify nearly unchecked power to engage in military interventions, indefinite detention, and use of lethal force.

We insist that any military action we engage in has clear goals; is limited in scope; includes a clear exit strategy and is based on an immediate and credible threat to the citizens of our country.

We call for the elimination of unnecessary and redundant military programs and weapons.

We call for the provision of military aid to only those nations that prioritize and protect human and civil rights, and comply with U.S. foreign military assistance laws, and international laws and conventions.

We support expansion of our global influence through fair trade based on sound principles that include rights of indigenous people, labor rights, sustainable environmental practices, humanitarian and economic assistance, insistence on the rule of law, and adherence to the principles of universal human rights.

We oppose international trade agreements that undermine national sovereignty and a country's ability to enact laws that protect the environment and ensure worker rights, safety, and livable wages.

We support a diplomatic approach to the Syrian conflict that acknowledges the strategic concerns of all states in the region. War will continue until these concerns

are addressed honestly and realistically. In order to support peace initiatives as an honest broker, the United States must stop participating in proxy wars in the region, either directly or through allies. **We call for the withdrawal of all US troops from Syria.**

We oppose the U.S. involvement in the bombing campaign of Yemen by Saudi Arabia.

We support the diplomatic success of the 2015 Iran Nuclear Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as a model for using non-violent engagement to de-escalate tensions and pursue negotiated resolutions to international conflicts.

We oppose slavery and the sale of products related to forced labor.

We call for the immediate closure of Guantanamo Bay, and the abolition of the use of torture and indefinite detention. We insist on adherence to the Geneva Conventions.

We call for cooperative and fully funded participation in the United Nations International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

We support the principle of self-determination and call for our government to withdraw support to nations that commit acts of ethnic cleansing and authoritarian suppression as well as the persecution of ethnic and religious minorities.

We support equal human rights for Palestinians and Israelis, including the right of return of Palestinian refugees or just compensation for the loss of their land and their homes.

We affirm our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as it applies to all people, recognizing the United State is a signatory and is therefore responsible to uphold and sustain these rights in both its domestic and international affairs.

We support the protection of the time-honored right to exercise freedom of speech through Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS), a strategy currently employed at the grassroots level to challenge the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the decades-long failure of governments to realize peace with justice for all people of Israel and Palestine.

We support opening our country to migrants fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands; regardless of their region or country of origin.

We support all non-proliferation treaties and elimination of all nuclear weapons.

We support reform of the contracting practices of the military to ensure effective U.S. government control with contracts awarded and based on a fair and competitive bidding, with preference given to the U.S. companies.

We support fully funded non-privatized Veterans Affairs services to provide all veterans with full and timely (No-cost) treatment at local military or VA medical facilities; retraining for those who are disabled; and active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless veterans.

We call for environmental cleanup and justice for communities impacted by the development, deployment, and use of landmines, cluster munitions, and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapon systems.

We call for effective and more transparent legal oversight of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to ensure that our basic freedoms are not sacrificed.

**We call for withdrawing all US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.**

## **TRIBAL RELATIONS AND SOVEREIGNTY**

*We acknowledge that we reside on occupied lands of the indigenous peoples of this region. We acknowledge that Indigenous people are still recovering from the historical trauma caused by colonization of ancestral lands, and affirm our commitment to the inherent sovereign rights of American Indian tribes and federal trust responsibility to Native peoples. In order to maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations, we oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, tribal natural resources, or the general welfare of tribes. We also recognize the growing Urban American Indian/Alaskan Native populations and the Federal Trust responsibility extends beyond Tribal Reservation borders.*

We recognize that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States are the supreme law of the land.

We call for upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders and Agreements made between Tribal Nations and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the future of Tribal Nations.

We call for upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government. We commit ourselves and call upon all levels of government to respect American Indian nations in their right to self-determination; and we oppose attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and culture.

Establishing and maintaining a meaningful government-to-government relationship with tribes includes consulting with tribes prior to proposing or supporting legislation or policies that impact Tribal Nations.

We support increased appointment of tribal members to state boards and commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy and decision making entities.

We support the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional accustomed places.

We call for fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change and water appropriation.

## **SOCIAL REFORM**

*We recognize that a strong, healthy society must incorporate basic rights including guaranteed healthcare for all, social safety nets, educational opportunities and immigration reform. We call for action which will secure these rights for all members of our community.*

### **Health Care**

We believe that quality healthcare is a basic human right, and as such, we support a government-managed, single-payer healthcare system at the state and federal level, such as: Medicare-for-all/Whole Washington. We oppose all efforts to roll back improvements that have been achieved through the 2010 Affordable Care Act unless they are part of a transition to a universal single-payer healthcare system **that is free of cost at the point of service.**

We oppose taxpayer-funded government subsidies to private for-profit health insurance companies, **and call for their eventual elimination from the American healthcare system.**

We believe that mental health and substance use are legitimate medical concerns deserving of fully-funded treatment, rather than criminalization.

**We call for the establishment of safe injection sites, In order to save lives, prevent the spread of disease, and get heroin, fentanyl and other drug use off of public streets and into medically supervised facilities.**

We believe that the practices of drug companies that profit from human suffering are running counter to our Democratic values of equitable healthcare for all.

We believe that all people have a right to make their own healthcare related decisions as part of bodily autonomy and all people deserve access to high-quality and affordable reproductive and sexual healthcare.

We acknowledge that the recognition of gender identity saves lives; and that access to gender-affirming care is a basic human right regardless of their income.

We believe that all people who may become pregnant have the right to decide whether and when to become pregnant and that they have the right to terminate that pregnancy. We also believe in supporting healthy pregnancy care and family planning.

### **Social Safety Net**

We believe that our government has the duty to create and expand programs and dismantle existing systemic barriers to alleviate poverty and enable everyone to enjoy a dignified quality of life.

**We support consistently funding a wide variety of housing options for our houseless communities and support programs which provide assistance for these individuals and families.**

We believe that elected officials must support the non-privatized expansion and preservation of both social security benefits and retirement/pension plans.

We believe in systemic changes recognizing that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive protections and assistance in making their own healthcare related decisions, including methods of receiving care.

### **Education**

Democracy thrives only if we have a free, universal public school system that is safe, supportive and fair to all.

We support funding our public schools fully and equitably and to providing teachers and students the resources they need to succeed. We support policies and groups whose aim is to end the school-to-prison pipeline; and close achievement and opportunity gaps; to provide effective oversight of Pre-12 schools; to provide public access to high-speed internet and to ensure that all students have the opportunity and equipment to meet their career goals.

**Thurston County Democrats believe in access to menstrual products in all K-12 public school bathrooms. These basic hygiene needs should be free of charge to all public school students, and funded by the County. To accomodate and affirm gender-fluid, non-binary, and transgender students, free menstrual products should be in all bathrooms regardless of gender.**



School funding and educator pay must be independent of student testing outcomes. We support programs to provide student access to healthy foods.

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**We oppose the use of school resource officers in public schools, and only call law enforcement in the case of life threatening emergencies or as required by law.**

**We call for full funding for counselors and mental health professionals in schools.**

We oppose commercial marketing in our schools.

We support strong programs of diversity, inclusion and equity as well as initiatives in our public schools that include administrators, school staff, school boards, and students at all grade levels with their families, caregivers, and other community members.

We believe that publicly-funded, pre-kindergarten through secondary, and post-secondary education is a right and a fundamental investment in our nation's future, and should not be dependent upon one's economic station in life.

We support public efforts aimed at relieving students from educational debt. We support the forgiveness of student loan debts.

We oppose voucher programs and charter schools.

**We oppose the widespread use of adjunct and temporary faculty in higher education. All higher education faculty should have the right to stable employment offered by permanent, tenured positions.**

We oppose high stakes testing in our public schools and their use in making major educational decisions, including their use as a high school graduation requirement; in teacher evaluations and in punitive measures taken against schools.

**We support lifelong learning programs, including career, technical education and job training programs that facilitate professional growth and evolving technologies. We value adult literacy, English-as-a-second-language and skills development opportunities.**

WE SUPPORT PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILDCARE.

### **Immigration Reform**

We believe that we are a nation of immigrants and that the United States needs to

create an immigration system that provides a path to citizenship for all immigrants.

We oppose the deportation of any individuals brought to this country as young children or seeking refuge from poverty and war; and we oppose the breaking up of families by deporting the undocumented parents of U.S.-born children.

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Family reunification should continue to be the foundation of our legal immigration system. We should offer more Foreign-to-English language opportunities and civic education classes so immigrants can better assume the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

We believe that no human being is illegal and advocate for the abolition of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.).

**We oppose discriminatory barriers and attacks on citizenship directed at black and brown communities, and call for the immediate termination of the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP), and other discriminatory programs that prevent Muslims and other affected parties from obtaining benefits, including citizenship.**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Our nation must acknowledge and address the systemic and structural racism, classism, and other forms of oppression woven throughout its political, economic, and cultural history, and that persists to this day.*

*We believe that we as a society have a responsibility for, and a collective self-interest in, identifying, challenging, and eradicating the underlying conditions that give rise to the glaring inequalities around us.*

*We call for courageous conversations as part of a community-wide discourse to understand and seek to address the continuing manifestations of these conditions in our nation, our state and our local communities.*

*We concur with the United Nations determination that America owes reparations to the indigenous nations whose lands we have occupied and peoples and cultures our nation has sought to destroy, and to the descendants of the slaves who built our country.*

### **Human Rights for Groups and Individuals**

We respect and value all people, actively oppose all forms of discrimination, and believe that our society will be stronger when we are able to honor each other by recognizing our shared humanity.

We believe a society benefits when its richly diverse cultural heritage and

experience are affirmed and celebrated and when all of its members are able to observe, participate in, and be fully represented in its private and public institutions, including its elective bodies.

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We support policies that will strengthen all who reside here by affirming the value of all individuals. We support eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality, oppression, and lack of equitable access to opportunities.

We call for civic organizations, including schools, government bodies, and community organizations to expand on efforts for discussing and creating action plans to address our nation's history of slavery, white supremacy, colonialism, and genocide.

We affirm that all people in this country, regardless of their citizenship status, are entitled to the civil liberties in the Bill of Rights.

We support protections for privacy and security of all people. We honor the principles of habeas-corpus.

**We support and stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, in recognition of ongoing systemic racism in our society and widespread police brutality that disproportionately impacts people of color, and in love and support of our Black neighbors and family members.**

**Thurston County Democrats declare that food is an essential human right. We urge City and County municipalities to affirm this Basic Human Right, by passing legislation declaring this, and introducing statutes requiring stores and restaurants donate unspoiled, non-expired food to shelters and local food banks. We demand all Thurston County municipalities and school districts within Thurston County guarantee food to all children.**

**We call for Adequately counting Queer, LGBTQ+, and those who otherwise identify, by households and individuals in the US Census;**

**We call for Congress to pass the LGBTQ Essential Data Act to help collect a wide variety of critical data about anti-trans violence and the factors that drive it**

**We call for The United States Congress to pass and enforce the Equality Act for all members of the LGBTQ+ community;**

**We Oppose Discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on parenting rights;**

**Recognizing and reversing the distorted representation of Native women in the mainstream media, stereotypes, and bias which is a contributing factor in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in the United States;**

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**Affirming that the murdered and missing Indigenous Peoples' and their families' rights have been violated due to their Native identity and race•**

**Acknowledging the harmful impact of all levels of law enforcements' disregard of missing and murdered Indigenous Peoples.**

### **Human Rights in Housing**

**We recognize adequate housing as a fundamental human right, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and call for all levels of government to respect and protect this right for all people.**

**We demand that access to affordable and accessible housing should not be denied on the basis of race, country of origin, religious or non-religious status, gender or gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, immigration status, source of income, age, political beliefs, parental, or relationship status;**

**We call for all levels of government to end de facto housing segregation and discrimination on the basis of race, income, and other identities;**

**We call for the decriminalization of homelessness.**

**We oppose sweeps and mass evictions of homeless encampment sites unless comparable low-barrier alternative sites are available.**

**We oppose other punitive measures aimed at the homeless including no sit/no lie and emergency parking bans.**

**We support providing full and adequate sanitation and garbage services on site to all homeless encampments.**

**We call for the use of rent control to limit annual rent increases in rental**

**housing.**

**We call for the enactment of a Tenant’s Bill of Rights, including just cause eviction to prevent landlords from arbitrarily ending a rental agreement.**

**We call for the funding and establishment of houseless day centers in Thurston County.**

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**We call for the expanded use of social and mental health professionals in responding to houseless complaints and issues.**

**The burgeoning homeless encampments are evidence that the current dependence on the private sector to provide housing, even with assistance programs, is a failure. We call for bold new action to encourage co-operative housing and a robust Social Housing Program at the county level with financing from local, state and federal sources that is publicly/cooperatively owned, permanently affordable, high quality, and universal. This housing shall not be transferred to private ownership or placed under private management.**

**We call for the adoption of laws that prevent landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants for any convictions or arrests, with the exception of convicted sex offenders who committed their crime from age 18 and above and actively registered.**

**To support the development of local affordable housing, we support justifiable affordable housing impact fees (linkage fees) and inclusionary zoning requirements on market rate residential and commercial development in Thurston County.**

### **Human Rights in Criminal Justice**

**We recognize the strikingly disproportional and negative impact of our civil and criminal justice system on people based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and class; and we affirm this demands our attention and commitment to significant changes to our justice system.**

We demand training for law enforcement and corrections officers to respect the sanctity of life and prioritize de-escalation techniques, implement bias training and how to treat people with mental health issues.

We fully acknowledge that law enforcement is a difficult job so we strive to support their efforts to be fair and safe in all situations they encounter.

We believe police forces should be demilitarized and held accountable for the improper use of deadly force and call for more training in the use of tasers, which are considered non-lethal but have caused deaths. **As part of the demilitarization of police, we oppose the sale of surplus military equipment to police departments such as the Pentagon 1033 program.**

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We support laws that would require a more public and open process for investigation into incidents of assault and deaths involving police officers, to assure accountability in instances where there is unnecessary force used by law enforcement.

**We call for the required use of police body and dashboard cameras during all interactions with the public.**

**We support the end of qualified immunity for police officers.**

We support efforts to improve community-to-police relations by exploring strategies to provide citizen oversight and review of situations where human and civil rights, and civil liberties concerns arise regarding police practices.

We call for immediate and comprehensive action to end the disproportionately high imprisonment of young African American, Latino and Native Americans, and to reduce the incarceration rate of the United States which is the highest in the world.

We support criminal justice policies and programs that prioritize restorative justice and rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational training, over punitive measures. **To this effect, we believe it is appropriate to consider diverting funds away from police budgets towards more productive and preventative measures.**

**We call for the expanded use of diversion and treatment rather than jail for those suffering from mental health and addiction conditions and who have committed nonviolent crimes.**

We want prisons out of the private sector. There should be no opportunity for profiteering in our criminal justice system.

**We call for the repeal of civil asset forfeiture laws which allow agencies such as the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force to seize and sell at auction personal property without conviction of any crime.**

We believe that all **formerly incarcerated persons** should be provided with the opportunity to re-enter our community and to become productive members of society, including reinstating their voting rights.

We oppose capital punishment for any reason.

We support the students throughout the nation who have marched for their lives and called for effective gun safety policies including universal comprehensive background checks, an effective database system, a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and funding for public research on gun violence. We support the adoption of additional gun safety policies that research shows will improve public safety. We further call for prohibiting domestic abusers from obtaining firearms.

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We acknowledge the racist history of gun control legislation and the inequality of implementation of criminal law in respect to marginalized peoples, including Indigenous, African American, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQ+, Disabled and Houseless people. We demand that further policy decisions regarding criminal law and its implementation center the voices of those communities who have suffered the most from police related gun violence.

We support the reinstatement of parole and early release for non-violent drug and property crimes.

**We call for the elimination of solitary confinement in all correctional facilities.**

**We call for the decriminalization of personal non-commercial possession of a controlled substance and establishing a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state's marijuana tax revenue and state prison savings. We oppose any effort to re-criminalize possession of any drug.**

**We recognize cash bail as economically unjust, with a disproportionately negative impact on people of color, leaving those who can't come up with the money in jail for weeks or longer or even accepting plea deals as a way to get out. Therefore, we demand an end to the cash bail system.**

## **POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL REFORM**

*Our society today is experiencing a crisis of confidence in our governmental institutions, and even in our ability to govern ourselves. The influence wielded today by individuals and corporations with great wealth and power have undermined the health of our economy and threaten our democracy.*

*We must remember that our government derives its legitimacy solely from the people and must answer to them. Government is the people's instrument to achieve collectively what we cannot achieve individually. We are committed to a democracy that encourages maximum active participation and a voting process that is fair,*

*transparent, verifiable, open to all citizens, and that restores our confidence in government.*

We demand that our three branches of government obey and actively enforce the Constitution of the United States, which they swore to uphold.

We support overturning Citizens United which allows unlimited sums of money to be funneled into electoral politics, thereby decreasing public confidence in our political system by causing politicians to represent corporate interests over those of the

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people. We oppose the Supreme Court's decision that corporations are persons and money equates to speech.

We support legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions. We oppose any legislation that would offer new avenues for unaccountable money to enter the political system.

We support public funding of elections to promote a more accessible and even playing field where all Americans can powerfully participate.

We support elimination of all forms of voter suppression and believe that government has a responsibility to make voting trouble-free.

**We support the use of ranked choice voting in local, state, and federal elections in order to ensure that elections are fair for all voters.**

We support all efforts to increase voter participation and confidence in our electoral system, and significant changes in the structures and processes of electing our representatives.

We oppose all attempts to suppress the right of any person to engage in active, lawful, political participation at any stage in the process, from supporting any candidate or issue of their choice, through threats either economic or physical.

We support a nationwide system of verifying votes such as paper ballots.

We support proactive and creative regulation of social media platforms aimed at the protection of the integrity of our society's free exchange of information and ideas. We oppose undermining, infiltration, or manipulation of our shared web commons, and call for committed action by strategic actors to protect against technological interference in our democracy by destabilizing forces, foreign and domestic.

**We call on all candidates to agree to take no corporate pac or lobbyist money, or any contributions from the following types of companies: fossil fuel, drug, insurance, weapons manufacturers, big tech, big banks, private equity firms, hedge funds, and development and real estate corporations,**



**and a contribution limit of \$200 dollars from any officer or executive who works for these companies.**

**We support elimination of all forms of voter suppression, including gerrymandering, and believe that government has a responsibility to make voting trouble-free and open to all eligible voters.**

**Given the unprecedented and dangerous level of political division in our nation currently, we will formally, and, as a group, undertake concrete and**

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**real actions to affirmatively reach out to other Americans, especially those of traditionally opposing parties and groups that may think differently than us. We deem this essential to reclaiming a safe space where all Americans can be free to discuss and dissent without risk of political, or actual harm, or ridicule. We expect our leaders in government to do the same and demonstrate the same principle.**

## **ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR**

*All workers, at home and abroad, must have the right to organize and collectively negotiate their pay, benefits, organizational structure and working conditions. Organized labor is essential to the social, economic, and political health of our democracy. We believe that the monumental income and wealth gap harms the well-being of our country and has led to widespread cynicism, anger, poverty, and social instability.*

We support policies to redress growing income and wealth inequality in our country, and ending policies that subsidize the rich at the expense of the poor and middle class and those that criminalize poverty and human survival.

**We call for reform of Washington State's regressive tax structure, in particular the establishment of progressive taxes on income (including capital gains) and wealth. Such reforms will more fairly distribute the tax burden among Washington residents, raise revenue for public services, and address the issue of income and wealth inequality.**

We support public policies that encourage ecologically and environmentally responsible job growth within the United States. **We reject the false dichotomy between environmental and labor concerns, and encourage open communication and cooperation between all concerned caucuses and organizations.**

**We demand that Washington State legislators move to "Ban The Box" and remove screening for all criminal records in regards to employment not involving working directly with children or vulnerable adults. To further**

**assist while laws are in process, we call on the states unions to “Ban The Box”, or create “Second Chance” incentives within their union contracts to increase hiring of formerly incarcerated persons to 15% or more of their new hires. We recognise and believe in the power of union jobs to change lives for the better, and that union strength provides workers with the tools, financial and otherwise, to reduce or eliminate recidivism.(see addendum to this plank)<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/060917-trone-reportweb\\_0.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/060917-trone-reportweb_0.pdf) 17

We oppose outsourcing and offshoring of jobs and “free-trade” agreements that do not protect consumers and workers.

We oppose laws, regulations, and exemptions that permit corporations and banks to avoid paying their fair share of taxes by such means as offshore tax havens and inversions.

**We call for the cessation of all tax breaks and government subsidies to market rate development.**

**We demand assistance and training for all workers displaced by societal change, e.g. automation, age, plant or industry closure, climate crisis, and other changes that we cannot foresee.**

We support the right of all workers to unionize and bargain collectively, including the right to strike, **(including wildcat strikes), and to whistle blow**, without fear of intimidation or retaliation. Workers may pursue their right to collectively and democratically organize their places and agencies of employment. We unequivocally oppose so-called “Right-to-Work” laws.

We support the right of all workers to just cause termination, not just those with union contracts.

**We support the right of all workers to a predictable schedule. Workers should be able to plan their appointments, vacations, or social time without fear of sudden changes by their employer.**

**We support the right of all workers to a safe and healthy workplace. Employers should be required to provide all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and follow recommendations of local health officials, such as limiting building occupancy. We demand that workers have a say in safety practices and decisions, including PPE equipment supplies, the policies on use of PPE during emergencies, disasters, and pandemics.**

**We oppose any efforts to reduce benefits or revoke pensions of all workers, public and private, as well as all retirees.**

We support the expansion and full funding of legislation that provides oversight and a stringent regulation of financial institutions in order to prevent and to hold accountable those who will profit from future economic collapses such as the devastating recession of 2008.

We believe that public investment in the repair and expansion of our nation's infrastructure, **such as a Green New Deal**, will create high-paying jobs; support a skilled workforce for the future; help restore the middle class and is needed for the well-being of our nation. **We demand that these jobs be union jobs.**

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**Furthermore, we support the use of building trade apprentices in the awarding of bids for publicly funded construction projects.**

**We support the creation of a modern Works Progress Administration to renew public investment in education, technology, essential healthcare infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and sustainability.**

**Furthermore, to invest in opening medical clinics and hospitals in rural and underserved areas; and to modernize public buildings such as schools, post offices, government building, and libraries.**

We demand that all workers, **including farm workers, and workers with disabilities**, be paid a living wage that is adjusted annually following the MIT living wage calculation method. **We furthermore oppose the use of "tip credits," which allow employers to count tips towards their minimum wage. We support protection for workers in the gig economy to be considered as employees. Furthermore, we demand hazard pay for front line workers and first responders during pandemics and other public safety emergencies.**

We call for raising the national minimum wage to \$15/hr, and that Thurston County and WA State adopt a living wage model adjusted annually following the MIT living wage calculation method.

We support paid family leave and affordable childcare for all, which promote a higher quality of life for our families.

We support equal pay for work of equal value.

We support the restoration of and adherence to automatic Cost of Living Adjustments (C.O.L.A.) for retired public employees.

**We call for the creation of a publicly-owned State Bank similar to that in North Dakota. A public bank would allow the public to control the flow of state investment through their elected representatives, as well as generate investment opportunities, such as affordable housing, and eliminate profit-taking by private banks.**

**We support preserving and strengthening the U.S. Postal Services, including banking services.**

**Thurston County Democrats recognize that access to the internet has become an essential need. We call for the government-mandated expansion of broadband internet for rural and underserved populations, including free access for our houseless population.**

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**We recognize the rights of sex workers to pursue their businesses free from legal persecution. We call for decriminalization of consensual sex work and the release of all who are incarcerated for sex work.**

## **AGRICULTURE**

**There has been a rapid decline of farmland across our County, State, and Nation, which has eroded the rural economy and contributed to food insecurity.**

**Thurston County has lost approximately 75% of our farmland since the 1950s. The loss of farmland also significantly represents diminished small businesses' revenue along with stifling the economic growth, which is associated with agricultural production and processing. The loss of the farmland represents the inversion of the agricultural industry from local producers to importing agricultural products from outside of our County and bio-region. The food security issues we are facing today are rooted in the loss of local farmland along with the associated processing of locally produced goods. In addition, we need to provide access to locally produced and processed goods through the expansion of publicly funded farmer's markets.**

**We support rural zoning that protects historically significant farmland. The adoption of impact fees on farmland conversion to other development would reduce farmland loss while providing revenue to invest in local farmland and environmental conservation.**

**We support the transition away from carbon-intensive animal agriculture and monoculture. Investing in biodynamic and trans-disciplinary farming practices will increase the health and resilience of our local environment.**

**We support a moratorium on new concentrated animal feeding operations. This type of commercial farming not only has an impact on the environment but also impacts public health.**

**We demand low-carbon diversified and humanely raised foods. To combat the climate change emergency, we need to invest in farming practices that reduce the carbon footprint of local farms. In addition, the expansion of humanely raised food will offset the environmental impacts of commercial farming.**

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**We support fair prices and access to land and credit for Black Indigenous, and immigrant producers of color. Currently, legacy farmers are aging out of their farms, which is contributing to the reduction of farmland. New farmers will reduce farmland loss while adding to the local economy.**

**We support a National Right to Repair law. Farmers have the right to repair their equipment and machinery without the fear of international corporations punishing them for being resourceful.**

**We support farmers in the reduction of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and the immediate BAN of harmful chemicals such as chlorpyrifos, neonicotinoids, glyphosate, and dicamba. Science shows that these chemicals not only damage human health but are also very hard to clean up and can stay in the environment for many years.**

**We support food waste reduction programs. Food waste recovery programs can help with our local food banks while reducing the environmental impact of local markets.**

**We demand an end to the exploitation of incarcerated people for food production and of the privatization of meat inspection. Prison labor is legal slavery, which must cease immediately. The USDA has created a monopoly on meat inspection, which disenfranchises local small farmers. We support the creation of a state meat inspection program that is licensed by the WSDA.**

**We support public investment into local farmer's markets and regional agritourism. There is an opportunity for the people to benefit from the expansion of local markets. We support the creation of a Public Development Authority to create an annually operated regional farmer's**

market.

We support the legal cannabis industry, including hemp production for commercial and industrial uses. The legalization of recreational cannabis was passed by an overwhelming majority of state voters in 2012. Hemp production and processing were legalized nationally by the passage of the 2018 US Farm Bill. Currently, there are cannabis farms and processors that operate in the county that improve the local economy. We encourage land-use zoning and regulation that improves consumer safety and adequate access to licensed retailers.

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We support local, sustainable food production as we aim to reduce harmful chemical contamination of our food supply, protect soil health, sequester carbon, reduce adverse climate impacts, and promote diversified rural economies.

**END PLATFORM**

**Addendum**

### Economic Justice & Labor

We affirm that the right to fairness in labor and industry are paramount to ending employment disparities and closing the gaps in income inequality. This is particularly important to social and economic justice in regards to our criminal justice system, which is inherently racist and disproportionately affects BIPOC and other marginalized persons in our county.

Today, 70 million Americans—one in three adults—have a criminal record. This is the result of nearly five decades of punitive criminal justice policies that fed mass incarceration. While 2.3 million people are imprisoned in the United States, 95 percent of people in state prisons will re-enter our communities at some point. More than 640,000 people are released from prisons each year. Because of the stigma associated with a criminal record, nearly 75 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals are still unemployed a year after release. Some government policies— like making these individuals ineligible for professional licenses in cosmetology or roofing work—create significant obstacles to employment. A lack of stable employment increases the likelihood that an individual will return to jail or prison; research has found that joblessness is the single most important predictor of recidivism. The impact on black and Latino communities has

**been particularly destructive. Pervasive racial disparities in the criminal justice system exacerbate bias in the employment arena. For African Americans, the adverse effect of a criminal record on getting a job interview is 40 percent greater than for whites with similar histories. The consequences of unemployment for this population can be ruinous. At the national level, economists estimate that the gross national product is reduced between \$78 and \$87 billion dollars as a result of excluding formerly incarcerated job seekers from the workforce.**

**We demand that Washington State legislators move to “Ban The Box” and remove screening for all criminal records in regards to employment not involving working directly with children or vulnerable adults. To further**

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**assist while laws are in process, we call on the states unions to “Ban The Box”, or create “Second Chance” incentives within their union contracts to increase hiring of former incarcerated persons to 15% or more of their new hires. We recognise and believe in the power of union jobs to change lives for the better, and that union strength provides workers with the tools financial and otherwise to reduce or eliminate recidivism.**

**Research by economists confirms that hiring people with records is simply smart business. Retention rates are higher, turnover is lower, and employees with criminal records are more loyal. Given the costs associated with turnover and recruitment, researchers have found that “employees with a criminal background are in fact a better pool for employers”. We urge Washington State Unions to lead this charge for social and economic justice.**

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