

2024 Platform of the Uinta County Democratic Party

This platform has been developed around three principles that Uinta County Democrats believe offer the most important guidance for public policy and legislation:

Opportunity / Sustainability / Integrity

Recognizing the ease with which lofty concepts can be agreed upon but set aside when it comes time to translate the abstract into the practical, we provide limited elaboration of each of these concepts as guidance to ourselves and our candidates, officers, and elected officials.

OPPORTUNITY

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats are committed to equal opportunity across our society. We believe public policy should foster an economic, social, and institutional environment in which all individuals have the opportunity to pursue life, liberty, and happiness to the full extent of their abilities.

HEALTH CARE

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Universal access to health care as a basic human right.
- VA and ADA comprehensive medical and psychiatric care for veterans.
- The legalization and use of medical marijuana under the supervision of a licensed medical professional with prescriptive authority.
- Family planning and sex education programs, including a woman's right to choose.
- Protecting and preserving Medicare and the continuation and expansion of Medicaid in Wyoming.
- Legislation and a process that will lead to a single payer healthcare system and/or improvements to the Affordable Care Act.
- A fully funded 988 suicide prevention call line.
- Expanding legal recognition of the medical needs of the transgender population.

EDUCATION

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Development of every student's ability through a system of state supported and locally controlled pre-K through college public education, based upon excellence and accountability.
- Affordable and accessible community college, university, vocational and adult education programs.
- Student testing that provides meaningful and timely information to students, teachers, and parents.
- A well-rounded education including the arts, music, theater, physical education, life skills, civics, history (including labor history), STEAM/STEM (Science, Technology, English, Arts, Mathematics) for K through 12.
- Equitable distribution of public and district funds to all educational, arts, sports, and extra-curricular programs within public schools.
- Safe schools for all students and school personnel including enforcement of comprehensive anti-bullying and tolerance programs to further the acceptance of diversity.
- Common Core as minimum education requirements.
- The reinstatement of state funding for the Family Literacy program.
- Public money to be distributed to public schools only.
- We oppose the indiscriminate banning of books in public schools and public libraries.

JOBS / EMPLOYMENT

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- The increase of a state minimum wage to \$15.00/hour, with a tipped minimum wage of \$7.50/hour.
- Legislation that would allow tipped employees to receive a non-tipped minimum wage for awarded/earned sick pay and vacation pay.
- Equal pay for equal work and the elimination of the institutionalized disparities between men and women in the workplace.
- Safe workplaces, for all workers.
- A non-adversarial workers' compensation program that fairly compensates injured workers.
- The right to collective bargaining and the repeal of the "right to work" law.
- Incentives for domestic job creation and retention, including job training and education and State and Federal funding for the retraining of displaced workers.
- Paid parental leave of six (6) weeks.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Providing high-quality social services to Wyoming citizens.
- Affordable, licensed childcare services for Wyoming families.
- Programs to prevent and address domestic violence and sexual assault including shelters and support services.
- Required domestic assault training for law enforcement, mental health professionals, and legal personnel and the Establishment of Sexual Assault Response Teams.
- Programs such as S.N.A.P. (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and Food Banks that serve the homeless and disadvantaged.
- Halfway homes and alternative long-term care facilities for the mentally ill.
- Support training for law enforcement to be able to recognize a mental health crisis in order to respond with appropriate actions.

IMMIGRATION

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Comprehensive immigration reform including a path to citizenship.
- Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats oppose private prisons and Immigration and Customs Enforcements (ICE) detention and deportation centers in Wyoming.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our goal is to create stable social, cultural, economic, and physical environments for ourselves and our descendants in the long term. We seek to establish peace, freedom and community that will nurture and ensure our quality of life. We recognize that human well-being is dependent upon the well-being of the Earth.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- The celebration and protection of our remarkable natural resources and our diverse cultures and communities.
- Maintaining our State and National Parks and National Monuments at the highest quality to ensure the enjoyment of present and future generations. Maintenance and park concessioners should be U.S. entities.

ECONOMY & TAXES

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- A system of taxation that is progressive, equitable and that sustains a strong economy and nation.
- Removing the cap on wage income for contributing to social security.
- Efforts to responsibly diversify our economy, allowing Wyoming to modulate the pace of development, stabilize the workforce, encourage community development, and mitigate environmental and social impacts.
- Tightening restrictions on predatory lending practices and usurious interest rates.
- The effective regulation of financial institutions and reviving the separation between commercial banking and the securities business.

AGRICULTURE

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Family-owned ranches and farms and commend policies which recognize surface property rights in energy-development decisions.
- The private property right of landowners to enter into conservation easements to preserve their lands and historic structures for future generations.
- The Humane Society's mission regarding the treatment of all animals.

ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ENERGY

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- Strong and even-handed enforcement of land, air and water quality regulations and adequate funding of our Department of Environmental Quality.
- All efforts to combat climate change, including new technologies for using Wyoming's mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner, energy efficiency, and alternative and renewable energy sources.
- The protection of Wyoming's wildlife, biological diversity and natural resources and maintenance of public access to public lands in ways that preserve the integrity of those lands.
- The recycling of all reusable materials.
- Educational programs on recycling for business and local institutions.
- The preservation and protection of Wyoming waters and water rights and oppose the trans-basin diversion of Wyoming water to other states.
- Regulatory control of "fracking" in order to ensure the safety of our water supply in the production of gas and oil.
- Development of sustainable and energy efficient transportation.
- Granting incentives to companies that bring alternative and renewable energy sources to the State of Wyoming.

INTEGRITY

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats recognize the basic integrity of constitutional government and public policy at all levels as the foundation upon which our society is built. All participants should be confident that the fundamental processes of election, appointment, legislation, administration, and enforcement are sound and faithfully adhered to.

GOVERNMENT

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- The non-partisan election of elected county and municipal offices.
- The creation of district boundaries for the purpose of better representation of County Commissioners.
- The reversal of the *Citizens United* case.
- Voting rights for all eligible citizens.
- Full reporting of campaign contributions prior to elections and full disclosure of financial interests from lobbyists, corporations, and others.
- Support public financing of political campaigns.
- Accountable and transparent government which provides paper or electronic records for all public deliberations and decisions at all levels of government.
- Government support of substance abuse prevention programs, substance abuse treatment, drug courts, and restorative justice.
- Separation of the juvenile and adult justice systems to better serve the needs of children and families, and the establishment of children's law statutes.
- Legislation to designate hate crimes.
- Accountability in the collection of income from state or federal lands and public notice for sales, swaps or leasing of public lands.
- The maintenance of current transportation corridors and development of alternative transportation including passenger railway.
- Proper funding for the CDC to study gun violence.
- Keeping public lands in public hands.
- The immediate closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention center.
- A constitutional amendment that limits all nationally elected offices to two terms.
- The continued federal funding of the United States Postal Service.
- Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats oppose the privatization of public services, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, prisons, detention centers, Veteran's Administration, and the military.
- Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats believe that the fundamental responsibility of government at all levels is to put the public interest first.
- Protection of the sovereignty of Native American lands.

Approved at the County Convention on April 13, 2024

FOREIGN POLICY

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- A foreign policy that reflects and promotes the principles of freedom, human rights, and compassion without the use of force.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats oppose:

- Discrimination based on gender, language, national origin or ethnicity, religion or non-religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, religious or political beliefs.
- Government interference in our private lives.

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats support:

- We support civil marriage for all, a woman's right to choose, death with dignity, a person's ownership of their genetic profile and the right to privacy.
- The right of citizens to own firearms and also support the prohibition of firearms in government buildings, schools, and private businesses. We do not support guns in schools.
- Mental health and legal background checks for all gun purchases and restricting gun purchases by those with documented mental health issues or violent criminal offenses including domestic violence.
- The elimination of all purchases of all firearms that do not include comprehensive background checks.
- The process to outlaw firearms that cannot be positively identified with an official serial number.
- Law enforcement firearms buyback programs.
- The right of habeas corpus and oppose the use of torture or inhumane treatment, including waterboarding, for all those held or detained by the government.
- The right to trial by jury and access to the civil justice system and oppose any effort to arbitrarily limit a jury's ability to award fair compensation.
- An amendment to the United States Constitution that will abolish the Electoral College and base Presidential elections on the national popular vote.

COMMENDATIONS

Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats recognize our military personnel, their families and all those whose sacrifices help secure the integrity, opportunity, and sustainability of these United States. We are grateful for their dedication and pledge ourselves to vigilance that their lives are not jeopardized needlessly.

- Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats recognize and commend our peace officers, firefighters, emergency responders and all deemed essential personnel for their outstanding work and service to our communities.
- Uinta County, Wyoming Democrats recognize and commend all those who provide public service to our communities in volunteer and elected positions.