

# DRAFT

## Arizona Democratic Party Platform Arizona Democrats: Our Vision for Tomorrow

**We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

*The United States Constitution Preamble*

### We the People...

The Arizona Democratic Party believes that government is an essential institution that plays a positive role in protecting individual liberties, facilitating economic development, ensuring equality of opportunity, and helping to meet the basic needs of vulnerable individuals and families.

We are committed to make government at all levels more responsive, more accountable, more transparent, and more cost effective while upholding the rights and responsibilities set forth in *The U.S. Constitution*, its Amendments, the “Bill of Rights,” and *The Arizona Constitution*.

Grounded in those historical rights and responsibilities, the Arizona Democratic Party Platform is a statement of the Party’s vision for the future of Arizona. The achievement of turning the Party’s vision into Arizona’s future is predicated on economic security, for it is through economic security that the promises of the *Constitutions* can become the reality for every Arizonan.

### ...a more perfect Union...

**Responsibility:** Arizona Democrats believe that responsibility requires a commitment from each one of us to exercise our best personal and collective judgment in making choices and taking action. We as individuals and as a society share a responsibility in aiding and supporting our neighbors, both in good times and in bad. Arizona Democrats believe that we are indeed our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.

Responsible citizens deserve a responsible government comprised of public servants who ethically serve everyone with integrity, competence, and transparency. As Arizona Democrats, we hold our government accountable for transparency with open meetings and negotiations, clear financial records, fair elections, and accurate vote counting. **To be able to serve with the utmost**

transparency, we believe that openness and commitment to disclosure must start with political campaigns. Funding loopholes and dodges must be closed to prevent elections based solely on money talking rather than candidates.

**Education:** A well-educated citizenry is the foundation of democracy and critical to the state's economic security. Our children and young adults are among our greatest resources. As Arizona Democrats, we serve as stewards to invest in their education, from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary opportunities, and to provide equal access to quality public education at all levels.

We believe in accountability in education: that government retains its obligation to properly fund our public education, and that public schools and universities in their turn must be held accountable for results.

Arizona Democrats strongly support our children by supporting access to vital pre- and post-natal care, quality preschool programs, comprehensive and rigorous public schools, and after-school programs to help our children learn and grow into responsible citizens.

**Diversity:** We acknowledge that in the fabric of our society, diversity allows us to weave together many distinctive, discrete threads to create a more vivid and strong material that represents who we are as a society. That includes affirming the inherent right of Arizona tribes to self-government as well as the unique government-to-government relationship they share with the United States.

### ...establish Justice...

**Equality:** Justice represents the balance between one person's freedom and another's rights. Justice requires that the laws apply to all equally and without discrimination, which is the essence of the rule of law. Arizona Democrats insist upon enforcement of equal protection under the law and support prosecution of illegal acts.

**Equal Opportunity:** We believe that equal opportunity in business, employment, education, and housing must exist for all. *Arizona Democrats condemn intolerance and unfairness in our personal and professional lives.* Equal opportunity creates competition, and we celebrate the higher level of achievement available to all when opportunities are equal.

**Privacy:** If justice balances freedom and rights, justice also protects the principle that the rights of one do not extend into the privacy of others. We believe that the right of privacy includes the right of individuals to have dominion over their own bodies, including decisions regarding reproduction, medical treatments, and end-of-life issues.

**Civil Rights:** As Arizona Democrats, we believe that justice and adherence to law are not pliable concepts but indisputable rights. An individual's civil and voting rights enjoy well-established protection under the laws of our state and nation. People should have the ability to pursue justice without fear or repercussion because of religion, race, age, cultural or ethnic heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, political party, income level, or social status.

### ...insure domestic Tranquility...

**Economic Security:** As a community, we have a vital interest in growing a strong, viable economy for the betterment of individuals, families, and businesses. We recognize that security and prosperity come from a stability and predictability that empower investment in growth and innovation, and provide quality working and workplace conditions.

**Workers:** We support the right of workers to a safe and secure workplace and to be compensated with a fair, living wage. All workers should be able to negotiate with their employers in collective bargaining to create greater security, which in turn creates greater productivity.

**Health Care:** In an economically secure community, more people can afford health care, housing, advanced education, and more. This produces healthier people who bolster a healthier economy. A healthy Arizona benefits us all and strengthens our economy. For this reason, affordable and available health care for all is paramount to Arizona's security.

### ...provide for the common defence...

**Community Security:** Community connotes a sense of belonging, a sense of shared values. Within a community, peace and security are the highest ideals we can support and protect, and that includes within one's own home. Just as we have a right to privacy, we should enjoy a right to peace and to freedom from strife. At the same time, we value the courage and strength to defend our community.

**Homeland Security:** While understanding that our security requires the establishment and enforcement of boundaries, we support preserving the historical openness of our society. Arizona Democrats urge our federal government to commit adequate resources to homeland security and to develop comprehensive immigration reform that reflects humane practices and fairness to families while

valuing the economic and cultural contributions immigrants have made and will continue to make to our communities.

**Service Members:** Every service member and veteran is a hero who deserves our respect and gratitude. Recognizing that psychological, social, and economic issues impact veterans in ways that are different and often more adverse and severe than for non-veterans, we work to combat homelessness, unemployment, and underemployment among veterans and to improve service members' transition from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### ...promote the general Welfare...

**Stewardship:** The general welfare of Arizonans is promoted through stewardship of the resources entrusted to us: human resources, education, and the environment. Arizona Democrats will remain vigilant in protecting our resources to benefit current and coming generations. **This includes recognition that the intertwining of these resources and others creates the infrastructure of our communities and state, a frame for the future that cannot remain in the past. We acknowledge and support ensuring that our infrastructure – from public services to power supplies to transportation to education and more – is a vital component of promoting our general welfare.**

**Environment:** We face an urgent need to make smart changes in the ways we develop land, use water, and generate and consume energy. We are committed to making responsible decisions, using sustainable practices to protect our dwindling natural resources, and to promote the health of Arizonans with improved air and water quality.

### ...to ourselves and our Posterity...

**Arizona Democratic Party:** We believe in the purposes and promises set forth in *The United States Constitution*. We care about all individuals; we care about opportunities for people and business alike; and we care about leaving our state and our world a better place for those generations who will follow. We will protect the freedom guaranteed by the *Constitution*. We are Arizona Democrats.

**Catalyst:** The ideals and values articulated within this Platform should serve as a catalyst for conversations among citizens of all ages and political persuasions, knowing that this blend of beliefs will lead to purposeful action to further the fight for every Arizonan to “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

The Arizona Democratic Party has selected three areas of focus for purposeful action: a strong economy, safe streets, and better schools.