

# Policy Platform of the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Seattle, Washington

*Adopted by the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats at their Presidential Nomination Convention, April 28, 2012;  
amended at the regular Membership Meeting, July 18, 2012.*

The 36th District Democrats adopt this platform to identify the values, attitudes and beliefs that unite us in striving for a prosperous and humane society. **Our platform provides a firm foundation upon which to make endorsement decisions regarding ballot initiatives and candidates.**

## **I. Corporate Reform**

1. We call for the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution to end the treatment of corporations as if they were human beings.
2. We support revocation of the charters of corporations that repeatedly violate the law, with a public right to call for such action, and prohibition of public contracts with habitual corporate law-breakers.

## **II. Education** *“It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children.”* Washington State Constitution (1889)

1. We call for full state funding of K-12 education, and for state funding of early learning.
2. We support access to higher education for all through adequate state funding, including financial aid and work study programs.
3. We oppose privatization of public education such as vouchers and charter schools.

## **III. Environment and Energy**

1. We support actions to conserve natural resources and promote transparency in decision making affecting the quality of the environment.
2. We support transition away from reliance on carbon sources of energy, such as coal incineration and exports and biomass, and toward sustainable energy, such as a tax on carbon, investment in research, development, and job creation; and green technology, such as solar, wind, and geothermal energy.

## **IV. Healthcare**

1. We support a universal, publicly funded, single-payer, not-for-profit, comprehensive health insurance system, including access to reproductive services, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services.
2. We oppose efforts to roll back the incremental improvements that have been achieved through the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

## **V. Election Reform**

1. We support universal suffrage, and public access to and transparency of the electoral process.
2. We support public financing of the entire electoral process, including campaigns, and oppose unlimited and non-transparent expenditures in campaigns.

## **VI. Foreign Policy**

1. We support transition away from a global empire mentality, such as excessive military expenditures and foreign interventions. The United States should be a global leader in the art and science of non-violent resolution of disputes, such as through the United Nations and the International Court of Justice.

2. We hold our active duty and reserve military personnel and veterans in the highest regard. We believe that honoring their service includes access to an effective Veterans Administration so that they, and their families, receive all that this nation has promised them, including treatment for PTSD.

## **VII. Human and Civil Rights**

1. We support affirmative action to eliminate unjust discrimination in employment, housing, and other opportunities.
2. We support marriage equality for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. We support the Constitutional right to privacy and freedom from government and corporate intrusion into people's personal lives.
4. We oppose attempts to deny civil rights by executive order, budget (riders), initiative, or Constitutional amendment.
5. We oppose denial of civil rights based on immigration status.

## **VIII. Human Services**

1. We support a publicly funded social safety net, such as housing & shelter, food, and health care, for those who cannot provide for themselves.
2. We support progressive taxation to pay for retirement and disability insurance, such as Social Security and Medicare, and oppose any privatization of public programs; defined benefit pensions should receive first priority in corporate bankruptcy.

## **IX. Labor and Economic Justice**

1. We support broad rights of workers to organize, including in the public sector.
2. We support a progressive taxation structure, such as taxing the wealthy at significantly higher rates.
3. We support a minimum wage at living wage levels.
4. We support better regulation of the financial and banking system, such as the derivatives market and predatory lending, and the establishment of a Washington State owned bank.

## **X. Constitutional Law**

1. We support strict separation of church and state.
2. We support strict control over the ownership and use of firearms and other weapons.

## **XI. Local Issues**

1. We support improving the democratic governance of the City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and King County.
2. We support land use and other policies by the City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and King County, to conserve the Ballard Interbay Northend Maritime & Industrial Center (BINMIC).

## **XII. Transportation**

1. We support investment in public transportation to provide robust service and infrastructure and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, using taxes that are fair and effective.