



State Platform

As adopted at the 2008 State Party Convention

May 24th, 2008 Jackson Wyoming

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ECONOMIC & REVENUE SUSTAINABILITY

Governor Ed Hershler coined the phrase, "Growth on Our Terms."

- We believe in creating industries in addition to mineral extraction to provide sustainable and diverse revenue generation for a healthy Wyoming economy.
- We believe in the systematic replacement and repair of our nation's infrastructure.
- We support cost effective and fuel-efficient modes of transporting people and freight.
- We encourage a study of the feasibility of alternative crops.
- We support small-business economic development in the State of Wyoming.
- We believe that financial incentives/tax breaks that are given to corporate business should also be offered to small businesses.
- We believe that a healthy Wyoming economy cannot be developed without a coordinated partnership between the public and private sectors.
- We encourage the retention of the national Davis-Bacon Act and the effective enforcement of both Wyoming's prevailing wage laws and Davis-Bacon Act.
- We oppose privatization of public services.
- We support legislation that will provide sufficient increases in revenue to allow the state, cities, counties and school districts to provide the services required by Wyoming citizens.
- We support property tax reform.
- We believe the Federal and State governments should take measures to prevent the "outsourcing" of American jobs.
- We oppose the excessive outsourcing of technological expertise and services by the state government and agencies to vendors and contractors based outside the borders of Wyoming.
- We support the working people of this country by encouraging the use of products made in America.
- We support the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- We support eliminating tax breaks to the minerals industry at the expense of Wyoming's citizens and small businesses.
- We support a portion of the interest from the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund being used in creating economic development programs within Wyoming.
- We support establishing a 1% severance tax to provide a State Trust Fund to guarantee state health insurance, to create medical and dental liability funding pools, to train medical personnel, to establish health clinic access in Wyoming communities and to build infrastructure, including highways and schools.
- We call for an expanded visa system that allows foreign workers to participate in our economy legally and with dignity.
- We oppose the sale of Federal lands to raise revenue.

- ☑ We support federally subsidized, statewide expansion of public rail and bus transportation within existing transportation corridors in Wyoming.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We believe family, school, community, and state share responsibility for providing a high quality public education in a productive and safe working and learning environment.

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe the “No Child Left Behind” Act should be repealed.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats oppose providing public funds for private education.
- ☑ We believe free public education from early childhood through post secondary is a necessity for an informed and responsible citizenry.
- ☑ We support equitable public school and community college financing, and improved teacher salaries, to raise the quality of education.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support rigorous certification standards for teachers, administrators, and specialists that will promote quality competent instruction for all students.
- ☑ We support high quality humanities and technological training in K-12 schools, community colleges, trade schools and the University of Wyoming.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support equal access to no cost or low cost childcare and out of school time programs for all Wyoming children and youth from birth through grade 12.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support comprehensive sex education that goes beyond “Abstinence Only.”
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the adoption of an aggressive plan to end bullying in public schools and endorse an anti-bullying campaign to address present-day dangers to children that arise within social networks while attending the public school system to ensure the safety of all children.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe in accountability for high academic achievement for all students as measured by growth based measurements as opposed to static standardized models.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Wyoming Democrats support sound scientific research and will stand up and fight for environmental responsibility at the local, state, national and global levels.

PROTECTING OUR BIRTHRIGHT

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats value the importance of our clean air, land and water, open spaces, abundant wildlife and world-class wilderness. The recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, camping and hiking, offered by our public and private lands are a resource of utmost value. We insist upon the conservation and protection of these resources in order to maintain our citizens’ quality of life as well as a sustainable economy.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats deplore the censuring of science for political gain and the systematic gutting of federal environmental regulations and laws by the Bush Administration.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the creation of statewide recycling and waste reduction programs.

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support strict and even-handed enforcement of Wyoming's air, water and land quality laws.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support Smart Growth including and not limited to urban infill and redevelopment, densification of urban areas, and usage of sustainable materials and methods in public and private projects, as opposed to rural sprawl.

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support sound scientific research and believe that our country must address climate change by working with others at local, state, national and global levels to reduce greenhouse gases.
- ☑ We call for development of alternative, renewable energy resources, including solar and wind power, through federal and state incentives.
- ☑ We insist that government policy work to increase energy-use efficiency throughout our economy, including raising the fuel efficiency of the nation's vehicles.

BALANCING ENERGY NEEDS

- ☑ Wyoming Democrat recognize that certain wildlife habitats, migration corridors, and places – such as Adobe Town, the Wyoming Range and the Jack Morrow Hills – are too important to sacrifice to industrial use or energy development
- ☑ We support measures limiting the negative effects of mineral extraction on our ecosystem, including incentives and penalties to encourage industries' cooperation.
- ☑ We support surface owner (split estate) protections for mineral development on private property.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats encourage the innovative use of Wyoming coal and support development of clean coal technology projects.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support protection of the Snake River headwaters under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support increased funding for the Wildlife Trust Fund.

HEALTH CARE ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

Preventive care and education should be the foundation of any health care system.

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support public funding of a universal health care system, including mental health, and substance abuse treatment from birth to the end of life recognizing it as a basic human right.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support reproductive choice as the right of each individual woman.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the medical use of marijuana when prescribed and supervised by a licensed physician.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support efficient state funding for comprehensive public health education.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support comprehensive mental health care for America's veterans.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support funding for stem cell research.

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support passage of a statewide ban on smoking in all indoor public places.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the true and vigorous enforcement of the United States Constitution's Bill of Rights and the Wyoming Constitution's Declaration of Rights.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the immediate restoration of the Writ of Habeas Corpus as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe the Patriot Act violates the United States and Wyoming Constitutions and should be immediately repealed.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support effective and humane alternatives to the alarming rise in incarceration rates as well as the lack of rehabilitation and treatment. We oppose the privatization of prisons.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support ensuring that all citizens have the right to privacy in their intimate lives, including a woman's right of reproductive choice and the right of individuals to marry the partner of their choice.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the right of all families to be free from family violence and abuse.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats abhor the use of torture and inhumane treatment of persons under any circumstances.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe that no individual should suffer discrimination or deprivation of rights based on gender, language, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, political affiliation or union membership.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the vigorous law enforcement and prosecution against perpetrators of any acts of discriminatory violence.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support responsible gun ownership under the Second Amendment and gun safety initiatives.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We Democrats will stand up for and defend the America we are proud of. We believe that strength coupled with reason and integrity is the key to restoring America's standing within the international community.

RESTORING THE REPUTATION AND STANDING OF OUR NATION

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats know that our nation must adjust to a changing global economic, political and military environment by shifting our emphasis from military power and hegemony to diplomatic negotiations.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support peaceful struggle for democracy and human rights worldwide.
- ☑ We condemn nuclear proliferation and nuclearization of space.
- ☑ We urge that all international trade agreements must reflect our commitment to global environmental conservation and workers' rights.

- ☑ We insist on an absolute prohibition against torture, including water boarding, and reaffirm our commitment to the Geneva Convention.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support using United States military force only when all other options have been exhausted while securing the broadest international cooperation possible.

DEALING WITH TERRORISM

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats proudly support our armed forces, police and emergency response personnel in their anti-terrorism efforts.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support addressing the root causes of terrorism by working to resolve the historic disputes that foster hatred among peoples of various faiths, ethnic groups and social classes.

GETTING OUT OF IRAQ

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats are proud of – and profoundly grateful for – the valor and sacrifices of our troops and their families.
- ☑ We call for a speedy and responsible withdrawal of all troops from Iraq.
- ☑ We support well-trained and well-equipped armed forces. Furthermore, we support comprehensive medical and mental health care for returning veterans and their families.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support open, ethical, and accountable government and the constitutional use of impeachment to enforce such accountability.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support the rule of law applied to government officials, a true separation of powers and restoration of constitutional checks and balances among the branches of government.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support an independent judiciary that guards citizens from overreaching legislation and an overzealous executive.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support a fair, open, and inclusive election process.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support electronic recording of all votes in the Wyoming Senate and House.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support government recognition of the sovereign rights of native tribes.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe that responsible government does not discriminate against its citizens based on gender, language, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or race.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support fiscally responsible government.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe that the burden of financing government should be shared equitably.
- ☑ Wyoming Democrats support government efforts to ensure corporate responsibility.
- ☑ The Wyoming Democratic Party stands against the Electoral College and calls for Presidential Elections to be based on national popular vote.

SOCIAL ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

We oppose government interference in our private lives.

- Wyoming Democrats support mandatory funding of the Veterans Administration to ensure all veterans and their families are not economically left behind.
- Wyoming Democrats oppose the privatization of social security.
- Wyoming Democrats support repeal of the social security tax cap.
- Wyoming Democrats support access to affordable, livable, and safe housing for all Americans.
- Wyoming Democrats support incentives and opportunities that will measurably improve the lives of those in poverty.
- Wyoming Democrats support opportunities and incentives that will sustain or improve the lives of our Native American population.
- Wyoming Democrats support the abolishment of the death penalty.

WORK PLACE & LABOR EQUITABILITY

Support for Wyoming workers is the cornerstone of the Wyoming Democratic Party.

- Wyoming Democrats believe in collective bargaining. We support the Employee Free Choice Act.
- Wyoming Democrats support protection of benefits, pensions and other retirement income for workers when firms become insolvent.
- Wyoming Democrats believe in fair employment practices, equitable wages, and safe, clean and healthy workplaces.
- Wyoming Democrats support a Wyoming Minimum Wage that is the same or greater than the federal minimum wage.
- Wyoming Democrats support the repeal of Wyoming's "Right to Work" law.
- Wyoming Democrats support the repeal of Wyoming's "employment at will" doctrine and urge passage of laws requiring just cause for job termination or discipline of Wyoming workers.
- Wyoming Democrats support making affordable licensed childcare a priority.
- Wyoming Democrats believe that in Wyoming, the Equality State, all workers must receive equal wages for equal work.
- Wyoming Democrats support the protection of civil liberties in the work place.
- Wyoming Democrats support strong enforcement of and education about the Wyoming and Federal Labor Laws.
- Wyoming Democrats oppose the misclassification of employees as independent contractors for purposes of employers avoiding workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance, and social security and income tax obligations.
- Wyoming Democrats recognize that job training is essential for a sound and viable economy.

- ☑ Wyoming Democrats believe that Wyoming's Worker's Compensation laws need to be rewritten so that they adequately take care of and compensate injured and disabled employees.

Uniquely Wyoming

"Public Lands in Public Hands" is our creed.

- ☑ We call for the fair distribution of state revenues and resources among all counties and communities.
- ☑ We advocate full, responsible access to public lands, minimizing additional roads in our national parks and forests and maintaining roadless areas on public lands.
- ☑ We support increased investment in scientific agricultural research to maintain the United States' and Wyoming's preeminence in agricultural productivity and development.
- ☑ We support and encourage funding of programs that encourage and enhance traditional family-owned and operated farms and ranches and recognize their importance to the stability of our national and local economy. We oppose the current trends toward livestock and agricultural monopolies.