



**Wyoming Democratic Party**  
**2010 Platform**  
Adopted May 15, 2010

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*Opportunity*

*Sustainability*

*Integrity*

This platform has been developed around three principles that Wyoming Democrats believe capture the most important guidance for public policy and legislation in 2010:

## Opportunity

## Sustainability

## Integrity

### OPPORTUNITY

*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.*

#### Education

- Wyoming Democrats support development of every student's abilities in all fields of endeavor via a system of tax-supported pre-K through college public education, based upon excellence and accountability.
- Wyoming Democrats support reform of student testing to provide meaningful and timely information to students and teachers. We oppose PAWS and "No Child Left Behind".

#### Health Care

- Wyoming Democrats support available and affordable health care for every American, using the recently enacted national health care program as a stepping stone to single payer health care. Health care shall include preventive care, family planning, health education, comprehensive mental health care, rehabilitation and wellness programs.
- Wyoming Democrats support VA comprehensive medical and psychiatric care of Wyoming veterans.
- Wyoming Democrats support the use of medical marijuana under the supervision of a licensed medical professional with prescriptive authority.
- Wyoming Democrats support family planning and sex education programs.

#### Social Services

- Wyoming Democrats support providing high-quality social services to Wyoming citizens.
- Wyoming Democrats support permanently affordable housing for Wyoming families.
- Wyoming Democrats support affordable, licensed child care services for Wyoming families.
- Wyoming Democrats support better and more open communication between the Department of Social Services, county & state judges, attorneys, law enforcement, and parents to provide minor children with the full protection of the law.



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## Jobs / Employment

- Wyoming Democrats support minimum wages that are living wages.
- Wyoming Democrats support equal pay for equal work and the elimination of the institutionalized disparities between men and women in the workplace.
- Wyoming Democrats support the elimination of the minimum wage tipping offset provision in state statutes.
- Wyoming Democrats support safe workplaces for all workers and a non-adversarial workers' compensation program that fairly compensates injured workers.
- Wyoming Democrats support the right to collective bargaining and the repeal of the “right to work” law.
- Wyoming Democrats support incentives for domestic job creation and retention.

## **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

- Wyoming Democrats support the opportunity to experience diverse viewpoints, cultural expressions, and pristine natural places.

## Immigration

- Wyoming Democrats support welcoming immigrants, keeping families together, creating orderly legal avenues for immigration, enforcing employment laws and using federal authorities to enforce federal immigration laws.
- Wyoming Democrats support long-term solutions to the economic problems that have led to the global movement of economic refugees.

## Economy & Taxes

- Recognizing that we share the responsibility to provide for the common good and the maintenance of necessary public services, we support a system of taxation that is progressive, equitable and that promotes sustainable communities.
- In Wyoming, the “boom and bust” cycle of energy development places severe stress upon the infrastructure, environment, services, housing, workforce and social cohesion of our cities, towns and counties. Our long-term interests, both social and financial, would be best served



by diversifying our economy. This would allow Wyoming to modulate the pace of development, stabilize the workforce, encourage community development and attenuate environmental and social impacts.

- Wyoming Democrats support the reduction of the national debt and effective regulation of financial institutions.

### Agriculture

- Wyoming Democrats support family-owned ranches and farms and commend policies which recognize surface property rights in energy-development decisions. Wyoming Democrats recognize that family-owned ranches and farms are of historic, cultural and economic significance.
- Wyoming Democrats oppose the patenting of life forms.

### Environment/Natural Resources/Energy

- Wyoming Democrats support strong and even-handed enforcement of land, air and water quality regulations and adequate funding of our Department of Environmental Quality.
- Wyoming Democrats support alternative and renewable energy sources, advanced in an environmentally sensitive manner, that will help combat climate change.
- Wyoming Democrats support 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.
- We support the creation of a statewide program that provides for the recycling of all reusable materials, industrial use of biodegradable materials, mandatory deposits for all beverage containers and the funding of recycling plants in Wyoming.
- Wyoming Democrats support initiating a discourse on the impacts of over-population and exponential growth. Through educational and non-coercive methods, we seek to achieve and maintain a human population that is within the Earth's carrying capacity.

## **INTEGRITY**

*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

- Wyoming Democrats support full reporting of campaign contributions prior to elections and full disclosure of financial interests from lobbyists, corporations and others.



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- Wyoming Democrats support public financing of political campaigns.
- Wyoming Democrats support accountable and transparent government which provides paper or electronic records for all public deliberations and decisions at all levels of government.
- Wyoming Democrats support an unflinching dedication to the rule of law, soundly based on the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- Wyoming Democrats support the separation of Church and State.
- Wyoming Democrats support substance abuse prevention programs, substance abuse programs, drug courts, and restorative justice.
- Wyoming Democrats support 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.
- Wyoming Democrats support hate crime legislation.
- Wyoming Democrats oppose the privatization of public services, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, prisons and the military.
- Wyoming Democrats support accountability in the collection of income from state or federal lands and public notice for sales, swaps or leasing of public lands.

#### Foreign Policy

- Wyoming Democrats support a foreign policy that reflects and promotes the principles of freedom, human rights and compassion without the use of force.
- Wyoming Democrats support the administration's approach to gradual withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Wyoming Democrats support the closure of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Ft. Benning, GA, formerly known as "School of the Americas".

#### Civil Rights

- 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, or political beliefs.
- Wyoming Democrats support the right of citizens to own firearms and also support the right of citizens, through their elected government, to prohibit firearms in schools, courthouses, public parks, and bars.
- Wyoming Democrats opposes Government interference in our private lives. 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.



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- Wyoming Democrats oppose the use of torture or inhumane treatment, including waterboarding, for all those held or detained by the government.

## COMMENDATIONS

- Wyoming Democrats recognize the sacrifices our military personnel and their families make to secure the integrity, opportunity and sustainability of these United States. We are grateful for their dedication and pledge ourselves to vigilance that their lives not be jeopardized needlessly.
- Wyoming Democrats commend Governor Dave Freudenthal for eight years of dedicated service, including defense of the Wyoming Range, support of the Hathaway Scholarships, and support of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

