

# The 2014 Nevada State Democratic Party Platform

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## *MILITARY and VETERANS*

- 1 We support our men & women in the armed forces. We support our veterans because service to our  
2 country is the greatest act of self-sacrifice and patriotism.
- 3 We support reintegration programs that care for our veterans; including counseling, financial assistance,  
4 educational assistance, housing, and job training.
- 5 We oppose the delay of veteran health care, including mental health. No veteran should be denied care  
6 because of unreasonable delays.
- 7 We support quick access and expanded funding to veterans' health care and benefits programs.
- 8 We support fully funding medical services for all active-duty military, reservists, and veterans.
- 9 We support increasing the availability of health care for veterans in rural Nevada.
- 10 We support the prevention of military sexual trauma and the treatment of both its victims and  
11 perpetrators.
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## *CIVIL RIGHTS*

- 13 We support a civil environment where all individuals have the freedom and opportunity to succeed.
- 14 We support equal rights, diversity, inclusion, gender protection laws, and marriage equality.
- 15 We oppose discrimination towards anyone in all forms.
- 16 We support affirmative action, gender equality, and equal pay for equal work.
- 17 We support Native Americans; including honoring treaties that support their ancestral land rights.
- 18 We support the rights of people with disabilities, including the accommodation of disabled persons in  
19 public spaces.
- 20 We support safe communities where seniors can live and retire with dignity and security.
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## *EDUCATION*

- 22 We support easy access to affordable higher education at Nevada's higher education campuses.
- 23 We support increasing, to at least the national average, education funding for all grade levels.
- 24 We support reducing class sizes for all students, including those in English Language Learner programs.
- 25 We support expanding after-school extra-curricular activities to help eliminate Nevada's drop-out rate.
- 26 We support the creation of specialized learning academies/schools with union apprenticeship programs.
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28 We oppose using test scores to solely determine both teacher evaluation and teacher retention.

29 We oppose any public funding of private educational institutions, including voucher programs.

30 We oppose rigid curriculum standards that emphasize one-size-fits-all teaching methods.

31 We support reducing interest rates, offering re-financing, and/or forgiveness for student loans.

32 *CRIMINAL JUSTICE*

33 We support increasing public safety funding, and oppose the privatizing of jails and prisons.

34 We support racial and gender parity in sentencing.

35 We support alternatives to juvenile incarceration.

36 We support alternative forms of sentencing for non-violent acts.

37 We support the diagnosis/treatment of drug and alcohol addiction as a medical issue, not a crime.

38 We support fully funding programs that protect prisoners from sexual and physical abuse.

39 We support the comprehensive review of existing laws on sentencing and we oppose the death penalty.

40 We support the expansion of educational and counseling programs within the criminal justice system.

41 We support government transparency, but oppose warrantless wiretapping and surveillance programs.

42 We support the right to bear arms, but oppose "Stand Your Ground" laws.

43 We support common-sense gun laws including universal background checks.

44 We support anti-bullying programs, anti-domestic violence programs, and suicide prevention programs.

45 We support anti-sex trafficking programs, including funding programs that shelter abuse victims.

46 *IMMIGRATION*

47 We support a comprehensive pathway to citizenship for undocumented individuals and their families,  
48 including passage of the DREAM Act.

49 We support immigration reform programs that ensure our families are not torn apart by deportation.

50 We support strong border security, and oppose the use of militia-style groups to patrol our borders.

51 We support providing the judicial system, including law enforcement officers, with the flexibility to  
52 implement humane immigration programs.

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## 54 TAXATION, JOBS, and THE ECONOMY

- 55 We support sustainable trade, economic, and labor policies that create livable wages.
- 56 We support replacing the “minimum” wage with the “living” wage.
- 57 We support fair & equitable tax incentives for businesses & industries that create jobs in Nevada.
- 58 We support a revised tax code that creates fairness and closes corporate loopholes.
- 59 We support strengthening Social Security by making all “earned-income” subject to Social Security taxes.
- 60 We support eliminating programs that encourage companies to take their jobs/profits out of the State  
61 of Nevada.
- 62 We support policies that ensure businesses cover the true societal impact of doing business.
- 63 We oppose any employer’s attempt to shift their costs of doing business onto future generations.
- 64 We support effective government policies that stimulate small businesses and small business growth.
- 65 We support tax policies that evenly and fairly level the playing field for all Nevada businesses.
- 66 We support fair and equal access to business capital; regardless of the company’s size.
- 67 We support business incubators & mentoring opportunities for minority/female owned businesses.
- 68 We support programs that protect consumers from predatory loan practices.
- 69 We support programs that prohibit the collection & dissemination of personal information.
- 70 We support local family farming and ranching.
- 71 We support the full legalization of marijuana for all adults, and the legalization of the growth,  
72 manufacturing, and sale of hemp products.

## 73 HOUSING

- 74 We support eliminating housing barriers for the homeless, elderly, disabled, and working-poor.
- 75 We support the rights of the homeless. Not having an address should not make anyone second class.

## 76 HEALTH CARE

- 77 We support an improved health care system that ensures quality, affordable health care for all.
- 78 We support increased Medicare funding, so that Medicare will be available from birth to death.
- 79 We support health insurance reform, and oppose using credit checks to determine insurance premiums.

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- 80 We support strengthening and expanding social programs, including increasing funding for mental  
81 health programs.
- 82 We support increased funding for innovative healthcare programs; including stem cell research.
- 83 We support lowering the nurse to patient ratio to meet nationally recognized nursing standards.
- 84 We support requiring insurance companies to cover a complete range of reproductive health care.
- 85 We support a woman's right to personally choose the path & direction of her reproductive health care.
- 86 We support a woman's right to reproductive health, and oppose intimidation tactics limiting that right.
- 87 We oppose any effort to abridge a woman's abortion rights contrary to *Roe v. Wade*.
- 88 We support fertility treatments, and oppose policies that define "personhood" at a woman's expense.
- 89 We support work-place protections for pregnant women so they can obtain & maintain employment.
- 90 We support "worker-based" work place accommodations for pregnant women.
- 91 We support the creation of a medical school in southern Nevada.
- 92 We support the comprehensive labeling of all G.M.O. products.
- 93 We support funding drug and alcohol treatment programs for all Nevadans.
- 94 WORKER'S RIGHTS and UNIONAZATION
- 95 We support collective bargaining and binding arbitration for all municipal and state employees.
- 96 We support a worker's right to organize via the card-check procedure; without employer retaliation.
- 97 We support calling on employers to engage in good faith collective bargaining with their workers.
- 98 We support efforts to strengthen and protect the American tradition of unionization.
- 99 We support the elimination of Nevada's third-party worker's compensation system, and the return to  
100 Nevada's state run worker's compensation system.
- 101 We support protecting workers from unsafe working conditions by fully funding Nevada OSHA.
- 102 We support extending both worker's compensation insurance and unemployment insurance for all  
103 injured, disabled, and light-duty workers.
- 104 We support "prevailing-wages", project labor agreements, and pension protection laws.
- 105 We support strengthening the PERS Retirement System, which attracts long-term workers, and we  
106 support eliminating the windfall adjustment provision and government pension offset.

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- 107 We oppose the misclassification of workers; including those as independent contractors.
- 108 We oppose the creation of “permanent-part-time” positions, just so companies can avoid paying  
109 benefits.
- 110 We oppose the permanent replacement of workers engaged in a legal strike.
- 111 We support employer-based parental leave programs, and employer supported child day care programs.
- 112 We oppose the firing of workers unless by due process and with just cause.
- 113 We support a strict 6-month Nevada residency requirement for workers employed on government  
114 funded or subsidized jobs.
- 115 We support awarding government contracts to companies whose workforce contains a majority of  
116 Nevada residents.
- 117 We support requiring skilled labor training/certification programs for all crafts and building trades.
- 118 We support worker access to quality/affordable day care for all families, including in rural areas.

## 119 THE ENVIRONMENT and ENERGY

- 120 We support energy policies, energy independence, Green Energy, and increasing our renewable energy  
121 portfolio in an environmentally sound, affordable, and sustainable manner.
- 122 We support encouraging alternative energy development and keeping loan guarantees for establishing  
123 renewable energy projects as Nevada’s primary sources of energy.
- 124 We support reducing our carbon footprint by eliminating our dependence on fossil fuels.
- 125 We support water conservation efforts, oppose inter-basin water transfers, and encourage desalination.
- 126 We support the protection of riverbanks, streams, wetlands, lakes, ponds and encourage public/private  
127 partnerships in maintaining them.
- 128 We support the elimination of non-biodegradable plastics from the environment.
- 129 We oppose the process of “fracking” within the State of Nevada.
- 130 We support full-disclosure laws regarding the chemicals used-in, or left-over from, the fracking process.
- 131 We support biologically sound, ethical, and sustainable land management policies and wise  
132 management of public lands.
- 133 We support the collaboration and coordinated efforts of federal, state, local agencies, and private  
134 stakeholders to maintain and increase the sage grouse population saving them from federally-  
135 designated endangered species status.

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- 136 We support adequate funding for the agencies that manage Nevada's lands.
- 137 We support the retention of wilderness areas, recreational opportunities, wildlife, woodland, water  
138 resource protection, and land activities that support the continued economic opportunities for future  
139 generations.
- 140 We support recycling and its expansion to all residential, commercial, and public facilities.
- 141 We oppose the disposal of nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain, and we oppose the transportation and  
142 disposal of high-level nuclear and other toxic wastes to Nevada. We call for the mitigation of the impacts  
143 of the underground nuclear weapons testing through the replacement of the irreparably damaged water  
144 resources of Nevada.
- 145 We support holding companies that pollute responsible for clean-up costs; including long-terms costs.
- 146 We support renewable energy transportation systems that include bus, rail, bicycle, as well as safe  
147 walkways & road crossings for pedestrians, and we encourage rail usage for long distance freight hauls.
- 148 We support wildlife policies that preclude, prohibit, and eliminate the inhumane treatment of animals.
- 149 We support the historical significance, protection, and humane treatment of the wild horse population.
- 150 We support maintaining Lake Tahoe's pristine environment through environmentally sound planning  
151 and continued participation in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

## 152 ELECTIONS and GOVERNMENT

- 153 We support open & fair elections, voter protection programs, and same-day voter registration.
- 154 We support legislation that protects voter access, and eliminates inequalities in the voting process.
- 155 We support equal voter access to polling sites located across racial & socio-economic boundary lines.
- 156 We support increasing the number of "early-voting" sites, so more eligible voters are allowed access to  
157 the polls.
- 158 We support campaign finance reform and public funding of elections.
- 159 We support full, complete, and timely public disclosure laws for all sources of political contributions.
- 160 We support government transparency, but oppose warrantless wiretapping and surveillance programs.

## 161 EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

- 162 We support the future ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Nevada legislature.