

El Paso County Democratic Party Platform 2020

This Platform was approved at the El Paso County Democratic Party Assembly
on March 28, 2020.

1. Civil Liberties

- a. We support abolishing all for-profit prisons.
- b. We support gun reform to include a) background checks that include mental health records; b) restrictions from purchasing guns by persons with mental illness; c) closing gun show loopholes; and d) mandatory gun permits for carrying that requires successful completion of a gun safety class
- c. We support the policy that individuals who maintain a license for a firearm but pose a threat to themselves or others may have the firearm removed from their custody by court order.
- d. We support background checks, training, and licensing for gun owners.
- e. We support expanded civilian oversight of law enforcement, which would include expanding investigations into potential hate crimes.
- f. We support adopting the 2019-2020 resolutions of the NAACP.
- g. We support increasing stipends for people recently released from incarceration.
- h. We support victim-centered restorative justice as a first consideration in all criminal and juvenile cases, as well as in school disciplinary cases.
- i. We support prohibiting police in Colorado from working with ICE.
- j. We support abolishing the Patriot Act.
- k. We support stronger tenant's rights protections and recognize the need for distinction in family home and apartment law.
- l. We support a program that provides greater legal aid and advocacy for the poor and disabled.
- m. We support closing any corrections facility that has been unable to meet recommended staffing levels for more than fifty percent of the past two years.
- n. We support reducing incarceration rates in Colorado by a minimum of five percent annually for five years and of increasing substance abuse treatment by ten percent per year for ten years.
- o. We support the decriminalization of drug possession.
- p. We support the reintroduction and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.
- q. We support amendments to the US Constitution that will ensure equality and justice for all members of our society who are currently not fully protected under the law, e.g., the LGBTQIA community.
- r. We support the passage of state and local statutes and constitutional amendments to further expand freedom and justice to all communities traditionally targeted for oppression and exclusion.

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<p>2. Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. We support the implementation of high-speed commuter rail along the Front Range.b. We support the creation of a supply of affordable housing to accommodate our current renters and homeowners on the current living wages.c. We support having government create affordable housing, in recognition that homelessness and lack of affordable housing is a huge issue in our society.d. We support increased funding for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build low-cost affordable, and subsidized housing for homeless and low income people, to keep them from slipping into homelessness.e. We support improving mass transportation within El Paso County, particularly for disabled residents and low income areas.f. We support increased funding at the local, county, state, and federal levels for the arts.g. We support the removal of TABOR from the Colorado State Constitution.h. We support reparations for African American US citizen descendants of slavery, and we will work toward finding a way to ensure this issue is properly and fully addressed.i. We support a mandated federal minimum wage of \$15/hr.j. We support increasing the minimum wage to a living wage, such as \$18-20/hour.k. We support the idea that student loans could be discharged through bankruptcy after 20 years.l. We support requiring that terms of service for electronic applications be in clear and simple language, and that users of said applications may not be restricted from bringing lawsuits, either individually or as a class, when dissatisfied or harmed by the application.m. We support calling for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh to recuse himself from the upcoming case Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as this is a pre-eminent threat to the Dodd-Frank Act/CFPB.
<p>3. Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. We support fully funding public schools and advocating for livable wages for education personnel; the Secretary of Education should support these principles.b. We support universal early childhood care/education.c. We support fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.d. We support age-appropriate civics education from Kindergarten through High School.
<p>4. Elections, Caucuses, and Campaign Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. We support overturning Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission.b. We support overturning the Supreme Court interpretation of "Corporate Personhood."c. We support campaign finance reform and the full disclosure of all campaign finance sources.d. We support abolishing the Electoral College and moving to a popular vote.e. We support abolishing caucuses and holding only primaries for all federal elections.f. We support abolishing all caucuses and holding only primaries for all federal, state, and county elections.g. We support better communication for caucus sites and dates, should the caucus system not be abolished.h. We support implementing ranked choice voting in primaries and general elections, or approval voting in elections with more than one winner (e.g., city council elections).i. We support the use of hand-marked paper ballots for the purpose of greater election security and accuracy.j. We support providing all voters with pre-stamped envelopes for mail-in voting.

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- k. We support providing bilingual or multilingual ballots to voters wherever there are recognizable non-English speaking communities.
- l. We support independent, non-partisan redistricting for county and municipal districts.
- m. We support making all elections, whether local, state, or national, into paid holidays.
- n. We support measures to prevent voter suppression and to expand voting rights.
- o. We support the 1789 constitutional amendment that would limit Congressional Districts to represent no more than 50,000 citizens each.
- p. We support the disclosure of tax returns by all presidential candidates.
- q. We support requiring that any individual who has committed to run for the office of President of the United States publically release at least the most recent 10 years of their federal and state tax filings in order to appear on the ballot or be eligible to be a write-in candidate.

5. Environment & Energy

- a. We support a reduction of local carbon emissions of 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2040, which would include closing Martin Drake and Nixon power plants at the soonest possible dates.
- b. We support the Green New Deal.
- c. We support the Blue New Deal (a plan to protect fisheries and the ocean while charging industrial "bad actors" for damaging ecosystems).
- d. We support the expansion of lands designated as protected wilderness and the restoration of national monuments and parks to their 2016 boundaries.
- e. We support work to legislate for significant and fast changes to our economic infrastructure to ensure continued economic stability while also curbing the effects of climate change to maintain a livable planet for all people.
- f. We support renegotiation of water rights based on scientific estimates of sustainability and supply.
- g. We support the restoration and management of non-game species, including the gray wolf.
- h. We support rejoining the Paris Climate Accord.
- i. We support the use of science in making policy decisions.
- j. We support banning single-use plastics in all commercial businesses, which includes plastic bags.
- k. We support banning all fracking.
- l. We support policies that promote clean air and water, and which mitigate climate change.
- m. We support banning the sale of Colorado fossil fuels outside the United States.
- n. We support banning the extraction of fossil fuels from public lands.

6. Healthcare

- a. We support a high-quality universal single-payer healthcare system, such as "Medicare for All."
- b. We support a national public option, such as "Medicare for All Who Want It."
- c. We support the expansion of the Affordable Care Act into a universal healthcare system.
- d. We support the pursuit of policies that respect the dignity of all individuals, no matter the circumstances of their birth. We believe that all Americans born alive should have access to medical treatment.
- e. We support the full legalization of cannabis, both locally and nationally.
- f. We support the expansion of public health institutions, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- g. We support the right of bodily autonomy and informed consent with all medical choices.
- h. We support requiring health insurers to provide coverage for substance abuse treatment.

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- i. We support the access of military retirees to military hospitals as this is a benefit promised to retirees.
- j. We support elimination of the DoD rule denying benefits to spouses and children (dependents) if a veteran or active-duty member of the military dies by suicide.

7. *Healthy Democracy and Miscellaneous*

- a. We support development of standards and enforcement for ethical news reporting, to counter the propaganda that is rampant and which plays a large role in the proliferation of hate.
- b. We support reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine that requires holders of US broadcast and cable licenses to present issues of public importance in an honest, equitable, and balanced manner.
- c. We support bolstering the Johnson Amendment in the IRS statutes, to prohibit non-profit churches from interfering in free elections.
- d. We support having all American political candidates be held to a higher standard of factual statements against their opponents.
- e. We support the Democratic Party being respectful of people with various viewpoints. This includes Pro-Life Democrats and people of different nationalities, income levels, faiths, beliefs, and sexual orientation.
- f. We support treating all with dignity and respect, and allowing all to express ideas in a respectful manner.
- g. We support the reversal of all Executive Orders of Donald J. Trump including: Immigration Reforms; EPA reductions; Paris Climate Accord; and Reductions in CDC funding and personnel levels, including Pandemic Committee.
- h. We support the elimination of long-term “acting” Cabinet-level appointments by requiring Senate approval of permanent appointment within six weeks of position vacancy.
- i. We support requiring that the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (SDCC), and any individual members associated or operating on behalf of such organizations, shall refrain from pre-ordaining, actively selecting and financially supporting, or internally or externally voicing support for specific candidates for President, Congress, and Senate, prior to the conclusion of caucuses and primaries.
- j. We support the original Pledge of Allegiance as written by Francis Bellamy for Party activities.
- k. We support the elimination of all puppy mills, and all breeders should be licensed, insured, and bonded by the state.
- l. We support term limits for Supreme Court justices.
- m. We support that retirement income for U.S. Senators and Representatives will be proportionate to the number of years served.

8. *Immigration*

- a. We support ending family separation and child detention at US borders.
- b. We support providing a pathway to citizenship, including for those dismissed from the military, DREAMers, spouses of American citizens, and immediate family.
- c. We support providing an opportunity for citizenship for DREAMers (children illegally brought to the US by parents), instead of being sent back to a country they do not know.
- d. We support having Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) re-evaluated and revised by an outside committee to make it more humane and not instilling fear in communities, decimating families, and working without local control.

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- e. We support having the Democratic Party establish “sanctuary cities” throughout all of Colorado.
- f. We support the establishment of Police and Border Patrol Citizen Oversight Committees to eliminate the human rights abuses caused by police brutality and the para-military/industrial complex operating within our state.
- g. We support the establishment of a process where immigrants along the Southern Border are welcomed with a system similar to booths at the airports. They would be required to provide identification from their country of origin, along with names, address, and phone numbers of where they are headed. They would receive location information of an immigration office to report to within 60 days.
- h. We support financially coordinated programs to house immigrants and refugees, to establish humane treatment and coordinated care and resources.

9. Labor

- a. We support prohibiting the requirement of "forced arbitration" as a condition of employment.
- b. We support the overturning of the Colorado Labor Peace Act and it's replacement with legislation supportive of the democratic right to form unions and collectively bargain.
- c. We support federal workers' right to organize, bargain, and be treated with respect by the Federal government.
- d. We support city, county, and state government worker pay and benefits to reflect cost of living and trade pay to be comparable to national standards.

10. Security & Diplomacy

- a. We support calling on the local, state, and national Democratic Party organizations to join as partner organizations to and support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) by supporting the adoption of the UN Treaty of 2017 for the Nuclear Weapons Ban.
- b. We support an amendment to the State’s party platform (p. 21) regarding Israel and Palestine: To promote Israeli security, Palestinian rights, and democratic values, work towards a just and equitable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that includes the creation of a viable independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.
- c. We support an amendment to the State’s party platform (p. 21) regarding Israel and Palestine: Until such time as a peace agreement is agreed to by both Israel and Palestine, support the enforcement of international law regarding human rights and the Geneva Conventions, including opposition to illegal settlement expansion, ongoing occupation, and unilateral annexation of Palestinian territory.