



## **REPORT OF THE 2025 PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

Rule 5.1B of the Rules of the Democratic State Party (“State Rules”) provides that the Committee on the Platform, comprised of members appointed by the State Chair, shall consider any proposed changes to the State Party Platform (“Platform”), and shall issue a written report. The following members were appointed to the Platform Committee by the State Chair in consultation with the Subdivision Chairs: Kent – Amber Epperson, Gregory Layton; New Castle – Dr. Michael Benson, Abby Betts-Roberts, Catherine Ciferni, Joseph Daigle, Kathy Epler, Gemma Lowery, Bill McMurray, Traci Murphy, Jeff Quiggle, Will Resto, Gary Steelman, Dave Woodside; Sussex – Tom Brett, Tim Garrahan, Leslie Ledogar, Joe Sakaduski; Wilmington – Javier Horstmann, Cassandra Marshall, Christopher Otto. This Committee was supported by Ethan Grover, Committee Scribe, Kate Coulter, DDP Technology Director, and Travis Williams, DDP Executive Director.

From March 11, 2025 until April 2, 2025, any registered Democrat in Delaware had the opportunity to submit in writing, by email, or by Google form, any comments, suggestions, etc. for the Platform revision.

On March 12, 2025, the Platform Committee had their first meeting via Zoom to develop an open and public drafting and comment process, encouraging Democrats at all levels to provide input for the 2025 State Party Platform.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Committee met via Zoom to review the submitted public comments and agree to how they would be included to the first Platform draft.

On April 21, 2025, the Committee met via Zoom to review the first draft of the Platform that incorporated public comments.

On April 22, 2025, the Committee released the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the Platform for Public Review, and any Democrat had the opportunity to submit comments, suggestions etc. in writing through May 8, 2025.

The Committee held four Public Listening Sessions to hear direct public testimony from Democrats their comments and input to the Draft Platform. Those sessions were held as follows: Kent County, April 28 at the Kent County Levy Court; Sussex County, May 1 at the Sussex County Democratic HQ; New Castle County, May 5 at the Delaware Democratic HQ; Wilmington, May 8 at the Delaware Contemporary Museum.

On May 21, 2025, the Committee met via Zoom to consider all public comments submitted and make consensus recommendations for inclusion to the Platform draft.

On June 2, 2021, the Committee met via Zoom to review and approve the Final Draft.

Final edits were made to the Final Draft and a Convention Draft was submitted to Travis Williams for distribution to the Convention Delegates on June 4.

This Committee, after hearing testimony, receiving comments, and voting on recommendations, has completed its task. The Committee on the Platform hereby presents the 2025 State Party Platform.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**CASSANDRA T MARSHALL**

**DAVE WOODSIDE**

**CO-CHAIRS, PLATFORM COMMITTEE 2025**

Our country is facing a governmental and constitutional crisis. The Republicans who currently hold the White House are illegally usurping the constitutional system of checks and balances, ignoring the Constitution and the laws established under it by the Legislative Branch (Congress), and intentionally disregarding the decisions of the Judicial Branch with impunity, all the way up to and including the Supreme Court. The rule of law and the freedoms we have long enjoyed—and too often taken for granted—are now at risk, as power is being illegally consolidated within the Oval Office.

Delaware Democrats are responding to this crisis by leading with our values. We believe Delaware is stronger when our economy works for everyone—not just the wealthy and well-connected. We support policies that raise wages, expand opportunity, and enshrine economic fairness for working and middle-class families. We are the Party of the People, putting people over profit in everything we do. A better future means investing in long-term growth, not short-term profits. Further, we believe in an economy that values hard work, supports small businesses, and invests in communities that have too often been overlooked or left behind.

Delaware Democrats remain dedicated to a robust democracy. We reject any form of authoritarian or fascist governance. Democracy relies on truth and transparency from our political leaders and from our media. Delaware Democrats expect this from our leaders and will hold them accountable to it. We support all actions protecting our democracy and way of life from authoritarians. We reject all efforts to destroy our government, destabilize the economy and dismantle our long held safety nets for the most vulnerable among us.

The Delaware Democratic Party believes that government must be accountable, inclusive, and bold in its duty to protect our health, our rights, and the welfare of every Delawarean. As custodians of our communities and environment, we will work to protect what matters most—our people, our democracy, and our shared future. We believe that government has a duty to invest in the future of our state by providing equitable, high-quality public education for every Delawarean, and that it is our responsibility to build healthy, resilient communities to ensure access to affordable healthcare, affordable housing, and essential public services. We believe economic opportunity is vital to the well-being of every Delawarean, and we believe that economic growth can and must be compatible with environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

We believe that government must be fully accountable to the people it serves, and that public funds are the people's money—not a tool for special interests. We support transparent, responsible budgeting that invests in communities, prioritizing public needs,

ensuring fair taxation that protects working families, and providing for our most vulnerable, including seniors, children, and those in need.

We believe in the inherent dignity and equal rights of every person, and that those rights must be protected for all Delawareans—without exception. Every individual deserves to be safe in their community, not only from crime, but also from the abuse of power. We support smart, just, and preventative public safety measures that uphold civil liberties and ensure that safety and justice are truly accessible to everyone.

We believe that inclusiveness is a source of strength, and that a thriving democracy depends on the full participation of its people. We are committed to organizing and empowering Democrats at every level of government and in every corner of our state—urban, suburban, and rural alike. We will continue to seek out fresh voices, especially from historically underrepresented populations to ensure that every Democrat has a meaningful role in shaping our vision and has a place at the table.

Delaware's Democrats have been vocal and clear in their commitment to protecting our democracy and reducing the effects of the destructive chaos in Washington. The Delaware Democratic Party supports our leaders in this moment and we commit to joining them in this fight to protect our democracy and way of life in Delaware.

We, the Democratic Party of Delaware, recommit ourselves to principled leadership that protects our democratic institutions and strengthens public trust, standing united against extremism, inequality, and authoritarianism in all its forms. We encourage participation from all Delawareans who share a belief in justice, equity, and democratic values. We support candidates who champion personal freedom, inclusive economic and educational opportunity, transparent and accountable governance, and a steadfast commitment to civil rights and equal protection for all. We believe that cooperation is stronger than conflict, unity is essential to progress, and true empowerment means lifting every voice—including those too often ignored. Through these principles, we build a more stable, inclusive, and thriving Delaware for generations to come.

**Our platform consists of the following eleven planks:**

1. Build an Economy That Works for Everyone
2. Remove Barriers to Opportunity
3. Strengthen Economic Accountability
4. Support Arts, Culture, and Creative Communities
5. Expand Government Transparency, Voting Rights, and Campaign Finance Reform
6. Confront Climate Change and Advance Environmental Justice

7. Provide Quality, Affordable Education for All
8. Advance Comprehensive Health and Wellness for All Delawareans
9. Protect and Expand LGBTQ+ Rights
10. Make Delaware a Safe Place for All Residents
11. Support Our Troops and Care for Our Veterans

### **Plank 1:**

**An Economy That Works For Everyone:** Delaware Democrats believe every Delawarean deserves access to a good-paying job, the ability to support their family, and the opportunity to build a secure future. We are committed to creating a fair and inclusive economy that lifts up all workers—especially those in communities that have historically been neglected. Sustained economic growth is only possible through forward-looking policies that serve the common good.

**a. Infrastructure:** Delaware must prioritize investments that both strengthen our economy and make daily life safer and more accessible. That means repairing and expanding roads, bridges, rail lines, and public transit—but also going further. We support a comprehensive, statewide approach to expand transportation access that includes pedestrian improvements like safe paths, sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures, so that no one is forced to risk their life simply walking to essential destinations. Moreover, expanding high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas, modernizing energy infrastructure, and strengthening critical systems to withstand climate impacts are essential steps toward a more resilient and connected Delaware. Delaware Democrats also believe that rapid growth and development must not come at the expense of public infrastructure or community resources. We support reinstating mandatory school assessments and developer impact fees—particularly those that were removed in Sussex County—and ensuring they are implemented and enforced consistently across the state. These fees should be paid upfront by developers to cover the real costs of increased demand on schools, roads, utilities, and other essential services.

**b. Wages:** No one who works full-time should have to struggle to provide for their family. Delaware Democrats support raising the minimum wage to at least **\$20 an hour**, addressing the reality of rising costs and inflation since 2021. We also support automatic increases to the minimum wage permanently tied to the cost of living, protecting wages over time. We believe workers deserve more than a paycheck. Delawareans deserve job stability, predictable schedules, paid sick leave, and the flexibility to care for their families without penalty. We call for major investments in child care infrastructure, including affordable day care, universal preschool, and after-school programs. Every child in Delaware deserves safe, high-quality care from infancy to

adulthood, and every parent deserves the ability to work knowing their child is safe and supported.

**c. Organized Labor:** Delaware Democrats recognize that strong unions are essential to a thriving middle class. Every worker should have the freedom to organize and form a union, with the power to negotiate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect—regardless of their industry or employer. Preserving collective bargaining rights and prevailing wage laws is critical to protecting worker power, especially in publicly funded projects. We oppose any effort to weaken unions through so-called “right to work” laws, “paycheck protection” schemes, or any other anti-worker legislation. Empowering workers to advocate for themselves strengthens not just the workforce, but our entire economy.

**d. Community Workforce Agreements:** Public investments should benefit the people who reside where the work is being done. Delaware Democrats support mandatory local hire provisions in taxpayer-funded projects. Community workforce agreements help promote economic mobility, create job opportunities in underserved areas, and ensure public dollars strengthen local communities first.

**e. Clean Energy Jobs:** Delaware must lead in the clean energy transition—not only to address climate change, but to grow our economy in ways that are sustainable and just. We support investments in solar, wind, and energy-efficient technologies that reduce emissions and create good-paying, union-protected jobs. Further, investments in clean energy can fill the predicted shortfall in energy production to keep up with the state’s growth. We are committed to ensuring that clean energy growth includes job training and pathways for workers transitioning from fossil fuel industries, and that environmental and economic benefits reach historically marginalized communities first. Clean energy is not just about reducing carbon emissions—it’s about health, opportunity, equity, and a future that works for all.

**f. Small Business:** Small businesses are the heart of Delaware’s economy and serve as a key pathway to prosperity for families and communities alike. We support policies that eliminate barriers for small business owners—especially in underserved communities—by expanding access to capital, cutting unnecessary red tape, and increasing support for minority-owned enterprises. Delaware Democrats recognize that while our state is known as a place to save money—through advantages like no sales tax and an attractive retirement environment—we must also position ourselves as a place to build wealth and create new economic opportunities. Delaware Democrats also support public investment in business incubators, technical training, and grant programs that help entrepreneurs thrive and create local jobs. A fair economy is one where everyone has a real chance to start and grow a business.

**Plank 2:**

**Removing Barriers to Opportunity:** Delaware Democrats believe that every individual—regardless of race, gender, class, religion, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, income or age—deserves full and equal access to opportunity, safety, and dignity. We are committed to lifting up the communities that have historically been marginalized and dismantling the systemic barriers that continue to limit too many lives today. We recognize that real progress requires intentional action, not just ideals. It means being clear-eyed about recognizing those systemic barriers and focused on eliminating those barriers. That means fostering greater diversity in elected office and positions of leadership across Delaware, making sure that the people who shape our future reflect the full diversity of our state. It also means ensuring that every Delawarean—no matter their background—has a voice in shaping the policies that affect their lives. Our state is stronger when we work together and when people are empowered to succeed.

**a. Combating Racism and White Supremacy:** Racism remains deeply embedded in the foundations of our institutions and society, shaping outcomes in education, housing, healthcare, public safety, and economic opportunity. It is both systemic and generational, passed down through centuries of discriminatory laws, practices, and policies that have created lasting inequities. Delaware Democrats recognize that racism is not only a moral failure but also a public health crisis that demands comprehensive and sustained action. We are committed to ending systemic and institutional racism in every facet of Delawareans' lives and to confronting white supremacy wherever it threatens our communities. Our efforts must move beyond mere acknowledgment to driving real and lasting change that strengthens justice in every part of public life.

We support bold reforms that not only address the deep inequities in our economy, education, and healthcare systems, but also begin the work of repairing past harms through reparations and sustained investment in marginalized communities. Further, we recognize that systemic racism manifests in many specific and measurable ways—including inequitable policing and racial profiling, the unequal funding of schools, the lack of accountability for charter schools operating outside district oversight, inadequate support for students with disabilities, and the disproportionate environmental burdens borne by communities of color. These issues are addressed throughout this platform in Sections 2d (Criminal Justice Reform), 6 (Education), and 5b (Environmental Justice), and they are essential to understanding how structural racism operates across sectors. Only through intentional and transformative change can we honor the dignity of every Delawarean and build a future for all rooted in justice.



**b. Teaching Inclusive and Honest History:** Delaware Democrats believe that a fact-based understanding of our past is essential to respecting each other and building a just and equitable future. We are committed to ensuring that every student in Delaware learns a complete, honest, and inclusive history—one that recognizes the contributions, struggles, and resilience of all people, including communities that have been historically marginalized. We reject efforts to erase or politicize history to serve narrow ideological interests. A high-quality public education must empower students to understand the complexities of our shared past, and engage thoughtfully with the challenges of the present. We support curricula that incorporate the histories of Black Americans, Indigenous peoples, immigrant communities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and other groups whose experiences have too often been overlooked or distorted. Teaching everyone's history is not divisive—it is essential to building a stronger and more informed Delaware.

**c. Confronting Sexism:** Sexism remains real and pervasive in every institution, continuing to deny equal opportunity, autonomy, and full participation to women and gender minorities across Delaware. Delaware Democrats are committed to dismantling systemic and institutional sexism in all areas of public and private life. We believe achieving full gender equality requires more than rhetoric—it demands bold action to address the deep inequalities embedded in our systems. We support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the strengthening of gender equity protections at the state level.

We are also committed to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender identity, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive, including affordable child care, strong family support systems, and protections against discrimination. Ending sexism means breaking down systemic barriers and building a Delaware where every person can live with equality, dignity, and the freedom to pursue their full potential.

**d. Reforming Our Criminal Justice System:** Delaware Democrats are committed to real criminal justice reform—reform that dismantles systemic racism, ends mass incarceration, and builds a system rooted in equity and rehabilitation. We support the abolition of the state's death penalty, recognizing it has been applied unjustly and has failed to deter crime. We believe that addiction, substance use disorder, and mental health challenges should be treated through prevention, treatment, and community-based support, not incarceration. While we have successfully legalized marijuana for individuals over 21, we must not allow local governments to create so many roadblocks to these businesses that they cannot open or operate. We will continue to fight for the commutation of nonviolent marijuana-related convictions, and the expungement of records that have unfairly burdened thousands of Delawareans.



Our system must stop criminalizing poverty by eliminating cash bail, reforming court fines and fees that trap people in debt, and ending outdated practices that punish individuals simply for being poor. We oppose the privatization of any function that uses government force—including arrest, detention, and incarceration—and are committed to creating an independent advocate within the Department of Corrections who reports directly to the commissioner to strengthen oversight and accountability.

Delaware Democrats also support visionary reforms that reflect our values of restoration, equity, and opportunity. This includes exploring innovative, therapeutic alternatives for youth in state custody. We endorse partnerships between juvenile justice facilities and Delaware’s parks and natural areas to promote nature-based rehabilitation, with long-term funding, staff training, and robust outcome monitoring to ensure success. Such programs can foster healing, reduce recidivism, and reconnect young people with their communities and their potential.

Further, we support compensation for individuals who have been exonerated after a wrongful conviction—recognizing that justice delayed must still be justice delivered. Additionally, we believe youth exiting incarceration must have access to educational and vocational programs that provide a real path forward and prevent cycles of reentry. True justice requires systemic change that protects rights, promotes rehabilitation, and restores dignity for every Delawarean.

**e. Eliminating Income Inequality:** Delaware Democrats believe that every person deserves a real chance to achieve economic security and build a future of dignity and stability. Expanding homeownership opportunities, particularly through increased support for first-time buyers, must be central to any effort to close the racial and generational wealth gaps. We believe in preparing Delawareans for tomorrow’s economy by strengthening career education and job training, while ensuring that those historically excluded from opportunity—including returning citizens and unhoused individuals—have meaningful pathways to secure employment. Supporting small businesses and local entrepreneurship, especially in underserved communities, is critical to fostering sustainable economic growth that uplifts entire neighborhoods. Eliminating income inequality requires more than fragmented efforts; it demands a coordinated, long-term commitment to broadening opportunity, building wealth fairly, and investing in every Delawareans’ potential.

**f. Supporting Workers:** Delaware Democrats reaffirm our commitment to equal pay for equal work, living wages, and comprehensive paid family and medical leave that allows Delawareans to meet urgent health or caregiving needs without sacrificing financial security. Every worker must have access to at least 12 weeks of guaranteed paid family and medical leave, ensuring time to care for a new child, support a loved one in crisis, or navigate major life transitions with dignity and security. Child care deserves to be treated as a public good, not a private burden.

Delaware families deserve access to safe, affordable, and high-quality early learning and care at every stage of childhood. Achieving this requires a lasting statewide commitment backed by meaningful investment. We also recognize the critical role of the home health care workforce and are committed to expanding access to high-quality, affordable care services for families who rely on them. Supporting working families means creating an economy that values caregiving, invests in dignity at work, and ensures that no Delawarean has to choose between earning a paycheck and caring for the people they love.

**g. Ensuring Housing:** Delaware Democrats believe that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a human right. No one should be forced into homelessness because of systemic failures, rising costs, or lack of opportunity. We support a Housing First model that ensures immediate shelter and wraparound services for unhoused Delawareans, including those facing mental health challenges or reentering society after incarceration. We call for the expansion of Hope Centers and similar transitional housing models in every county, ensuring consistent access to emergency shelter and supportive services statewide.

We also call for the development of Permanent Supportive Housing (30 percent of Area Median Income [AMI] or under), targeted to Delawareans exiting homelessness or struggling with health challenges. Further, expanding access to affordable rental housing and homeowner opportunities (for households that make between 40 and 80 percent of the AMI) statewide is essential as well as building pathways to homeownership, particularly for first-time buyers, through down payment assistance, financial education, and innovative public-private partnerships.

Additionally, to make housing construction faster and more efficient, we support the adoption of the nine recommendations of the 2025 Affordable Housing Task Force report. This report calls for more robust funding for affordable housing, reforming local zoning codes, streamlining regulations and permitting processes, incentives for developers to build affordable units, help to purchase manufactured home communities by their homeowners, among others. We also call for greater investment in sustainable, energy-efficient housing, to ensure that Delaware's growth is accessible, affordable, and environmentally resilient. Finally, we recognize that affordable housing requires more than units—it demands a comprehensive, well-funded, and long-term commitment to community well-being, including access to safe transportation, healthy food, and essential services for every Delaware neighborhood.

**h. Supporting Immigrants:** Delaware Democrats believe that immigrants strengthen the fabric of our communities and enrich every part of our shared future. We are committed to building a state that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all, where every immigrant can access opportunity, secure good-paying jobs, receive a quality education, and live free from exploitation or discrimination.

While we recognize the need for fair and orderly immigration systems, we reject policies rooted in fear, cruelty, or division—and we oppose any efforts to detain, deport, or otherwise target immigrants without due process or respect for fundamental rights. Delaware must remain a place where the rule of law protects every individual’s dignity.

We call for comprehensive federal immigration reform that affirms human rights, keeps families together, and recognizes the profound contributions immigrants make to our country. True reform must include a real, achievable pathway to citizenship, rooted in the American ideals of liberty, equality, and justice for all. In addition to federal reforms, we call on the General Assembly to pass laws restricting data sharing with federal immigration agencies and expand Medicaid coverage for undocumented communities.

We call for the protection of the communities of naturalized citizens here in Delaware and ensure full protection of their rights regarding citizenship, employment, housing, and education.

**i. Standing Against ICE Abuse and Protecting Immigrant Communities:**

Delaware Democrats believe that the rule of law must protect the dignity and rights of all people—regardless of citizenship status. We reject the misuse of federal immigration enforcement that violates due process, ignores lawful citizenship and resident status, targets marginalized groups, and sows fear in our communities. We support strong policies of non-cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when its practices violate constitutional protections or threaten public safety by eroding trust between immigrant communities and local institutions. We recognize that ICE has repeatedly engaged in abusive and unconstitutional tactics, including detaining individuals without cause, separating families, and undermining the rights of lawful residents. These actions are not only inhumane—they are politically motivated and disproportionately impact immigrants, people of color, and vulnerable populations. Delaware Democrats oppose the weaponization of immigration enforcement for political gain and will stand with those who defend human rights and civil liberties. We support local governments, institutions, and nonprofit organizations that refuse to be complicit in federal overreach. We also commit to ensuring that Delaware remains a safe and welcoming place for all who call it home—regardless of their origin. Upholding justice means rejecting complicity and standing firm against state-sponsored abuse.

**j. Empowering People with Disabilities:** Delaware Democrats believe that every person with a disability deserves full dignity, opportunity, and inclusion in all aspects of life. Breaking down physical, systemic, and economic barriers is not optional—it is a moral obligation. We are committed to real public investment in high-quality, affordable home- and community-based services that prioritize self-determination over institutionalization. Individuals with physical, intellectual, developmental, or mental health disabilities must have the resources to live

independently, fully participate in their communities, and access the healthcare and support services they need.

We believe that public infrastructure must promote accessibility at every level. Every Delawarean should be able to navigate their community with dignity, supported by safe, reliable transportation, affordable and accessible housing, and digital access that meets the federal WCAG 2.2 standards for those who are blind or visually impaired. An inclusive education system must guarantee free, fully funded special education, along with wraparound support that empower students with disabilities and their families. Every child deserves a public school system that lifts them up, not leaves them behind.

Economic empowerment requires that people with disabilities have real access to meaningful employment at a living wage, with accommodations protected as a right—not an afterthought. For those without work, community engagement must be fully accessible and valued. This work cannot be addressed through fragmented efforts or unfunded promises. Delaware must invest boldly in its direct care workforce, accessible infrastructure, inclusive education, and community-based health services to ensure that no one is left isolated or unsupported. Delaware Democrats are committed to eliminating discrimination, dismantling systemic barriers, and building a state where every person with a disability can live independently, securely, and with dignity.

**k. Ending Poverty and Homelessness:** Delaware Democrats are committed to ending the persistent poverty that continues to harm families and communities across our state. Poverty is not just a matter of unemployment—it is a systemic failure that demands bold, comprehensive solutions. We support using data-driven strategies to build empowerment zones, expand access to post-secondary education, vocational and trade programs, and strengthen youth employment and reentry services. Fighting poverty also means addressing food insecurity as a public health issue by investing in anti-hunger campaigns and promoting healthy food access for all Delawareans. No individual should be left behind because of their age, ability, or circumstances. We call for real investment in equitable support services that lift up those most vulnerable and strengthen the fabric of our communities. Eradicating poverty demands leadership that removes systemic barriers, restores dignity, and ensures every Delawarean has the opportunity to thrive.

### **Plank 3:**

**Economic Accountability:** Delaware Democrats believe that the strength of both Delaware and America depends on a thriving working and middle class. Today, economic gains are increasingly concentrated among a wealthy few, undermining both our democracy and our long-term economic stability. We believe government must take an active role in ensuring the

economy works for everyone—not just for those at the top. This requires bold reforms that expand opportunity, reward hard work, and curb abuses that fuel inequality. Building an economy that delivers dignity, security, and prosperity for all will take real investment, stronger protections for working families, and policies that reflect the urgency of today's cost-of-living pressures.

**a. Wall Street Reform:** Financial reform is necessary to rein in Wall Street excesses. We applaud the progress achieved under the Biden Administration and recognize the urgent need to defend and strengthen these reforms to ensure Wall Street remains accountable to the public good. The financial sector must never again be allowed to operate without strong oversight, accountability, and consequences. We support building on past reforms, strengthening financial regulations to protect consumers, curb abuses, and prevent further crises fueled by greed and speculation. The markets must serve working families and small businesses, not the other way around. We advocate for policies that promote economic fairness, strengthen retirement security, and ensure that financial markets support sustainable, broad-based prosperity. Delaware Democrats are committed to ensuring that economic success is not hoarded by the few, but shared by all.

**b. Strengthening of Dodd-Frank:** Delaware Democrats believe that a healthy economy depends on competition—not domination by corporate giants. Rising corporate concentration distorts markets, drives up prices, weakens consumer choice, and undermines small businesses. We are committed to strengthening Dodd-Frank protections, restoring guardrails that prevent monopolistic abuses, and creating an environment where entrepreneurship, innovation, and fair pricing can thrive. Building an economy that works for everyone means pushing back against unchecked corporate power and ensuring a level playing field for consumers and small businesses alike.

**c. Tax Code Reform:** Delaware Democrats believe that tax policy must be a tool for fairness, not a driver of inequality. Our current system too often favors those at the very top, while placing greater burdens on working families. We are committed to reforms that ensure the wealthiest individuals and largest corporations contribute their fair share, while delivering real relief to middle- and low-income households. We support strengthening refundable tax credits that reward hard work and help families build stability. We also advocate for eliminating outdated penalties that reduce Social Security earnings for seniors before full retirement age. A strong economy depends on a tax code that supports shared prosperity, not the accumulation of wealth among the few.

**Plank 4:**

**Support Arts, Culture, and Creative Communities:** Delaware Democrats believe that arts, culture, libraries, and museums are not luxuries—they are essential and necessary to the health, identity, and prosperity of our communities. These institutions spark creativity, nurture innovation, strengthen civic pride, and serve as vital bridges between neighborhoods and diverse populations. In a time when artistic expression and cultural institutions face increasing attacks across the country, we are committed to robust public investment, equitable access, and unwavering protection of creative freedom in all forms. We recognize that Delaware’s creative economy is a powerful force for economic growth, community development, mental well-being, and educational success. To build a thriving, inclusive future, we must support the people and places that keep our cultural fabric strong—from working artists to historic venues, from classrooms to festivals, and from libraries to digital innovation hubs.

**a. Arts and Culture as Economic Drivers:** Delaware Democrats champion the creative economy as a dynamic engine of job creation, tourism, and economic resilience. We will continue to fight for increased funding for nonprofit arts organizations, creative entrepreneurs, and working artists—recognizing the exceptional return on investment. For every \$1 in public funding granted, more than \$40 is returned to the local economy. We support living wages for arts workers, both in nonprofit and for-profit settings. We will invest in rehearsal spaces, performance venues, artist housing, and public art initiatives that enrich urban and rural communities alike. We also support large-scale collaborations in all three counties that boost tourism, celebrate local talent, and elevate the First State’s cultural reputation.

**b. Arts and Culture as Community Builders:** Arts and culture connect us to each other and to the places we call home. Delaware Democrats will continue to advocate for policies that position Delaware as a welcoming and sustainable home for artists, cultural leaders, and creative entrepreneurs. With its affordability and proximity to major metropolitan hubs, Delaware is uniquely positioned to be a thriving creative base for regional and national talent. We know the data is clear: arts increase civic engagement, social cohesion, and local pride. We will strengthen that sense of connection by promoting inclusive access to the arts in every community. We commit to equity in grantmaking, ensuring underserved populations—including at-risk youth, seniors, people in recovery, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those in the justice system—have access to arts experiences and cultural programs. We will partner with libraries, hospitals, schools, and local organizations to promote cultural inclusion, mental health, and community resilience. We also reaffirm our defense of artistic freedom, including the right to create, exhibit, or perform work that challenges dominant narratives, reflects marginalized experiences, or has been targeted by book bans or censorship efforts.



**c. Arts and Culture as Educational Resources:** Delaware Democrats support the integration of arts and culture into every child's education. From kindergarten through high school, students deserve access to music, visual arts, dance, theater, and media arts as essential parts of a well-rounded public education. Arts education improves academic outcomes, fosters innovation, increases college attendance, and reduces dropout rates. It is not optional—it is foundational. We commit to expanding access to arts education for all students, particularly those in low-income districts and communities of color, who often have less access to arts instruction. Every child, regardless of ZIP code, deserves the chance to experience the transformative power of creative learning. We also believe that arts education is critical to workforce development. Creativity and collaboration are among the top skills sought by employers in every industry. Studies show that Nobel laureates are far more likely than their peers to engage deeply with the arts—proof that creative engagement fuels scientific and technological breakthroughs. We will support arts-integrated STEM learning, invest in K–12 arts programming, and reaffirm the arts as a key part of Delaware's future-ready education system.

#### **Plank 5:**

**Government Transparency, Voting Rights, and Campaign Finance Reform:** Delaware Democrats believe that democracy only thrives when government is open, accountable, and truly responsive to the people—not to wealthy elites or corporate interests. We are committed to protecting and strengthening our democratic institutions against the rising threats of concentrated wealth and political disenfranchisement. We believe that maximizing voter participation, ensuring fair elections, and limiting the influence of big money are essential to preserving freedom and opportunity for all. We reject the dangerous drift toward oligarchy, where unchecked power and private wealth threaten to hollow out our democratic system. Building a stronger democracy here in Delaware requires action at every level: protecting and enhancing voting rights, reforming campaign finance, demanding transparency from powerful interests, and safeguarding civil liberties in an increasingly digital age. Delaware must be a leader in ensuring that government works for the people—and only the people.

**a. Responsible Government:** Delaware Democrats believe that every Delawarean deserves a government that is open, responsive, and fully accountable to the people it serves. Upholding public trust means confronting waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption wherever they arise—and ensuring that every tax dollar is spent wisely to strengthen our communities, not private interests. We are committed to building a government rooted in transparency, where campaign financing, public compensation, fiscal management and government decision-making are open to public scrutiny at every level. Sound fiscal stewardship is not just good governance—it is essential to defending democracy itself against those who would exploit public power for personal gain.



Delaware must lead by example, proving that government can be effective, ethical, and truly by and for the people.

**b. Voting Rights:** Ensuring and expanding the right to vote is fundamental to preserving democracy itself. We are committed to building a political system where every voice is heard and every vote is counted—without barriers based on race, income, or background. Strengthening democracy means making voting more accessible through early voting, expanded vote-by-mail options, automatic and same-day voter registration, and the elimination of partisan and racial gerrymandering. We will fight tirelessly against any effort to suppress minority turnout or undermine trust in elections through discriminatory voter ID laws and other forms of voter suppression. Only by fostering greater civic engagement and participation can we defend against rising threats to democracy, authoritarianism, and the erosion of rights. Delaware Democrats reaffirm that voting is not merely a right but a safeguard for freedom, justice, and opportunity for all.

**c. Campaign Finance:** Democracy should be driven by the voices of the people, not the wallets of the wealthy elite. We support constitutional amendments to overturn *Citizens United* and *Buckley v. Valeo*, because money is not speech and corporations are not people. Protecting democracy requires ending the dominance of big money in politics and restoring government accountability to everyday citizens. We advocate for a small-donor public financing system that amplifies grassroots voices, not corporate special interests. The Federal Election Commission must be strengthened to ensure real enforcement of campaign finance laws, not serve as a rubber stamp for abuse. We will fight to eliminate super PACs, dark money groups, and outside spending abuses by requiring full transparency of political donors. A democracy that can be bought is no democracy at all—and we are committed to restoring political power where it belongs: with the people.

**d. Transparency of Corporate Entities & LLCs:** Safeguarding democracy requires ensuring transparency not only in government, but in corporate activities that could threaten national security and public trust. National security experts have warned of the dangers posed by hidden ownership of companies in critical sectors like energy, communications, and infrastructure, as well as the use of shell corporations to launder illicit funds. Delaware must not become a haven for secrecy and abuse. We support revising State Corporate Law to require full screening and disclosure of all individuals and nations seeking to establish LLCs in Delaware. Strengthening transparency and oversight will protect our economy, uphold the rule of law, and prevent bad actors from undermining our democratic institutions.

**e. Cybersecurity:** Delaware Democrats recognize that strong cybersecurity is essential to protecting personal privacy and public trust. We are committed to strengthening protections for

email communications, social media platforms, medical records, and private data against cyberattacks and exploitation. Delaware must lead in developing clear cybersecurity standards, defending critical infrastructure, and holding bad actors accountable. As we pursue global norms in cyberspace, we will ensure that efforts to secure our digital lives never come at the expense of civil liberties or democratic freedoms.

**Plank 6:**

**Climate Change and Environmental Justice:** Delaware Democrats believe that addressing climate change and protecting our environment are essential to our very survival as the lowest-lying state in the US. Focused climate resiliency and environmental justice efforts will safeguard public health, social justice, and strengthen our economy. We are committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Building a resilient future means strengthening energy independence and promoting environmental stewardship in every community. It also requires investing in innovative solutions—from clean transportation to urban 'greening' efforts—that create healthier, more sustainable neighborhoods. Climate leadership is a moral responsibility and an economic necessity, and Delaware must lead with bold action that benefits every resident.

**a. Clean Energy Development and Implementation:** Transitioning Delaware's energy system to renewable, resilient sources is essential to building a stronger future. We support moving both distributed and centralized energy production toward clean technologies like solar and wind, while requiring existing facilities to meet rigorous environmental standards. Reducing fossil fuel dependence—especially in transportation—must be incentivized through innovation and policy. Expanding clean energy infrastructure, creating energy resiliency, modernizing our grid, and creating accessible apprenticeship and workforce development opportunities will ensure that Delawareans are prepared to lead and benefit from a thriving green economy. We also recognize the need for bold, climate-resilient development that anticipates the growing impact of extreme weather on our communities. Delaware Democrats support exploring innovative models—like Climate Sanctuaries—that integrate housing, community health, and environmental sustainability. We encourage state and local leaders to reimagine zoning regulations that restrict progress, including outdated height limits, excessive lawn requirements, and inflexible parking minimums. Further, we support research into sustainable land use—such as determining how many manufactured housing units can be responsibly built per acre without compromising environmental or community well-being. This future-focused approach is essential to building resilient, livable neighborhoods that protect our waterways, forests, and quality of life for generations to come.

**b. Environmental Justice:** Environmental justice is central to Delaware Democrats' vision for a fair and sustainable future. Clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are not privileges—they are rights that must be protected for every community. We recognize that the burdens of pollution and climate change have fallen disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color, and we are committed to reversing that legacy. Addressing this injustice requires direct investment: hiring and training workers to clean up toxic brownfields, revitalizing neglected neighborhoods, and creating pathways to economic opportunity through environmental restoration. Delaware must also move aggressively toward a zero-emissions future, with reforms to zoning, land use, and permitting that prioritize resilient, sustainable communities. Building an equitable clean energy economy means holding corporations accountable for pollution, strengthening cleanup requirements when commercial sites are redeveloped for residential use, and investing in resilient infrastructure that leaves no community behind. Urban "greening" initiatives, like expanding tree cover and restoring natural spaces, must be part of our climate strategy—not just for aesthetic improvement, but as vital investments in public health and community well-being. We believe a just environmental policy means ensuring that every Delawarean, regardless of income or background, has a real stake in our clean energy transition.

**c. Protection of Public Land and Water:** Safeguarding Delaware's natural resources is essential to the health, prosperity, and future of our state. We believe strong partnerships—with farmers, conservationists, and local communities—are key to protecting our air, water, and agricultural lands. Conservation must strengthen both environmental sustainability and community resilience, not only by protecting our waterways and public lands but by ensuring they remain vibrant and accessible for future generations. Delaware Democrats are committed to proactive policies and investments that meet the growing threats of sea level rise and environmental degradation while expanding opportunities for communities to benefit from preserved natural spaces. Our public lands and waters are central to our economic vitality, our health, and our shared quality of life. Preserving these resources must balance ecological protection with the needs of all Delawareans.

#### **Plank 7:**

**Provide Quality Affordable Education:** Delaware Democrats believe a strong and equitable education system is essential to building a thriving Delaware and securing a better future for every generation. Every child deserves access to high-quality early learning, strong K–12 public schools, nutritious meals during the school day, and affordable pathways to higher education. Learning is not just a personal benefit—it is a public good that drives economic opportunity, social mobility, and a healthy democracy. We believe education must also equip students with the tools to be active, informed citizens—grounded in science, history, civics, and the values of

democracy. We oppose all censorship and book bans that threaten academic freedom or deny students access to diverse perspectives. From birth through higher education, we are committed to building a system that lifts up every Delawarean, regardless of background or income.

**a. Affordable Early Learning:** Delaware Democrats believe that high-quality early care and education must be universally affordable and accessible from birth. Strong early learning is not just critical for individual success—it is a cornerstone of Delaware’s economic strength and social well-being. Research shows that investing in early childhood development improves educational outcomes, reduces future social service costs, and builds healthier communities. We are committed to ensuring every child, regardless of family income or ZIP code, has access to safe, developmentally appropriate child care, preschool, and after-care programs. Public investment must match the scale of the need, recognizing that early education is essential infrastructure for a strong, inclusive economy.

**b. Public School Systems:** Public education must be fully and fairly funded to give every Delaware student the opportunity to succeed. Delaware Democrats believe our state must meet its full obligation to K-12 education while ending the outdated system that ties school funding to local property wealth. A strong public school system means not only supporting core academics but also preserving vital programs like arts, after-school activities, and enrichment opportunities that foster the whole child. Every investment we make in public education strengthens the future of our state and ensures that success is not determined by a child's background or neighborhood.

**c. Educational Priorities for a Stronger Democracy and Inclusive Future:** Delaware Democrats believe that education must prepare students not only for economic opportunity, but also for informed citizenship, civic engagement, and personal growth. We support restoring and strengthening civics education in public high schools, including focused instruction on America’s founding documents, the Constitution, and the responsibilities of civic participation. We urge the Department of Education to provide clear statewide guidance to ensure all students graduate with a foundational understanding of democratic principles. We also strongly oppose efforts to ban books or censor curricula based on ideology or political pressure. Public schools must be places of learning, critical thinking, and open inquiry—not fear or restriction. We support policies that protect the freedom to read, teach, and learn, and that safeguard the rights of educators and students alike. Additionally, we advocate for increased access to nature-based learning and vocational education opportunities for justice-impacted youth. Outdoor learning, environmental engagement, and hands-on job training are proven tools for supporting resilience, reducing recidivism, and creating meaningful educational experiences. These programs complement the work outlined in our criminal justice and apprenticeship sections and reflect our commitment to meeting the needs of all learners—especially those too often left behind.

**d. Special Education:** Children with disabilities deserve the same high-quality education and opportunities as any other child. Delaware Democrats are committed to supporting children with special educational needs, and their parents, with fully-funded and science-based special education programming, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and other support systems as required. We recognize that children with disabilities are as valuable and as deserving of a top-quality education as any other children.

**e. Universal Access to School Meals and Nutrition Support:** Delaware Democrats believe that no child can thrive in the classroom if they are hungry. Access to nutritious food is essential for learning, health, and overall well-being. We support universal school meal programs that provide breakfast and lunch to all public school students—regardless of income—with a goal of extending these supports to cover weekends and summer months. We recognize that food insecurity doesn't stop when the school bell rings or when school is out of session. Gaps in support from programs like the Food Bank leave many children without the nutrition they need during weekends and summer breaks. Delaware must pursue innovative, community-based solutions to bridge these gaps—whether through expanded state funding, partnerships with local organizations, or pilot programs that deliver meals year-round. Feeding children should never be a question of politics or budgets—it is a moral imperative and a fundamental component of educational equity. No child in Delaware should ever go hungry.

**f. Debt-free College:** Cost should not be a barrier in earning a degree or credential, and debt should not hold graduates back. Bold new investments by the federal government, coupled with states reinvesting in higher education and reducing student loan burdens, should ensure that Americans of all backgrounds will be prepared for the jobs and economy of the future. Delaware Democrats also support expansion of community college scholarship programs.

**g. Apprenticeship Programs:** Delaware Democrats believe that our state needs to offer and expand alternative educational opportunities for individuals not pursuing a college degree. Union apprenticeship programs provide a proven, systematic, innovative method of vocational and technical education which integrates on-the-job work experience with related instruction. Apprentices are paid while they learn their respective trade, are eligible for benefits, and have a pathway to a career. New and innovative jobs in the environmental sector will also need apprenticeship opportunities to ensure a well-trained workforce.

**h. Equitable Funding:** We recognize that many Delaware schools have disproportionately high numbers of students who are economically-disadvantaged. Achieving educational excellence for all requires equitable, needs-based funding that directs resources where they are most urgently needed. Delaware Democrats are committed to a funding system that accounts for the realities facing students living in poverty, students receiving special education services, and English

Language Learners. High-poverty schools must be supported with targeted, sustained investment—not only to ensure fair opportunity, but to drive year-over-year improvements in achievement and opportunity. Public education is a cornerstone of lifting up Delaware’s families and building a stronger future for all.

**i. Support Our Educators:** Delaware’s educators are at the heart of our state's future, and their success is essential to the success of our students. We must ensure that teachers are supported, respected, and incentivized to work in high-needs schools where their impact can be transformative. Delaware Democrats believe accountability systems must be designed to close achievement gaps without demoralizing educators or punishing students. We support policies that uplift and empower teachers, reward excellence, and recognize the critical role they play in building stronger, more equitable communities.

### **Plank 8:**

**Keeping Delawareans Healthy Through a Comprehensive Approach:** Delaware Democrats believe that healthcare is a human right—not a privilege reserved for the wealthy or the fortunate. We are proud to be the Party that defends Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act. These historic achievements must be protected, strengthened, and expanded—not dismantled. True public health means creating conditions where every Delawarean can live with dignity and security—from access to nutritious food and clean environments to strong mental health care and safe communities.

We acknowledge the pressing issue of statewide healthcare provider (and facility) shortages and support efforts to increase the number of practicing medical professionals statewide, especially in underserved and rural areas. We support new programs that incentivize medical professionals to live and work in Delaware, strengthening the local care infrastructure and expanding collaboration with out of state healthcare systems.

In the years since the COVID-19 pandemic, Delaware Democrats have strengthened our commitment to science-driven public health leadership, robust public health infrastructure, and a comprehensive strategy to prepare for and respond to future crises. We also recognize that many Delawareans, especially people of color, women, immigrant, disabled, and LGBTQIA+ communities, continue to face barriers to accessing quality healthcare. We are committed to improving healthcare access and outcomes for all. Our vision for healthcare is a system where every person can live with dignity, receive the care they need, and thrive—no matter their background or circumstances.



**a. Universal Health Care:** Delaware Democrats believe health care is a fundamental human right, not a privilege. Yet today, Americans pay more for medical care than anyone else in the world, while life expectancy falls and health inequities grow wider. This unacceptable reality demands bold change. Every Delawarean deserves affordable, accessible, and equitable health care—regardless of their background, income, or identity. We support better access to care through expanded telehealth services, elder care, and support during family leave gaps—ensuring Delawareans can receive care when and where they need it. We also commit to ensuring that all Delawareans have access to affordable prescription medications.

**b. Drug/Alcohol Addiction Services:** Addiction is not a crime—it is a public health crisis that demands bold, compassionate action. Delaware Democrats are committed to treating substance use disorders as behavioral and mental health issues, not criminal offenses. We support expanding access to affordable, evidence-based prevention, early intervention, and treatment services across the state, recognizing that recovery is a lifelong journey that requires strong community support. We are committed to ensuring that all Delawareans—regardless of background or economic status—have access to high-quality addiction treatment and recovery services. Public investment must prioritize programs that keep people out of the criminal justice system and connect them to care, including greater funding for mental health responders and social services. Our approach treats addiction as preventable, manageable, and worthy of the same urgency and resources as any other public health issue.

**c. Mental Health Care:** Mental health is inseparable from overall health, and Delaware Democrats are committed to ensuring it is treated with the same urgency and compassion as physical health. Good mental health care must be accessible to everyone—including unhoused individuals, young people, and those facing addiction. We support efforts to improve the quality and availability of mental health services across the state, particularly for underserved communities, and are dedicated to breaking down the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide in all communities. Expanding community-based services and investing in early intervention and care for loss survivors (postvention) are critical to building a mental health system that meets people where they are, supports resilience and recovery, and treats mental wellbeing as a fundamental right—not a privilege.

**d. Reproductive Rights:** Delaware Democrats affirm that reproductive freedom is a fundamental human right. Every individual must have the autonomy to make decisions about their own bodies, including access to contraception, abortion, comprehensive reproductive healthcare, free from political interference. We oppose efforts to limit access to these essential services or to



defund the clinics and providers that deliver them, particularly in rural and underserved communities. We continue to support protections for in vitro fertilization (IVF), including for single individuals, and oppose discriminatory restrictions on access to fertility care. Protecting reproductive rights means not only safeguarding the Affordable Care Act's prohibition on gender-based discrimination, but also expanding access to affordable care across Delaware. We support enshrining the right to reproductive healthcare—including abortion—in our state's constitution to ensure that these rights cannot be stripped away by future political attacks.

**e. Expanding and Supporting Delaware's Health Care Workforce:**

Delaware Democrats recognize that a strong healthcare system requires not only access, but a robust, well-supported workforce. We are deeply concerned about the shortage of primary care physicians and other essential healthcare providers in our state. Addressing this crisis requires a multifaceted approach rooted in long-term planning, public investment, and structural reform. We support Medicaid reform, the establishment of a Delaware-based medical school, and investment in housing, education, and other infrastructure to attract and retain healthcare workers.

Accessible, affordable housing and educational incentives must be part of any serious plan to grow our medical workforce—especially in rural and underserved communities. To expand healthcare access across the state, we support the creation of more community clinics and healthcare sites, including mobile units, and the removal of regulatory barriers that discourage providers from serving in Delaware. That includes streamlining licensure and permitting requirements, particularly for temporary, charitable, or out-of-state providers. We support exploring interstate licensure reciprocity agreements and allowing qualified professionals—such as dentists operating in mobile clinics—to practice without licensing hurdles. By modernizing our infrastructure and credentialing systems, Delaware can increase the supply of care providers, ensure better access to services, and meet the growing health needs of our residents. We believe that no one should be denied care due to geography, bureaucracy, or a lack of available professionals.

**Plank 9:**

**Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights:** Delaware Democrats believe that the full protection and promotion of LGBTQ+ rights is fundamental to the pursuit of justice, equality, and human dignity. The fight for LGBTQ+ equality is inseparable from the fight for democracy itself: when any community's rights are threatened, the rights of all are at risk. We are committed to confronting and defeating the political extremism that seeks to roll back hard-won progress and undermine the humanity of LGBTQ+ people—especially transgender women of color, youth, and other vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community. Building a truly inclusive Delaware means affirming the dignity of every individual and ensuring that equal rights are not just

protected by statute, but permanently enshrined in our state's Constitution. We must ensure that all LGBTQ+ Delawareans are free to live openly, authentically, and safely, with access to the full rights, opportunities, and services they deserve.

**a. LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights:** We believe every LGBTQ+ Delawarean must be guaranteed:

- The right to equal protection under the law in employment, housing, education, healthcare, and public accommodations.
- The right to gender-affirming healthcare, treated as medically necessary, without interference from insurance companies or political actors.
- The right for transgender and nonbinary individuals to obtain accurate state identification that reflects their gender identity.
- The right to access sex-designated spaces—such as bathrooms and locker rooms—that align with one's gender identity.
- The right of LGBTQ+ youth, including transgender and nonbinary youth, to participate fully and fairly in athletics at the local and community level.
- The right to protection of personal records, such as name changes and gender marker updates, shielding individuals from harassment and misuse of their information.
- The right to protection from white supremacy, gender-based violence, and hate-fueled attacks.
- The right to live authentically, safely, and free from discrimination, regardless of political shifts or extremism.
- The right to have these rights permanently safeguarded through constitutional amendment, not subject to reversal by hostile political movements.

**Plank 10:**

**Making Delaware a Safe Place for All Its Residents:** Delaware Democrats believe that real public safety is built on trust, fairness, and opportunity—not just enforcement. We recognize that a compassionate justice system, conscious of historic inequities, is essential to achieving lasting security for all communities. Rebuilding the bonds between law enforcement and the public requires meaningful partnership, transparency, and collaborative reform. We are committed to reducing gun violence, particularly in Delaware's cities where it has had devastating effects, by advancing strong public health approaches and passing common sense, evidence-based gun safety laws. Protecting vulnerable populations, including women and survivors of violence, remains central to our mission. We also reject profit-driven models of policing and incarceration, which undermine public trust and safety. A safer Delaware demands bold leadership, sustained

investment in community well-being, and an unyielding commitment to justice for every resident.

**a. Focusing on Gun Violence Solutions:** Gun violence remains a public health crisis in Delaware and nationwide, and addressing it demands leaders with the courage to prioritize our safety in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities. We call for accountability from the supply-side systems that move firearms into our communities unchecked by regulation or oversight. We call for stronger enforcement tools to ensure that our communities are safe from reckless gun owners and gun traffickers.

Additionally, we recognize that the safest states are those that combine strong laws with robust, community-led intervention efforts, not only to address community violence but also to prevent suicide, school-based violence, political violence, and interpersonal violence. We call for a strong, community-informed Office of Gun Violence Prevention to coordinate Delaware's existing efforts and investments. Delaware Democrats are committed to investing in evidence-based community violence intervention programs, prevention education, and policies that seek to address the root causes of violence, including poverty and lack of opportunity. We affirm that gun violence is preventable—not inevitable—and believe building safer communities requires a collective, grassroots approach rooted in prevention, public investment, and trust.

**b. Police Reform:** Delaware Democrats believe that real public safety requires transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. We support comprehensive reforms to ensure these values are upheld, including mandatory body cameras, the creation of local Civilian Review Boards for independent oversight, and the public release of law enforcement disciplinary records. We are committed to ending practices that perpetuate racial profiling and to implementing a statewide use of force standard that ensures new technologies are deployed without racial or gender bias. Law enforcement agencies must collect and publish data on use of force incidents and be held to clear accountability measures tied to funding increases. We also call for the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights, a necessary step toward racial justice and repairing relationships between police and communities of color.

**c. Ending Violence Against Women:** Delaware, home of the original Violence Against Women Act, must continue leading the fight to end violence against women in all forms. Combating gender-based violence requires a justice system rooted in dignity, protection, and survivor-centered care. We are committed to ending human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms, recognizing that exploitation and forced labor violate the basic rights of every person. Survivors deserve more than rescue—they deserve access to lasting protections, compassionate

services, and real opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity. Delaware Democrats affirm that safeguarding the rights, safety, and autonomy of survivors must be a fundamental priority, and that public resources should be used to foster healing, not perpetuate cycles of punishment.

**Plank 11:**

**Support Troops and Care for Veterans:** Delaware Democrats believe we have moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. We are committed to helping our veterans achieve their educational goals, and support reducing barriers to veteran entrepreneurship. We also support measures to combat waste, corruption, and dysfunction in the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. We must take care of those who put their lives on the line to defend us.

**a. Expand Military Family Services:** Delaware Democrats honor the sacrifice of military families who serve alongside our service members. We will support military families with jobs, education, childcare, and health care. We will promote family-friendly policies and champion efforts to care for our military family members, especially for the spouses and children who must rebuild their lives after the loss of a loved one or life-altering injury or disability. We must expand services and programs for veterans, especially women, whose needs are often overlooked during and after their service.

**b. Care for Veterans:** Delaware Democrats will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and processing of claims and appeals. We are committed to taking veteran mental health seriously, including PTSD, addiction, and suicide, and providing resources to injured veterans, including those suffering from mental health injuries.

**c. Assistance Programs for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness:** Delaware Democrats believe we should provide resources to fight the chronic issues of veterans homelessness and protect them from the dire circumstances that tend to follow and pervade such conditions.

**POSTSCRIPT**

We are fortunate to live in Delaware at this moment at a time when our Federal government is uncertain and being dismantled. It is vital for Democrats to stay focused on electing more Democrats to all government positions and to hold the seats we have. Our advantage here is found in our pragmatism and focus on Good Government that works for us all.

We dedicate this Platform and its vision for a better Delaware for all to President Joe Biden—a proud son of Delaware—whose decades of service on behalf of all Delawareans and the country reflected the very values we continue to fight for: opportunity for working families, investment in the public good, and an unwavering commitment to democracy. His leadership always reminded us that unity, humanity, and decency are not just possible but essential; and continues to remind us that the American project is always worth fighting for.

We are grateful to all of the Democrats who joined us at our Public Listening sessions and who provided invaluable input to this document.

This Platform Document is the result of many hours of reading, discussion, rewriting and public listening by this 2025 Platform Committee:

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