



# Democratic Party of New Mexico

## State Platform

### March 2024

[dpnm-sparc.org](http://dpnm-sparc.org)

#### **Purpose**

This Platform is adopted to inform candidates and voters alike that the assembled body of the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM), elected to represent the registered Democrats of all 33 New Mexico counties, believes its contents to represent our values, principles, aspirations, and governance goals. Candidates who seek public office and voters who support them and evaluate their performance should use this guide to help judge how well elected Democrats unite to further our common objectives.

#### **Representation**

These affiliations are not intended to imply official endorsements of the DPNM State Platform.

During the development of the 2024 platform, DPNM's State Platform and Resolutions Committee (SPARC) has adapted to the pandemic to ensure that our work has involved a broad coalition of Democrats from across New Mexico through virtual gatherings, outreach, and activities. This ensures that our platform continues to represent the ideas and values of New Mexicans from all over the state and is enriched by its people of diverse races, cultures, religions, and geography.

We are the Democratic Party of New Mexico.

Since 2017, SPARC was represented at public meetings that were held in all regions of the state including Socorro, Bernalillo, San Juan, Santa Fe, Lincoln, Taos, McKinley, Grant, Doña Ana, Eddy, Luna, Torrance, San Miguel, Valencia, Otero, Colfax, Cibola, and Lea counties where direct input and language was incorporated from over 600 public attendees from 20 out of the 33 counties. Planks were reviewed and informed by over 85 experts covering the fields of economics, education, election ethics, immigration, environmental justice, rural telecommunications, infrastructure, arts, Indigenous issues, health care, energy, environment, women's issues, science and technology, agriculture, civil rights, water management, transportation, international relations, criminal justice, and media. The SPARC website has received over 90 comments and has been viewed over 7,000 times with over 3,500 unique visitors. SPARC has consulted and worked with individuals who are members of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, The Black Caucus, The Hispanic Caucus, National Education Association, National Federation of Democratic Women, The Native American Democratic Caucus, Santa Fe Institute, YUCCA, CNM, No False Solutions, United for Affordable Housing, The Affirmative Action Committee, DPNM Adelante Progressive Caucus, Progressive Democrats of America-Central NM Chapter, NastyWomenNM, Retake our Democracy, Indivisible, Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico, The Santa Fe Dreamers' Project, and many county Democratic party chapters.

While this 2024 Platform as a whole is a continuation of the 2020 DPNM Platform, reflecting New Mexico’s uniqueness and a fresh step forward for the party, it is inspired by language from the 2016 New Mexico State Platform, the 2016/2020 DNC platforms, the Santa Fe and Eddy county platforms, the Unity Reform Commission, 2020 Presidential Primary campaign priorities, and several Obama-era Executive Orders. The 2024 Platform borrows language that aligns with the priorities of organizations that are unaffiliated with the Party but that share similar values and goals including: 350.org, New Energy Economy, Food and Water Watch, Common Cause, Frack Free New Mexico, Public Citizen, 24th Navajo Nation Council 2020 Legislative Priorities, Move to Amend, and The Sierra Club.

### **SPARC 2023-2025 Committee Members:**

ViAnn Beadle (Doña Ana)  
Patricia French (Bernalillo)  
Marjorie Germain (Bernalillo)  
Jay Levine (Taos) – SPARC Chair  
Jerry Morris (Doña Ana)  
Nicole Olonovich (Bernalillo)  
Carl Peterson (Bernalillo)  
Neil Raden (Santa Fe)  
Teresa Smith de Cherif (Valencia)  
Paul Szauter (Bernalillo)  
Jessica Velasquez - DPNM State Chair  
Beth Walker (Grant)  
Jane Yee (Bernalillo)

# **Democratic Party of New Mexico Core Values**

## **Preamble**

Democrats believe that every person matters. All New Mexicans should have an equal voice in how we are governed. We call out the disproportionate influence by rich and powerful special interests on our government. We affirm the ties of unity and inclusion that bind us together as one human family. We envision a New Mexico in which every person is treated with respect and every person can live a life of dignity with secure jobs that pay fair wages; an equitable economic system; not-for-profit universal healthcare; high-quality public schools; and a safe environment where the beauty and vitality of our land, water, and air are preserved for future generations. We hold these basic rights to be the natural heritage of all people and, as dedicated Democrats, we band together to claim that heritage for every member of our human community, both now and in times to come.

## **Agriculture**

Water is Life. We support equitable local and sustainable New Mexico farming and ranching, fair water access emphasizing agriculture that feeds New Mexicans, water conservation efforts, and regenerative soil practices. We must increase access to fresh and nutritious foods in all communities, under the direction of impacted communities.

## **Arts**

Democrats recognize the role of the arts in giving meaning and purpose to our lives and toward making a community engaging to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners. We are committed to investing in the arts and artists to continue our state's rich cultural heritage.

## **Business, Economy, and Revenue Sources**

Every American, especially people of color, women, and other marginalized communities, has the right to a job that provides for adequate food, housing, clothing, health care, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents. We must ensure adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves. Businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition at home and abroad. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share.

## **Civil Rights**

All people have the right to just, equitable, dignified, and respectful treatment.

## **Criminal Justice Reform**

Democrats seek to improve public safety by reforming the criminal justice system to focus on implementing programs that prevent criminal activity, divert people from crime, prosecution, and detention; programs that provide effective treatment of underlying drug addiction and mental illness; and, programs that rehabilitate the accused and the detained. We seek a criminal justice system that also focuses on ending the influence of white supremacy, the ideology that has led to mass incarceration, the "new Jim Crow"; on establishing community-based alternatives to the inhumane prison-industrial complex; and, on

prioritizing the holistic healing of crime victims and perpetrators through restorative justice practices. Democrats strongly believe that all people who live and work in places of detention have the right to a safe and healthy environment.

## **Education**

An educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Children and adults have a right to affordable, high-quality education that enables them to pursue the career of their choice and to participate meaningfully in our society. The state of New Mexico must fully fund an equitable system of education from pre-K to college or career and provide collaborative oversight of resources spent on public education alongside local educational authorities.

## **Ethics, Elections, and Politics**

Government derives its legitimacy from the consent of the governed. The people, through their government, must guarantee that all have an equal voice and equal representation. People have a fundamental right to participate in the political process through voting, running for office, and otherwise engaging in the political process as appropriate for a person's age. We do not tolerate voter suppression. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in all elections. We demand a well-regulated and equitable campaign-finance system.

### **Energy and Environment**

Democrats support the use of renewable energy, workforce development and job creation in this sector, and small businesses in a just transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. We will position New Mexico as a key global hub for technology, manufacturing, and construction to join and accelerate the clean-energy transition. In our communities, Democrats will raise awareness to promote the adoption of conservation of natural resources, energy efficiency, technologies, and policies necessary to protect air, land, and water, and do everything in our power to mitigate and counter climate catastrophe. We will engage community members in decision making through meaningful consultation and full participation in environmental-justice planning.

### **Health Care**

Health care is a fundamental human right, as is a robust public health system and resources to support it. Regardless of their circumstance, everyone in New Mexico and the U.S. should have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care in conjunction with comprehensive behavioral health services and reproductive care, including access to birth control, quality prenatal and postpartum care, and abortion care.

### **Housing Affordability**

Democrats believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe, stable, affordably priced home. We must address the need for real solutions that will increase the supply and access to all levels of housing throughout the state. We must enact policies that support all New Mexicans, protect tenants, landlords, and homeowners, and help those who need additional resources in order to live safely and remain valuable contributors to our communities.

### **Immigration**

Immigrants strengthen our communities. Through comprehensive reform, we will create humane and non-discriminatory asylum and immigration systems that keep families together and ensure attainable paths to citizenship. We must prepare our communities and institutions to welcome immigrants and asylum seekers migrating due to climate change, globalization, political persecution, and violence. Non-citizens must be afforded the same human and legal rights as U.S. citizens, including access to quality education, health care, a living wage, and worker protections.

### **Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos of New Mexico**

Democrats recognize and respect tribal sovereignty and acknowledge the fundamental Trust Responsibility of the United States government to American Indian and Alaska

Native People and tribal governments as grounded and embedded in treaties, laws, and court decisions.

Democrats will work to promote positive government-to-government relations and effective collaboration between the state and Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos. Democrats will honor, strengthen, and fulfill the sovereign, inherent rights of Tribes and Pueblos in New Mexico. Democrats will work to enact laws, policies, and political processes that are led and informed by the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico. Democrats will work to ensure that New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos have access to clean air, land, and water; and will consistently defend their sovereign rights to regain, maintain, and protect their natural and cultural resources, sacred sites, economic interests, cultural identity, Indigenous languages, and rights to self-determination.

### **International Relations**

All actions of U.S. institutions and supporting organizations must reflect integrity, respect, and ethical behavior in accordance with human rights and international norms and laws. We believe that our security, prosperity, and well-being are best served by increased and prioritized resources and funding for diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, especially border countries.

### **Labor**

Democrats will remove obstacles for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize, form, and join unions. We recognize that unions contribute to building a stronger middle class, as well as their crucial role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions. In the absence of a state-based living wage, unions have been shown to close the earning and wage gaps, especially for women and communities of color. Unions have democratized our workplaces and help to counterbalance the overreach of modern monopolies, providing a much-needed check on the unfettered socioeconomic stratification of our society.

### **Media**

Free, fair, and balanced media is foundational to our democracy. Locally sourced news presented in diverse platforms with multiple opposing views from independent journalists and other members of the information landscape is essential to a functional democracy. People must be media literate to make sound voting decisions and to be rational participants in civic engagement.

### **Public Safety**

Everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion, exploitation, economic injustice, and violence, perpetrated by individuals and/or institutions, including harm imposed by private and corporate degradation of water, air, and soil. We support a multi-faceted strategy for public safety including law enforcement, intervention and treatment, and a comprehensive layering of firearm safety policies. We support safety and economic justice for all.

### **Science & Technology**

Government has a primary role in supporting science and technology for the public good and for economic development. Technology has the potential to drive social and economic change and should be equitably accessible to all. Policymakers should be informed by the best science available.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state's economic competitiveness, create jobs, fulfill climate targets, and achieve equitable and safe communities. We also believe everyone should have clean affordable water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.

### **Veterans & Military Affairs**

All qualified persons who wish to serve our nation should be free to do so without discrimination. Our country must

honor all of its veterans and wounded warriors, especially those who have been historically marginalized within the Veterans Affairs system, such as women, Black, Indigenous, people of color, non-citizens, and LGBTQ+. Our party passed the G.I. Bill of Rights and will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation and its interests.

### **Water**

Democrats must act now to secure our water future. We must support equitable, evidence-based, water planning, management, and stewardship. New Mexico will equitably and effectively adapt to climate change and best sustain what we value: our diverse cultures, our people and economy, food production, and riverine and riparian ecosystems.

### **Women**

Democrats shall ensure equitable treatment for women in education, employment, health care, civic and political participation, and in all other spheres of society. We recognize that violence against women and girls is a pandemic and we stand firm in the need for a societal shift away from violence, exploitation, exclusion, and harassment, including vigorous prosecution of perpetrators. Democrats support women's rights to make their own decisions regarding their education, employment, opportunities, and body.

# **Table of Contents**

Agriculture	7
Arts	8
Business, Economy, and Revenue Sources	8
Civil Rights	10
Criminal Justice Reform	12
Education	14
Ethics, Elections, and Politics	16
Energy and Environment	17
Health Care	19
Housing Affordability	21
Immigration	22
Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos of New Mexico	26
International Relations	27
Labor	30
Media	30
Public Safety	31
Science & Technology	33
Transportation & Infrastructure	34
Veterans & Military Affairs	36
Water	37
Women	39

# Agriculture

**Water is Life. We support equitable local and sustainable New Mexico farming and ranching, fair water access emphasizing agriculture that feeds New Mexicans, water conservation efforts, and regenerative soil practices. We must increase access to fresh and nutritious foods in all communities, under the direction of impacted communities.**

## **We affirm:**

1. New Mexico water is scarce and precious. We will create a long-term plan to ensure that our state agriculture industry is the most efficient in water usage possible; and
2. Equitable food-oriented development should be a priority; and
3. Pesticides and herbicides should be used responsibly with full consideration of all effects to ecosystems; and
4. “Produced water” is hydraulic fracturing (fracking) waste and should never be used to water our crops; and
5. Sustainable farming practices, including regenerative agriculture, soil health, diversified crops, water conservation, worker safety, and fair labor practices are important to help alleviate food insecurity in both urban and rural communities; and
6. Ongoing research on improvements to agriculture has an important role in mitigating climate change, adapting agriculture to a changing climate, and potentially providing carbon credits to farmers; and
7. Monocropping, large-scale farming, and concentrated animal-feeding operations are not healthy, nor are they sustainable; and
8. Black, Indigenous, and people of color, working class people, and communities of women are disproportionately impacted by poverty, hunger, and health disparities. We will prioritize land, water, and investment for women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color farmers and food entrepreneurs.

## **We will:**

1. Support the removal of the existing minimum-wage exemption for agricultural workers and end the practice of paying workers by the piece; and
2. Support stronger agricultural-worker protections, including regulating work hours, demanding fair wages, eliminating child labor, ensuring adequate housing for migrant workers, and providing sanitary facilities in the field; and
3. Support funding and prioritization of local farming, including community-supported agriculture (CSAs) and infrastructure to bring products to market; and
4. Support incentives for transitioning to locally sustainable agricultural practices, soil restoration, agricultural water conservation, and retention of lands for regenerative agricultural production and ranching; and
5. Demand modifications to the Farm Bill, to adjust its formulas to accommodate the Southwest's more arid agricultural conditions; and
6. Demand a ban on the use of neonicotinoids (synthetic pesticides), which are neurotoxic to humans and detrimental to bees and pollinators on which we depend for our food supply; and
7. Support efforts to preserve and protect New Mexico’s traditional heritage livestock and varieties of heirloom seeds; and
8. Support individual property owners’ abilities to control their agricultural lands and local water rights for personal and agricultural use to the extent that it does not conflict with the need to have a sustainable community; and
9. Compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as a contaminant; and
10. Compel the Department of Defense (DoD) to clean up PFAS chemical contamination, which originated on military bases, and to provide compensation and remedies for affected water supplies, livestock, and poisoned individuals; and
11. Support individuals and communities in developing yard and community gardens through supportive land-use policies and zoning; and
12. Support regenerative farming practices that protect against drought, mitigate the effects of climate change, increase biodiversity, enrich soils, create living-wage jobs, and improve watersheds; and
13. Support increased funding for New Mexico healthy soil initiatives; and
14. Support legislation that promotes an industrial hemp industry.

## Arts

**Democrats recognize the role of the arts in giving meaning and purpose to our lives and toward making a community engaging to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners. We are committed to investing in the arts and artists to continue our state's rich cultural heritage.**

### **We affirm:**

1. The arts, including images, songs, and dances that originate within indigenous New Mexico cultures, are the intellectual property of that culture and should be protected; and
2. The arts contribute to community building and to the emotional, physical, and intellectual health of individuals in our society in significant and important ways; and
3. That the sharing of art is a bridge across generations.

### **We will:**

1. Support the visual and performing arts through government funding, grants, marketing assistance, training, and increased market access; and
2. Support programs and legislation that provide for the health, housing, and well-being of New Mexico's artists; and
3. Support public art facilities (both long-term and short-term) that engage all communities, especially young and diverse people; and
4. Promote entrepreneurial and support services to artists, art-industry groups, and art-industry organizations; and
5. Encourage investment in the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and
6. Support the development of statewide curricula that emphasize visual and performing arts, as well as relying on the arts to engage students in other subject areas; and
7. Increase opportunities for local art communities and artists within the New Mexico film industry; and
8. Demand that grant opportunities are fairly distributed among organizations and individual emerging artists in New Mexico; and
9. Support the branding of New Mexico as a destination for domestic and international tourism; and
10. Support the use of public alternative spaces for art exhibitions and performances; and
11. Promote access to art in all areas of New Mexico, including rural/frontier regions; and
12. Support community curation of art projects and the award of patronage funding; and
13. Support artists in the protection of their copyrighted creations from artificial intelligence (AI).

## Business, Economy, and Revenue Sources

**Every American, especially people of color, women, and other marginalized communities, has the right to a job that provides for adequate food, housing, clothing, health care, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents. We must ensure adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves. Businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition at home and abroad. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share.**

### **We Affirm:**

1. Our nation's spending on infrastructure suffered from decades of neglect, resulting in lost productivity, investment, collapse of U.S. manufacturing, and a degradation of our competitive edge worldwide; and
2. All jobs must pay a living wage; and
3. Veterans, the technologically displaced, people with housing insecurity, people with disabilities, people with limited transportation options, youth, and the elderly routinely face barriers to employment and economic opportunity; and
4. Our support for single-payer universal health care because individuals should be empowered to make employment and life decisions that are independent of where they live and where or if they work; and



5. New Mexico should require that new electrical generating facilities be renewable and advance the date for implementation of the Renewable Portfolio Standards to facilitate New Mexico's role as a leader in this sector; and
6. The New Mexico solar energy tax credit must be expanded to include incentives for home installation of solar panels, passive solar, green technology, and water conservation; and
7. Employers in New Mexico should be supported and incentivized to hire locally; and
8. Direct job creation should be supported through investments in infrastructure, transportation, renewable energy research, and water conservation; and
9. That strong economic growth, which provides equal opportunity to all, reduces crime, domestic violence, and substance abuse rates; and
10. It is a right of all New Mexicans to have a strong safety net of social services; and
11. New Mexico-owned small businesses should receive preferential treatment with respect to awarding of grants, contracts, and incentives; and
12. Statewide workforce development, vocational training, and educational programs spur economic development and create jobs in all sectors of the economy; and
13. A stable state budget, with revenues from diversified streams and industries, will hedge against market volatility; and
14. That regulation of banks and other financial institutions benefits all New Mexicans; and
15. That New Mexico should investigate and pursue development of a public banking system; and
16. Predatory lending is a scourge on the economy and harmful to New Mexicans; and
17. Privatization of essential government functions and outsourcing of public-sector jobs harms the economy and the people; and
18. Strong unions and union labor benefit New Mexico, its people, its businesses, and its economy; and
19. At-will employment and so-called right-to-work laws threaten the power of unions, New Mexico's workers, their job security, and their right to fair compensation, and the economy of the state; and
20. Strong and effective state and federal regulation of monopolies and other dominant businesses serves the public interest; and
21. Support for the use of the Defense Production Act for government-ordered production by businesses of resources and material needed during public health emergencies; and
22. That adequate investment in programs to prevent the spread of contagious disease, ensure adequate supplies during public health emergencies, and to provide means for all people to practice good hygiene is good for public health, business, and the economy; and
23. That during public health emergencies government programs are essential to support businesses and the economy; and
24. Effective government policy during public health emergencies prevents harm to people, stabilizes the economy, and supports labor and business.

**We will:**

1. Support business incubator and business development programs statewide; and
2. Expand training and retraining programs to ensure that all New Mexicans have broad economic opportunities; and
3. Promote policies that encourage employers to hire locals; and
4. Foster programs that remove barriers and create a path to employment for the chronically unemployed, including veterans, technologically displaced people, people with housing insecurity, people with disabilities, people with limited transportation options, youth, and the elderly; and
5. Support and diversify New Mexico's economy through investment in tourism and the promotion of made-in-New Mexico products and our unique attractions; and
6. Celebrate and support our state's multicultural identity, beautiful terrain and wildlife, public lands and monuments, and opportunities for adventure; and
7. Keep our dollars at home with buy-local initiatives; and
8. Develop the market for products made in New Mexico or by New Mexican companies; and
9. Support the formation of a National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) modeled on the four previous nationally chartered public banks to fund the development of infrastructure needed to support a thriving economy while providing good-paying jobs; and

10. Pursue public banking options to increase state revenues without increasing taxes; and
11. Support the Taxation and Revenue Department by providing the staffing and funding necessary to ensure that the severance tax and royalties due from natural resources extraction are collected. This should include enacting penalties and interest on companies that have failed to report to the State, whether due to negligence or disregard of rules and regulations; and
12. Enhance New Mexico's international economy by promoting fair trade policies with Mexico and other countries. Other examples of these efforts include expanding our aerospace industry, developing global promotion programs, increasing the number of destinations for direct flights, and boosting the exports of renewable energy, technologies, and other products; and
13. Invest in economic growth in the technology sector through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) education, the development and promotion of advanced technology applications, and supporting innovators by teaching information technology and coding in every public school; and
14. Support government, microloan, and other financial assistance programs to meet the needs of each borrower fairly and transparently; and
15. Demand the rigorous evaluation by local authorities of algorithms used to determine access to credit, whether they are based on simple scorecards, machine learning, or artificial intelligence methods; and
16. Demand that the federal and state government stockpile resources needed for public health emergencies and for when there is an acute national security crisis; and
17. Ensure that during public health emergencies and acute threats to national security the federal government directs businesses to produce resources as necessary to protect and safeguard people, businesses, and the economy, in conjunction and collaboration with state and local government; and
18. Demand that during public health crises and acute threats to national security, the government subsidizes businesses in order to stabilize the economy and provide for the people; and
19. Support programs that retrain workers displaced by public health emergencies, acute national security threats, and the transition from a fossil-fuel economy to a clean-energy economy; and
20. Encourage the Taxation and Revenue Department to refer small business owners to the New Mexico Small Business Administration (SBA); and
21. Ensure that the New Mexico Small Business Administration (SBA) is fully funded to support the development of small businesses by assisting in grant writing, tax preparation, and other small business incentives.

## Civil Rights

**All people have the right to just, equitable, dignified, and respectful treatment.**

### **We affirm:**

1. Racism is a deeply embedded system by which the power structure and the enforcing institutions are designed to serve a particular race to the oppression or disadvantage of another; and
2. Prejudice is an antagonism directed against an individual or a group based on race, appearance, identity, or attributes; and
3. Discrimination is a systematic action to isolate and define an individual or group based on appearance, identity, or attributes; and
4. Those born into privilege have an advantage. An equitable society should provide additional resources to level the playing field for those who are historically disadvantaged; and
5. The rights as defined by the United States Constitution of free speech, free press, peaceful assembly, due process, and habeas corpus must be defended and upheld; and
6. Personal choices, including reproductive choice, domestic partnership, end-of-life options, religious choice (including freedom from and of religion), and marriage equality, are fundamental rights; and
7. Unreasonable searches and domestic surveillance, including any conducted under the USA PATRIOT Act, are unconstitutional; and
8. All people have a right to a high-quality education, regardless of race, color, prior education, gender identity, religion, national origin, right to remain in the U.S., socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age; and
9. Civility and speaking out against bigotry and other forms of intolerance must be promoted; and

10. History is written by the victor and does not portray an accurate account of all people; and
11. The primary drivers of wealth are home and business ownership. These fundamental assets were inaccessible to Black, Indigenous, and people of color for hundreds of years, creating a societal imbalance in wealth and opportunity and health and life expectancy; and
12. The death penalty is an absolute violation of civil and human rights; and
13. Our rights to clean water and air, a stable climate, and healthy environments are fundamental rights that must be recognized through a state constitutional amendment such as the “Green Amendment.”

**We will:**

1. Protect all people from harassment and violence, including personal, domestic, emotional, mental, financial, and sexual, through education, law enforcement, and the courts. Survivors of these crimes deserve all the support they need; and
2. Protect the Establishment Clause, which is the separation of church and state, in all local, state, and federal government institutions, including the military and public schools; and
3. Improve conditions and defend human rights for the incarcerated and provide adequate support for successful reintegration into society, including housing, food, health care, employment, and financial support; and
4. Embrace racial and socioeconomic equity and counter discrimination in hiring practices and ongoing employment; and
5. Defend the use of affirmative action within academic admissions; and
6. Enact incentives to reserve units in new housing developments for lower-income households; and
7. Protect current homeowners and renters from being displaced due to higher property taxes that occur as a result of increased property values often associated with gentrification; and
8. Work to end police violence, mass incarceration, and other racist features of the criminal legal apparatus, all of which have severely harmed Black, Indigenous, and people of color individuals; and
9. Propose legislation that appropriately defines racism in the workplace, including definitions of discriminatory behaviors and adverse treatment; and
10. Work to end income and wealth inequality; and
11. Push for legislation that places incarcerated people in the facilities that match their gender identity to address abuses upon transgender, non-binary, and intersex incarcerated individuals; and
12. Work to end human trafficking by uplifting policies and laws such as the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (TVPA); and
13. Address the intersection of racism within our police departments, courts, and media that allow the systemic issues of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) to be ignored. Demand equitable sentencing and allocation of adequate resources to remedy this global issue; and
14. Remediate policies that allow inhumane and inequitable treatment of Black, Indigenous, or people of color individuals seeking legal refuge in the U.S. only to be put in cages with aluminum blankets or whipped; and
15. Ensure the abolition of the death penalty in recognition that the death penalty is an absolute violation of human and civil rights; and
16. Actively work to deconstruct institutional and structural racism and acknowledge the role of patriarchy, colonization, and white supremacy in the current lived experiences of our fellow New Mexicans; and
17. Actively work to eliminate voter suppression laws and practices; and
18. Actively work to build healthy communities to preclude the disparate impact of pandemics such as COVID-19 on working class communities and Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities; and
19. Ensure that our education systems teach a true and accurate history of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, as this history is our collective history.

## **Criminal Justice Reform**

**Democrats seek to improve public safety by reforming the criminal justice system to focus on implementing programs that prevent criminal activity, divert people from crime, prosecution, and detention; programs that provide effective treatment of underlying drug addiction and mental illness; and, programs that rehabilitate the accused and the detained. We seek a criminal justice system that also focuses on ending the influence of white supremacy, the ideology that has led to mass incarceration, the “new Jim Crow”; on establishing community-based**

**alternatives to the inhumane prison-industrial complex; and, on prioritizing the holistic healing of crime victims and perpetrators through restorative justice practices. Democrats strongly believe that all people who live and work in places of detention have the right to a safe and healthy environment.**

**We affirm:**

1. There is something profoundly unjust when almost a quarter of the world's prison population is in the U.S., even though our country has less than five percent of the world's population; and
2. The private, for-profit prison industry is predatory, inhumane, and exploits racist criminal justice policies and should be eliminated; and
3. Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education for the incarcerated and for the average citizen, and end the school-to-prison pipeline; and
4. The criminal justice system has failed to provide adequate mental health services, the effective treatment of drug addiction, victim assistance, rehabilitation, and re-entry services; and
5. The "war on drugs" has led to the imprisonment of millions of Americans, disproportionately people of color, without reducing drug use; and
6. That the criminalization of drug addiction, reflected in the "opioid crisis" brought about by a pharmaceutical company and its collaborators, who preyed on the sick and suffering for unconscionable monetary gain, causes patients who become addicted and their families to be unjustifiably caught up in the criminal justice system; and
7. That because 95% of all prisoners are eventually released, policies that provide for prisoner reentry into society and that prevent and reduce collateral consequences based on criminal history should be required to reduce recidivism; and
8. A person's financial situation, appearance, age, race, address, or ethnicity should not determine the type of sentencing, including if they go to jail or for how long; and
9. That the constitutional right of all defendants to a full and fair trial requires sufficient funding, including equitable and full financial funding of the offices of public defenders and district attorneys; as well as quality performance standards and oversight to ensure effective defense and ethical prosecution in all cases; and
10. Adequate training of law enforcement officers to fulfill their duties is paramount and we must increase mandatory annual training to include more emphasis on cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and techniques for de-escalation; and
11. Commendation and support of law enforcement officers who inspire trust in the community by adhering to best practices and employing effective de-escalation strategies; and
12. The diversity of administrators of the criminal justice system should be representative of the community; and
13. High-quality healthcare service should be provided to those held in detention; and
14. Public health orders should be followed and enforced at all incarceration facilities to ensure the health of all residing and working in those facilities; and
15. All courts be adequately funded to implement prompt and timely trial dates as required by the U.S. Constitution.

**We will:**

1. Encourage the federal government to remove "marijuana" from the list of Schedule I federally controlled substances and to appropriately regulate cannabis, providing a reasonable pathway for future legalization; and
2. Continue to pursue the expungement of criminal records for those with solely nonviolent, personal cannabis use, and possession charges; and
3. Support the use of DNA testing and timely rape kit processing to prosecute the perpetrators, protect the wrongfully accused, and set free the wrongfully convicted; and
4. Demand that programs for victims of sexual assault be fully funded, especially in rural and tribal communities; and
5. Advocate for sufficient funding to hire and train additional competent public defenders to ensure every case can be thoroughly represented and processed in a timely manner; and
6. Demand the repeal of mandatory minimum sentences; and
7. Demand the death penalty and solitary confinement, which are cruel and unusual forms of punishment, be abolished; and
8. Demand the elimination of life without possibility of parole for youthful offenders while expanding youth detention centers to age 25; and
9. Demand the end to policies based on racial profiling that target individuals solely on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin, which is un-American and counterproductive and has resulted in the "new Jim Crow"; and

10. Advocate for the creation of an independent oversight process for the investigation of crimes involving law enforcement, to prevent conflicts of interest, including designating a chief District Attorney position and/or civilian oversight boards chartered with investigative authority; and
11. Advocate for the removal of barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by expanding re-entry programs and preventing employment discrimination based on criminal history; and
12. Demand the reinstatement of voting rights of the incarcerated upon release from custody; and
13. Develop and implement community safety and welfare policies that go beyond harm reduction (that is, going beyond providing naloxone or other overdose antidotes and distributing clean needles/syringes) and provide, in addition, options for effective voluntary long-term treatment programs; and
14. Advocate for the strengthening and adequate funding of diversion and treatment programs as alternatives to arrest and incarceration, specifically including measures to:
  - (a) Ensure the accessibility of the full menu of treatment courts (drug, alcohol, behavioral health or mental health courts) throughout the state; and
  - (b) Revise the current standards for treatment courts and the courts' Department of Therapeutic Justice so that their programs provide integrated treatment for those with multiple diagnoses; and
  - (c) Expand mental health and addiction treatment facilities as necessary to serve the needs of the participants in treatment court programs and, in general, to eliminate long waitlists that lead to lost opportunities and lives; and
  - (d) Expand prison and jail facilities for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illness if incarceration cannot be avoided;
  - (e) Employ science-based treatment approaches consisting of adequate treatment time and medication-assisted treatment as may be advisable, all in recognition that recovery is not a straight line and zero-tolerance is ineffective and counterproductive; and
15. Demand the delivery of all dental and health care needs of arrested and incarcerated girls and women, including pregnancy-related care; and
16. Demand that all incarcerated individuals, including youth, be afforded medical and mental health services, education, and substance-use recovery and rehabilitative services; and
17. Demand that prosecution and defense be treated equitably by providing balanced funding for District Attorney and Public Defender agencies including attorney's salaries; and
18. Advocate for the creation and adequate funding of an Independent Wrongful Conviction Review Commission; and
19. Demand the end of exploitative prison labor programs by private industry; and
20. Promote expansion of legal aid services in rural communities; and
21. Demand all law enforcement personnel receive implicit bias training, violence management, and mental health first aid beginning in the academy and continuing throughout their years of service; and
22. Demand minimum qualifications for Federal Judge Appointments; and
23. Support specialized courts that focus on unrepresented groups that need special expertise, such as those with home insecurity and those with mental illness; and
24. Demand the use of data- and evidence-based approaches to enact and evaluate criminal justice reform in lieu of anecdotes, testimonials, interviews, media reports, and stories; and
25. Demand the rigorous evaluation by local authorities of algorithms used to enact and evaluate criminal justice reform, whether they are based on simple scorecards, machine learning, or artificial intelligence methods; and
26. Advocate that the severity of punishments for drug-related crimes be re-evaluated; and
27. Demand that the constitutional rights of defendants and victims of crime be zealously defended; and
28. Demand full implementation of public health orders in all places of detention and incarceration; and
29. Demand the end of qualified immunity that currently protects perpetrators of gun violence and blocks victims of gun violence from obtaining justice.

## **Education**

**An educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Children and adults have a right to affordable, high-quality education that enables them to pursue the career of their choice and to participate meaningfully in our society. The state of New Mexico must fully fund an**

**equitable system of education from pre-K to college or career and provide collaborative oversight of resources spent on public education alongside local educational authorities.**

**We affirm:**

1. Public education is enriched by diversity of perspectives and informed by the communities it serves, including people of Hispanic descent, Native Americans, immigrants, people with disabilities, people with gender-diverse identities, and people living at lower-income levels; and
2. High-quality education values the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our students and provides opportunities to acquire additional understandings, perspectives, and skills that enhance their lives through the development of multi-cultural curricula in meaningful consultation with people from those diverse cultures; and
3. Educational facilities at all levels of public education require sufficient funding to provide safe and supportive learning environments and adequate resources for all students and the educators who teach them; and
4. All educational personnel deserve compensation and opportunities for meaningful professional development; and
5. Evaluation of student, educator, and school achievement should be based on a wide range of information collected and tracked through K-12 and should not be limited to standardized test data; and
6. Advanced research at our universities contributes to local, state, national, and global competitiveness, and should be prioritized by New Mexico; and
7. Educational institutions should be fully prepared to respond to public health and safety emergencies while maintaining appropriate, safe, and accessible education for all students and safe working conditions for all staff; and
8. Language learning, especially initiated at an early age, can lead to higher academic achievement on standardized tests, improved reading ability, and better problem-solving skills; and
9. Gallup-McKinley County schools enroll over 25% of all Native American students in New Mexico and are responsible for over 75% of expulsions of Native American students.

**We will:**

1. Demand that the state fulfill its constitutional obligations dictated in the Yazzie/Martinez decision by providing equitable educational funding through an allocation of resources based on need, so all students can succeed regardless of where in New Mexico they live; and
2. Diversify and increase funding sources for public education; and
3. Equip all New Mexico communities with internet access and support distance education technology; and
4. Provide free public early childhood, vocational, college, and university educations to all New Mexicans; and
5. Expand the funding and utilization of community schools in order to provide student and community support for physical, mental, social, economic, and health needs; and
6. Support an increase to the salaries, benefits, and classroom resources for New Mexico educators to attract and retain highly qualified educational professionals; and
7. Identify and address the needs of incarcerated individuals by expanding access and opportunities to a variety of educational pathways, including GED, diploma, academic, and vocational programs; and
8. Include educators, parents, students, and community members in evidence-based curricular discussions that reflect the historically, culturally, and linguistically diverse needs of New Mexico's multicultural communities; and
9. Create and celebrate learning environments that embrace the cultures, identities, languages, and heritages of all students through anti-racist/anti-bias curricula, professional development, staff training, and policies; and
10. Support LGBTQ+-inclusive classroom environments, curriculum, and comprehensive sex education; and
11. Implement culturally responsive policies at every level within our schools by providing training for all school staff, school board members, and students, and by applying best practices to lesson plans and school governance; and
12. Deny vouchers for private and religious schooling; and
13. Evaluate success and determine areas for improvement through collaborative, reflective processes that rely on a wide range of information and that focus on the entire educational environment of a school community; and
14. Incentivize training for high-need occupations and adapt curriculum and instruction to anticipate and meet the needs of an ever-evolving, future-focused economy; and
15. Fund programs to recruit and support local community members who want to become educators through university-based training, robust alternative-licensure programs, and significant high-quality mentorships; and
16. Support research efforts at state universities and colleges; and
17. Fund and support educational infrastructure and resources for public health and safety emergency preparedness and response; and

18. Support Gallup-McKinley County schools, families, and residents to ensure Native American students can successfully graduate.

## **Ethics, Elections, and Politics**

**Government derives its legitimacy from the consent of the governed. The people, through their government, must guarantee that all have an equal voice and equal representation. People have a fundamental right to participate in the political process through voting, running for office, and otherwise engaging in the political process as appropriate for a person's age. We do not tolerate voter suppression. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in all elections. We demand a well-regulated and equitable campaign finance system.**

### **We affirm:**

1. Americans' right to vote is sacred and fundamental; and
2. Every New Mexican has a right to participate fully in our political process through voting, serving, leading, and participating within the Party, and running for public office; and
3. Money is not speech and corporations are not people; and
4. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact should be adopted nationally to achieve equal representation.

### **We will:**

1. Fight to overturn all Supreme Court rulings on campaign finance, such as Citizens United and Buckley vs. Valeo, that have given the wealthy and corporations disproportionate influence over our elections; and
2. Demand campaign finance reform and the repeal of laws that enable secret money in politics; and
3. Create and promote competitive public campaign financing to stop the influence of big donors and special interest groups; and
4. Require full and real-time disclosure of all direct contributions to political and issue campaigns; and
5. Require full financial disclosure at the state and federal levels by all elected and appointed officials, judges, Justices, and paid lobbyists/consultants; and
6. Demand the strengthening and strict enforcement of the Governmental Conduct Act that prohibits an elected official from being employed as a lobbyist for at least three years after leaving office; and
7. Prevent the undue influence of corporate moneyed interests in governmental policy and management by supporting new legislation that would require a waiting period of three years before a currently employed member of a private interest is appointed to a governmental position, prohibit the service of any lobbyist on state boards, commissions, and other such bodies, and encourage regulatory agencies to hire or contract with persons with a broad range of expertise, including the protection of consumer and environmental interests; and
8. Fight for campaign reform by frequent and timely candidate and community training on all aspects of the issues in order to change the laws and level the playing field; and
9. Promote equity in representation and the ability of every citizen to run for the New Mexico State Legislature by supporting a constitutional amendment to provide for a full-time and adequately staffed, paid legislature; and
10. Fight against voter suppression, such as partisan voter purges, voter ID laws, and limited polling sites; and
11. Purposefully encourage political participation by all New Mexicans of any race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, physical ability, cognitive ability, age, or socioeconomic status; and
12. Increase voter participation by expanding voting hours, the early voting period, and voting convenience center locations; and
13. Promote early voting, same-day registration, and automatic registration; and
14. Provide ample and convenient polling sites in all communities, particularly tribal communities; and
15. Demand up-to-date election processes nationwide that guarantee transparency, integrity, and accountability in the voter software and equipment, and include archived paper ballots; and
16. Support the elimination of all superdelegates; and
17. Support a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College, in favor of a popular vote; and
18. Advocate for a constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering by creating and giving authority to an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission that includes diverse membership, specifically including Native American representation and participation. This commission shall be separate from the legislative process to prevent the drawing of political boundaries favoring one party over another or favoring incumbents; and

19. Restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and
20. Support the ability to use straight-ticket, party-preference voting; and
21. Adopt ranked-choice voting for DPNM party elections to ensure that candidates are elected by a majority of the State Central Committee (SCC) members voting for that position; and
22. Advocate for ranked-choice voting for all primary and general elections to make democracy more fair and functional; and
23. Develop a strategic plan to maximize engagement with our activists and partners to build coalitions to help our candidates win; and
24. Support the expansion of the age of voting to 16 years old for community offices (school boards, city council, etc).

## **Energy and Environment**

**Democrats support the use of renewable energy, workforce development, and job creation in this sector, and small businesses in a just transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. We will position New Mexico as a key global hub for technology, manufacturing, and construction to join and accelerate the clean-energy transition. In our communities, Democrats will raise awareness to promote the adoption of conservation of natural resources, energy efficiency, technologies, and policies necessary to protect air, land, and water, and do everything in our power to mitigate and counter climate catastrophe. We will engage community members in decision-making through meaningful consultation and full participation in environmental justice planning.**

### **We affirm:**

1. The right to live in a healthy environment and the right to clean air, land, and water; and
2. Historically, Black, Indigenous, and people of color and lower-income and working-class people are disproportionately and negatively impacted by climate disruption and/or pollution; and
3. The world must move immediately to 100% renewable electricity and remove fossil fuels from all sectors; and
4. New Mexico must be using 100% renewable electricity by 2030; and
5. That reducing carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy is essential; and
6. Our nation's spending on infrastructure has fallen to its lowest level in 70 years, resulting in lost productivity, investment, collapse of U.S. manufacturing, and a degradation of our competitive edge worldwide; and
7. The importance of mitigating the climate catastrophe which means to improve the quality of life of community members in the face of wildfires, water shortages, pollution of natural resources, extreme heat, storms, floods, and any other climate-related events.

### **We will:**

1. Develop a plan that lays out mandatory benchmarks to transition electricity generation, transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture to 100% renewable energy; and
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions more than 80% below 2005 levels; and
3. Demand economic support for workers in affected industries and affected local communities and Indigenous sovereign nations as we transition to a fossil-fuel-free economy; and
4. Call for lowering energy waste by achieving state-wide energy savings of twenty percent of 2020 usage by 2028 with minimum annual energy savings of two and one half percent baseline growth through the implementation of energy-efficiency programs in all sectors of the economy, public and private, and in the building, transportation, utilities, and appliances industries; and
5. Support a rigorous Public Regulation Commission rule-making in 2024 through which the PRC adopts the annual energy savings goal of two and one-half percent and multiyear energy savings goal of twenty percent of 2020 usage by 2028; and
6. Reinstate the New Mexico Solar Energy Tax Credit; and
7. Transition tax breaks and subsidies from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy providers; and
8. Prioritize and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy and energy-storage technologies while phasing out all fossil-fuel-based power plants; and
9. Support community solar programs to expand solar access to underserved lower-income individuals and groups; and
10. Support the development of Public Power in New Mexico, i.e., some form of public ownership of electricity infrastructure, to ensure that the transition to renewable energy will include a restructuring of the power grid energy



- markets and the ownership and control of this infrastructure to best serve community values and interests. Ensure and protect the right of New Mexicans to tie residential and commercial solar to the grid; and
11. Enact the Green Amendment to the New Mexico Constitution, which will make clean pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments a constitutional right for New Mexicans for future generations; and
  12. Assert our rights to clean pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments and communities as they are essential to protecting all New Mexicans from contagious disease (e.g., COVID-19), and pollution (e.g., Gold King Mine spill and Kirtland AFB jet fuel spill) and from the disparate impacts that egregiously harm communities of working-class people and people of color; and
  13. Invest in a statewide, renewable-energy-powered, and publicly accessible electric-vehicle-charging network; and
  14. Construct new transmission lines to transport low-cost renewable energy to market in a transparent and environmentally sound way; and
  15. Upgrade distribution systems so that they have the capacity to accommodate the continued growth of distributed generation, building electrification, electric vehicles, and emerging technologies; and
  16. Close the Halliburton loophole in the Safe Drinking Water Act and require that all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) must be disclosed to the appropriate government regulators as public information; and
  17. Support the formation of a National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) modeled on the four previous nationally chartered public banks to fund the development of the infrastructure needed to achieve our renewable energy transition; and
  18. Reject hydrogen production that utilizes any form of fossil fuel, either directly or as fossil-fuel-powered energy; and
  19. Ensure that all New Mexicans, including landowners, communities of color, and affected tribal nations, are honored and respected in the decision-making and energy-implementation processes; and
  20. Ban the importing and use of clean water for fracking purposes, and require that the oil and gas industry account for all water: from its origination source; the amount used and recovered; the toxicity of the fracking waste “produced water” that results; and where that waste ultimately ends up. Require that the oil and gas industry be transparent with the public on these findings; and
  21. Stop the use of fracking waste “produced water” and criminalize the contamination of watershed; and
  22. Educate and empower our population using independent data with scientific and cultural integrity to face the challenges of climate change, including mitigation strategies that are relevant to people’s day-to-day lives; and
  23. Support improved government regulation to ensure our water is not polluted by agricultural, mining, sewage treatment, chemical, oil and gas, or other activities; and
  24. Increase funding for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division to adequately staff all offices with qualified personnel at competitive salaries to oversee drilled wells, witness and verify the integrity of all wellbores, and enforce the most stringent federal and state environmental regulations, while creating public involvement and oversight of this process; and
  25. Respect the cultural heritage and historical use of acequias and other traditional irrigation practices; and
  26. Engage through community outreach to involve Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, lower-income and working-class people in meaningful consultation and full participation “at the table” from the beginning: when collecting data; researching; investigating; engaging in environmental justice planning; and in formulating solutions to unsustainable development and environmentally harmful practices; and
  27. Support implementation of the “30 x 30 Initiative” (to conserve 30% of the nation’s land and water by 2030) and keep public lands public for all time; and
  28. Support the protection and reclamation of New Mexico’s state land, public land, and natural resources from damage inflicted by extractive industries; and
  29. Support federal Wild and Scenic Rivers designation for the Gila, the last free-flowing river in New Mexico and its tributaries; and
  30. Support the protection and preservation of our National and State Parks, Forests, Monuments, World Heritage Sites, and Indigenous sacred sites, especially those in New Mexico, such as Chaco Canyon and Valle del Oro; and
  31. Support the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered animals; and
  32. Support a state-level moratorium on the building, placement, or expansion of existing factory animal farms; and
  33. Support enlisting farmers and ranchers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship; and
  34. Advocate for legislation and policies that will require state and local governments to implement federal Justice40 policies, rules, and laws (to deliver at least 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities). Coordinate with federal government agencies to remediate the harms caused by decades of environmental and economic injustice and build instead healthy and sustainable communities for all through massive investments in infrastructure designed and developed by and for the people; and

35. Establish an independent and transparent baseline for groundwater based on Cumulative Impact Analyses; test for groundwater quantity and quality before new permits are issued; and ensure due process in these water permitting procedures; and
36. Advocate for federal, state, and local legislation that will require government agencies to consider cumulative impacts from multiple pollutants and sources, mandatory limits on fossil-fuel emissions in already polluted communities, and the applicants' past violations when such agencies are making permitting decisions under water and air quality laws; and
37. Advocate for federal, state, and local legislation that will require and adequately fund government agencies to include community-based environmental, public health, and social impact data collection and analysis, related research, mapping, and environmental justice strategic plans in the implementation of agency programs and policies.

## **Health Care**

**Health care is a fundamental human right, as is a robust public health system and resources to support it. Regardless of their circumstance, everyone in New Mexico and the U.S. should have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care in conjunction with comprehensive behavioral health services and reproductive care, including access to birth control, quality prenatal and postpartum care, and abortion care.**

### **We Affirm:**

1. The health care sector should be a publicly funded service that is provided to all people regardless of their ability to pay. A majority of New Mexicans are already on a form of publicly funded health care, including Medicare, Medicaid, Indian Health Services, and Veterans Administration; and
2. Medicare, Medicaid, contracted agencies, and the state of New Mexico should be allowed to negotiate for lower drug prices; and
3. The U.S. health care system lags behind health care in most G20 nations. The U.S. pays more for health insurance, has statistically worse health care outcomes, and is the only country among the developed nations in the world to not provide publicly funded health care; and
4. All health care services should be culturally and linguistically appropriate. Neither fear nor immigration status should be barriers that impede health care access; and
5. Public health facilities and services should be available to all people within a reasonable distance, including those living in rural and sparsely populated, geographically isolated communities; and
6. That rural communities and communities of color suffer health care disparities because of difficulties in maintaining a local health care workforce through education, recruitment, and retention of qualified health care providers; and
7. We value science and we will appropriate state money toward public investment in research, development, and innovation that creates life-saving drugs, public health training, improved technologies and procedures; and
8. Addiction is a disease and should be treated as such; and
9. Congress should fully fund the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and provide oversight of that agency to ensure generic- and foreign-drug applications are reviewed according to science and the interests of people. Procedures for reviewing applications should be standardized, transparent, and free from industry lobbying; and
10. High-quality, affordable, comprehensive health care, evidence-based sex education, and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions; and
11. All people in New Mexico deserve access to high-quality health care through public health measures, including prevention services for diseases and other conditions that can lead to negative health impacts; and
12. That during public health emergencies, mandates are necessary to protect the people, the state, the nation, and their interests; and
13. Collective action and individual responsibility play key roles as public health agencies work to prevent, contain, and eradicate contagious disease; and
14. That tools to prevent, contain, and eradicate contagious disease should be free to all people without question and without requiring identification; and
15. That public health measures require proactive collaboration with all health providers, especially those who work with underserved populations; and

16. That adequate investment in public health programs to prevent the spread of contagious disease, ensure adequate supplies during public health emergencies, and to provide means for all people to practice good hygiene is good for public health, business, and the economy.

**We will:**

1. Support the New Mexico Health Security Act, which enables New Mexico to set up our own health plan, automatically covering the majority of New Mexicans with comprehensive coverage and freedom of choice of provider; and
2. Support health care through a federal, single-payer, government-sponsored health care program like Medicare for All, which includes behavioral health, dental, vision, and hearing coverage, as well as alternative health care; and
3. Support policies that allow the negotiation of prices with hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies; and
4. Support improvements to preventive care by promoting physical activity and healthy living and improving access to fresh and nutritious foods; and
5. Support the passage of strict laws to control drug prices; for example, ending delays that keep generic drugs off the market and prevent the purchase of appropriate drugs from other countries; and
6. Demand the decriminalization of the medical condition known as addiction; and
7. Support the restoration and expansion of access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment services, require coverage for those services by insurance companies, and invest in evidence-based addiction recovery and prevention services to combat our deadly opioid and methamphetamine crises; and
8. Strongly and unequivocally support the decision to have a child, including by ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth, and by providing services during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including postpartum care and paid parental leave, affordable childcare, adoption, and social support services, as well as protections against pregnancy discrimination; and
9. Support funding for Planned Parenthood and other providers that provide full and safe access to the entire spectrum of health options, including safe and legal abortion; women's cancer prevention, screening, and treatment; and routine physical exams, vaccinations, and screenings for common health conditions; and
10. Treat behavioral health with the same importance, care, and resources with which we treat physical health. Support a robust behavioral health care workforce and promote better-integrated health, which includes behavioral health and the destigmatization of patients who have received behavioral health treatment; and
11. Demand coverage for autism support services and lift the age limit and financial caps for treatment; and
12. Support allowing health care providers to decide on conditions treatable with medical cannabis; and
13. Support research into the use of experimental therapies (e.g., psilocybin, ketamine, MDMA, and LSD) in behavioral health; and
14. Support fulfilling the federal government's trust responsibility to fund all Indian Health Services; and
15. Offer incentives for highly qualified health care professionals to work in rural areas and lower-income communities through increased pay, tax breaks, removal of gross receipt tax (GRT), and access to free training and education. Empower members of New Mexico's communities to serve their communities after receiving health care education; and
16. Address the pay disparity between private and public health care providers; and
17. Support home health care services, particularly for the disabled, seniors, and elders on tribal land; and
18. Support policies and initiatives to provide the resources and training needed to make family caregiving more feasible, affordable, and effective; and
19. Renew and expand our commitment to community healthcare workers (CHW), certified peer support workers (CPSW), community health centers, community behavioral health and addiction treatment centers, family planning centers, and school-based health centers; and
20. Pursue public health policies addressing the link between poor health and poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and housing instability; and
21. Support the delivery of health care services to rural communities via visiting health care providers, providing free public transportation to regional medical health care facilities, and delivering diagnostic services via telehealth; and
22. Support that the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) board, which provides health care to retirees, remains an elected board; and
23. Urge legislation and action that broadly, freely, and anonymously distributes tools, testing, and resources to prevent, contain, and eradicate contagious disease; and

24. Participate in programs that are geared toward the global prevention, containment, and eradication of contagious diseases; and
25. New Mexico shall participate in the interstate counseling compact to increase the number of providers in the state and the recognition of licensing in other states.

## **Housing Affordability**

**Democrats believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe, stable, affordably-priced home. We must address the need for real solutions that will increase the supply and access to all levels of housing throughout the state. We must enact policies that support all New Mexicans, protect tenants, landlords, and homeowners, and help those who need additional resources in order to live safely and remain valuable contributors to our communities.**

### **We affirm:**

1. Housing is a basic human right. Only when people have safe stable housing and infrastructure with clean air, water, and soil, can they live out their full potential as a New Mexico community member; and
2. Historical policies such as redlining and steering caused a racial wealth gap that perpetuates today and deserves attention and equitable action to correct it; and
3. Zone codes have been used to segregate uses and people, support unsustainable and inefficient land use, and promote discrimination; we should end exclusionary zoning, that is, racially-charged codes such as minimum lot sizes and the prohibition of accessory dwelling units and multifamily housing; and
4. Housing affordability depends on the existence of safe and sustainable building and energy code requirements and the public funding to implement those; and
5. Housing is an intersectional issue that affects and is affected by climate change, state infrastructure, education, energy, economic development, and more.

### **We will:**

1. Demand that our elected officials study and work with the Affordable Housing Investment Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan ordered by the Governor to ensure affected communities are involved with the development of the plan and make the most of every housing dollar in the state; and
2. Support upgrading the existing zoning codes in all municipalities to encourage the production of accessory dwelling units, duplexes, townhomes, and new, affordable housing units; and
3. Use the guiding principles of environmental justice to engage and protect our residential communities in the processes of upgrading zoning codes with the acknowledgment that exclusionary and other discriminatory zoning practices have caused unsustainable sprawl in predominantly white neighborhoods and, at the same time, polluting commercial facilities in much more densely developed neighborhoods where people of color live; and
4. Support the regulation of for-profit short-term rentals, such as the imposition of lodgers' taxes and limitations on the number of short-term rentals that property owners and managers may have in any given neighborhood; and
5. Support the creation of a workgroup to study and modernize the Affordable Housing Act which allows for public-private partnership in affordable housing projects; and
6. Create a revolving fund using New Mexico Trust Fund allocations to allow for low-cost, accessible financing for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (casitas) on owner-occupied residential properties; and
7. Support policies and projects focused on transit-oriented development and an increase in density and middle-level housing; and
8. Support additional and ongoing allocations to the [New Mexico Housing Trust Fund](#) (administered by NM MFA) to offer flexible funding for housing initiatives that will provide affordable housing for persons or households of low and/or moderate income; and

9. Advocate for amending the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) to include housing effects as a consideration when qualifying entities apply and receive funds; and
10. Continue to support the funding of down payment assistance and establish a public option for lending; and
11. Authorize local jurisdictions (e.g. Albuquerque’s [Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency](#)) to offer tax abatement for new and existing multifamily housing projects in exchange for inclusion of units with reduced rent for the full length of the abatement; and
12. Support the funding of community land trusts and cooperative ownership models to allow for stable housing costs and the ability to build equity over time without a mortgage; and
13. Support the creation of a comprehensive, statewide housing office to identify causes of increased housing costs and propose alternative solutions; and
14. Support the creation of a Housing Transition and Stability Fund to offer protections to property owners who are willing to rent to “higher risk” tenants with either less than perfect or no credit scores; and
15. Support the Fair Housing Act and the protection of current and prospective homeowners and tenants, against discriminatory renting, buying and selling, zoning, and lending practices; and
16. Demand funding for a study to perform a cost audit of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) housing to determine efficiency and effectiveness of building LIHTC homes vs. more market-level homes; and
17. Develop and fund a workforce mentorship and training program to lower housing costs and allocate students at state or other universities to work on qualified housing projects; and
18. Support the guarantee of legal representation in eviction proceedings for all stakeholders who cannot afford it; and
19. Advocate for reliable, safe, and affordable public transportation options throughout the state to allow for more housing and less parking requirements; and
20. Lobby for the creation of joint housing authorities throughout the state to encourage collaboration and coordination; and
21. Support financial subsidies for energy efficiency upgrades throughout the state; and
22. Encourage all real estate and housing associations throughout the state to develop efforts and committees focused on affordable, equitable housing throughout the industry; and
23. Demand adequate government funding for safe and affordable housing for elders, youth, and persons with different abilities; and
24. Demand adequate government funding for the provision of safe and affordable housing to those at risk of being unhoused and the use of "housing first" models by federal, state, and local governments along with their private sector partners to provide immediate housing complete with the associated social services necessary to ensure stable housing for the individuals served and for the communities where they live; and
25. Advocate for fundamental changes in the prevailing economic model of profit-driven housing development that has led to the national housing crisis; for example, by the imposition of excise taxes on the sales of high-value real properties where those revenues are used to fund affordable housing programs including “social housing,” that is, government-owned and/or regulated housing on a significant scale for both low and moderate-income people.

## Immigration

**Immigrants strengthen our communities. Through comprehensive reform, we will create humane and non-discriminatory asylum and immigration systems that keep families together and ensure attainable paths to citizenship. We must prepare our communities and institutions to welcome immigrants and asylum seekers migrating due to climate change, globalization, political persecution, and violence. Non-citizens must be afforded the same human and legal rights as U.S. citizens, including access to quality education, health care, a living wage, and worker protections.**

**We affirm:**

1. We are a nation of immigrants and are strengthened by our immigrant communities. As such, immigrants are entitled to equitable human rights and civil liberties; and
2. Immigration is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history, not a problem to be solved; and
3. Applying for asylum is not a crime; the asylum process should have its own dedicated administrative process separate from the enforcement and adjudication of immigration law; and
4. People fleeing from war, violence, oppression, famine, resource insecurity, and/or the effects of climate change are welcome to and have the legal right to apply for asylum and should be allowed to stay in the U.S. while they wait for a determination of their status; and
5. We reject the narrative that immigrants can simply “get in line” and apply for legal U.S. citizenship and temporary protections, such as asylum because the current pathways are inaccessible and discriminatory; and
6. Unifying and keeping immigrant families intact is good for people, families, and our country; and
7. The human rights of every person living or working in the U.S., regardless of citizenship status, must be ensured; and
8. Targeted harassment, unlawful seizures, detainment and/or caging of children, family separation, and other abuses of undocumented immigrants must cease; and
9. Discriminatory practices against marginalized detainees, including LGBTQ+, transgender, and faith-based individuals, must cease; and
10. Enforcement of immigration laws must be reasonable, humane, and compassionate; and
11. There should be no religious test for immigrants or refugees to enter the U.S.; and
12. Immigration policies should not be racist or bigoted; and
13. Border communities are some of the most culturally diverse and economically vibrant areas in our nation; and
14. Our commitment to policies that provide immigrants a path to citizenship and promote their quality of life; and
15. People are forced to migrate due to the consequences of global capitalism, U.S. and other foreign intervention and policy, trade agreements, climate, and the history of colonialism; and
16. Health is an inalienable right, and our elected leaders must ensure all New Mexicans have access to affordable, comprehensive medical care, regardless of legal status; and
17. Free legal and adequate representation should be provided for people in the U.S. who are navigating the immigration system; and
18. That all resident immigrants in the U.S. should be granted a work visa to enable them to provide for themselves and their families while living in the U.S. regardless of how they entered the U.S. This immigrant population is already working and supporting the U.S. economy and legalizing immigrant labor will quickly create legitimacy for these workers; and
19. The Migrant Protection Protocols are detrimental to immigrants and this policy must be ended; and
20. Categorically barring people from citizenship or residency based on national origin or racial identities should be prohibited; and
21. To rebuild our immigration systems and demand an end to indiscriminate immigration detention and abuses at the border and by enforcement agencies, and to eliminate sources of fear and existing barriers that prevent immigrants from accessing services available to them; and
22. All New Mexico residents’ sensitive personal information must be protected from being shared with law enforcement by agencies without a warrant; and
23. Immigrant and refugee populations face unique challenges during public health emergencies. Non-citizens in the U.S. face significant hurdles in accessing life-saving services and resources in health care, testing, treatment, and economic assistance because of fear and often ineligibility.

**We will:**

1. Ensure that the U.S. upholds its moral responsibility to be a refuge for people from around the world seeking asylum, and institute a process that is just and equitable; and
2. Oppose profiteering by privatized law enforcement and the security industry in border enforcement; and
3. Require that any facility used to hold people who are undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers must be open to inspection by the Red Cross and members of Congress; and
4. Oppose the deportations of immigrants who served in our armed forces and create a faster path for such veterans to citizenship; and
5. Expand the definition of family for asylum seekers to include grandparents, stepparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and legal guardians so that families are not separated; and

6. Establish additional and protect existing sanctuary cities, counties, and states that oppose and prohibit the use of local law enforcement for immigration enforcement, which is a federal responsibility; and
7. Oppose the use of excessive force and violations of human rights on our border, and the dehumanization of people seeking entry to our country; and
8. Oppose the funding or building of the Border Wall; and
9. Help increase immigrants' understanding of their existing rights and eligibility to use life-saving health services; expand the rights and access to the resources to thrive; and end detrimental practices of immigration enforcement, detention, and border policies that heighten exposure to public health threats; and
10. Deny the use of private prisons for immigration enforcement because profiting on the detention of immigrants incentivizes corrupt immigration policy; and
11. Abolish private prisons in New Mexico and stop the horrors of abuses in immigration detention;
12. Expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans executive actions (or similar laws) that will help DREAMers, parents of citizens, and lawful permanent residents avoid deportation and pursue a pathway to citizenship; and
13. Support a path to citizenship for immigrant youth who have yet to be granted status; and
14. Dismantle cruel and inhumane deportation programs and detention centers and reunite families who have been separated; and
15. Challenge and reject divisive and derogatory language toward immigrants; and
16. Fight for wage protections, protect against wage theft, and ensure tax equity for immigrant workers; and
17. Support the United Nations in saying that a country will be in breach of its human rights obligations if it returns climate refugees to a country where—due to the climate crisis—their life is at risk; and
18. Eliminate the mandatory quotas for detaining immigrants for profit; and
19. Oppose the use of prison labor in immigrant detention facilities; and
20. End mandatory minimum sentences for immigrant detainees; and
21. Limit spending on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (border patrol) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agencies; and
22. Require the border patrol agents to comply with the same 4th Amendment search and seizure laws as other law enforcement agencies; and
23. Oppose racist ID laws that expose a resident's lawful status and that restrict people from obtaining a license based on their immigration status; and
24. Expand access to health care coverage, particularly Medicaid, for immigrant populations regardless of legal status; and
25. Expand the infrastructure and capacity in the U.S. to process and receive asylum seekers to help address the federal backlog of asylum cases by hiring more judges, lawyers, and administrative staff and decreasing the time for ruling on immigration requests; and
26. Dedicate resources to provide culturally appropriate legal representation for people in the U.S. who are navigating the immigration system, including adaptive, interpretation, and translation services; and
27. Allocate resources to community-based welcoming programs for asylum seekers and immigrant families, such as shelter, clothing, translation, food, and communication with and transportation to sponsors; and
28. Follow the lead of other states in allowing U.S. residents to vote in non-federal elections; and
29. Create a resident immigrant work visa program that immediately grants immigrants already living in the U.S. the legal right to work and support the U.S. economy regardless of how they entered the U.S.; and
30. Strengthen due process, reduce racial disparities, and end the disproportionately harsh consequences of criminal convictions in any future immigration legislation; and
31. Support the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, which will create the largest general legalization program in U.S. history for undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., as well as targeted legalization for recipients of existing immigration programs, e.g., DACA recipients, agricultural workers, essential critical infrastructure workers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) individuals; and
32. Fully fund universal legal representation for New Mexico residents facing all immigration proceedings; and
33. Support immigration reform that incentivizes and promotes paths to citizenship that may include addressing naturalization fees and offering English language and citizenship courses in the workplace, libraries, and other civic institutions; and

34. Help increase immigrants’ understanding of their existing rights and eligibility to use life-saving health services, expand the rights and access to the resources to thrive, and end detrimental practices of immigration enforcement, detention, and border policies that heighten exposure to public health threats.

## **Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos of New Mexico**

**Democrats recognize and respect tribal sovereignty and acknowledge the fundamental Trust Responsibility of the United States government to American Indian and Alaska Native People and tribal governments as grounded and embedded in treaties, laws, and court decisions. Democrats will work to promote positive government-to-government relations and effective collaboration between the state and Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos. Democrats will honor, strengthen, and fulfill the sovereign, inherent rights of Tribes and Pueblos in New Mexico. Democrats will work to enact laws, policies, and political processes that are led and informed by the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico. Democrats will work to ensure that New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos have access to clean air, land, and water; and will consistently defend their sovereign rights to regain, maintain, and protect their natural and cultural resources, sacred sites, economic interests, cultural identity, Indigenous languages, and rights to self-determination.**

### **We affirm:**

1. To respect and honor the history of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico, understand their unique political, economic, social, cultural strengths and challenges, and recognize their contributions to the growth, advancement, and development of our state; and
2. All levels of state and local government work with Tribes and Pueblos to develop formal and informed processes whereby tribal leadership and stakeholders can exercise their right to self-determination and are given opportunities to collaborate in developing and enacting laws and policies that affect them; and
3. To actively recruit and engage members of our State’s Tribes and Pueblos and other American Indians and Alaska Natives into the Democratic Party of New Mexico and ensure equitable participation in all Party proceedings and leadership roles; and
4. To work with and invest in tribal communities to provide voter outreach, voting access, and education to eliminate voter suppression and discrimination and increase awareness of their voting rights and responsibilities and encourage their participation in the election process; and
5. To acknowledge the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations; the principles of self-determination and governance; the relations and connections to lands, sacred sites and cultural resources, and the sacredness of language which is critical to self-governance.

### **We will:**

1. Recognize, honor, and protect the sovereignty and capacity for self-governance of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico; and
2. Begin all Democratic Party of New Mexico events and proceedings with a land acknowledgment; and
3. Ensure all Native constituents have a mailing address to receive a voting ballot and have equal access to polling locations; and
4. Support and assist New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining sufficient and meaningful resources to bolster and strengthen economic development and self-determination in sustainable and culturally sensitive ways; this includes access to the basic social determinants of health, sound infrastructure development (clean air and drinking water, waste water services, and electricity), access to broadband connectivity, utility accessibility, and road improvements prioritizing school bus routes; and
5. Support Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos in regaining and protecting their original and currently recognized homelands and helping ensure that water, air, land, and cultural resources and sacred sites are protected from damage, disturbance, and contamination utilizing existing state and federal laws. We affirm that tribal communities have the right to implement their own EPA standards and ensure restoration of their original homelands, in addition to the federal government standards; and
6. We commit to supporting equitable compensation to Indian Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos for rights-of-way, leases, and other uses of their lands and resources; and
7. Provide support for existing tribal and pueblo agricultural practices that include the protection of traditional seed-saving, irrigation systems, and other cultural traditions; and



8. Support and assist Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining affordable and accessible quality health care and behavioral healthcare. This includes addiction treatment services through delivery systems that include the Indian Health Service (IHS), Medicare, and Medicaid. This will help in protecting funding streams that enable Tribes and Pueblos to procure multi-level health care services for their members and provide sufficient funding for eldercare services such as nutrition and caregiver programs in tribal communities. Prevent Medicaid funding based on block grant formulae; and
9. Assist and support educational programs that respect tribal sovereignty and self-determination with an emphasis on high-quality instruction, effective professional teacher development, recruitment, retention, and the development of culturally sensitive curricula including Native language retention and instruction; and
10. Will work to effectuate meaningful education policy change that includes: (a) collaborating with the Bureau of Indian Education; (b) supplementing and not supplanting federal Impact Aid funding; strengthening self-determination by enabling culturally inclusive learning techniques unique to each tribal nation; (c) furnishing and funding tribal libraries; (d) fostering the advancement of higher education that includes the re-introduction of career technical education; (e) creating and developing a literate, highly skilled, and well-educated workforce within tribal communities; (f) providing childcare, nutrition, and early childhood education programs in tribal communities; (g) protecting Title IX funding and special education assistance programs, and (h) supporting administration development and Indian Education support staff within tribal communities; and
11. Support and monitor the implementation of the Tribal Remedy Framework and the key tenets of the Yazzie/Martinez vs. New Mexico case; and
12. Protect existing laws and intergovernmental agreements benefiting tribal interests in the areas of taxation, education, voting, healthcare, and cultural resources and ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives living on or off tribal lands in the state benefit equally from state and local funding, programs and services, with the understanding that intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration benefits the entire State of New Mexico; and
13. Support and protect meaningful tribal consultation and collaboration with New Mexico's Tribes and Pueblos to participate and comment on all legislation affecting tribal interests as early as possible in the legislative process, including interim periods and legislative sessions, and in areas where the Democratic Party of New Mexico may have influence in tribal relations; and
14. Support laws such as the State Tribal Collaboration Act and Indian Child Welfare Act and their implementation; and
15. Uplift Native women to be central to the struggle for Native liberation and sovereignty. Support Native women seeking leadership roles; and
16. We will protect all Native Americans regardless of gender from legal, political, and extra-legal discrimination, persecution, killing, torture, rape, and human trafficking; and
17. Implement and provide continued technical support regarding emergency management services on tribal land, including the implementation of Amber Alert and Silver Alert communications in these communities; and
18. Fully fund the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF), as supported by the Tribal Infrastructure Act, to include water line projects, fire stations, and other community-development projects on Native lands; and
19. Support American Indian water rights settlements and easements.

## **International Relations**

**All actions of U.S. institutions and supporting organizations must reflect integrity, respect, and ethical behavior in accordance with human rights and international norms and laws. We believe that our security, prosperity, and well-being are best served by increased and prioritized resources and funding for diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, especially border countries.**

### **We affirm:**

1. The U.S. has a major role in promoting international peace and justice through diplomacy, actively seeking to prevent and end wars and violent conflicts, and combating poverty, suffering, and health disparities; and
2. The U.S. must be a leader and model among nations to avert climate catastrophe by eliminating fossil fuels and achieving a just transition to a 100% renewable energy economy; and

3. U.S. foreign policy must prioritize support and increase funding for nonviolent action and social justice movements around the world whenever possible, and eliminate U.S. militaristic, imperialist actions by all means. Based on recent research, nonviolent movements have succeeded twice as often as armed struggles; and
4. That Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as defined and implemented by the United Nations and member nations, focused on broad international goals of poverty reduction, women's rights and gender justice, peacebuilding, maternal and child health, sustainable economic development, environmental justice, and health equity should be prioritized and actively supported by the U.S. government; and
5. Religious tolerance and respect for freedom of speech and other cultures are cornerstones of American values and should be strongly reinforced and upheld in all foreign policy and international transactions; and
6. The goal is short-term reduction and long-term elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons worldwide; and
7. Violent extremism has many root causes. U.S. policies to prevent and counter violent extremism must include funding for humanitarian causes, drought reduction, education, diplomacy, and military operations other than war to address the root causes of extremism. Efforts should include funding as well for conventional military operations only when absolutely necessary to ensure our national security; and
8. Where U.S. troops are engaged abroad, they should prioritize the protection of civilians and assurance of human security in accordance with human rights and international law, and provide for withdrawal plans that ensure the health and safety of the local populace; and
9. The power to declare war rests with Congress in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11. It is the responsibility of all members of the government to abide by the Constitution to provide for appropriate checks and balances; and
10. Governments worldwide must collaborate to ensure broad availability of health care, health products, and health services, including prevention, containment, and eradication of contagious disease; and
11. That adequate investment in programs to prevent, contain, and eradicate contagious disease, ensure adequate supplies during public health emergencies, and to provide means for all people to practice good hygiene is necessary for the common welfare and defense; and
12. Transnational regulation and leadership during public health emergencies prevents harm; and
13. That tools to prevent, contain, and eradicate contagious disease should be free to all people without question and without requiring identification.

**We will:**

1. Support a strong U.S. State Department to promote U.S. interests abroad through diplomatic means; and
2. Oppose any unilateral, unprovoked war against any nation; and
3. Support a new nuclear treaty between the U.S. and European allies and Iran; and
4. Refuse to supply military or economic support to any ally or country that is refusing to adhere to human rights and international law; and
5. Support open and transparent trade policies and agreements that are negotiated with input from labor, environmentalists, economists, and public opinion, are freely accessible to the public, conform to standard legislative procedures, are consistent with our democratic values, incentivize competitive wages abroad, prevent offshoring U.S. jobs, cause decreased fossil fuel usage and carbon output, and protect land and water from expropriation; and
6. Oppose investor-state dispute provisions that circumvent U.S. sovereign law and undermine the right of investors in the U.S. and elsewhere to adjudicate disputes with foreign corporations; and
7. Demand that the United States adhere to international law, treaties, rules, and guidelines for refugee and political asylum seekers; and
8. Urge the U.S. Government to provide the increased human resources and infrastructure necessary to provide safe-haven and refuge to those fleeing the consequences of ongoing violent conflict, including at our southern border and also our Afghan allies who remain at grave risk within Afghanistan or who were transferred to other countries while awaiting resettlement in the United States; and
9. Demand that the U.S. Government end the illegal practices of Texas at the U.S. border with Mexico (e.g., erecting inhumane and illegal barriers at the Rio Grande, deploying the Texas National Guard at the border, and denying access to the U.S. Border Patrol at our southern border) and disallow any other state from similarly violating the U.S. Constitution; and
10. Condemn the use of torture; and
11. Urge our government officials to (a) continue to reduce nuclear warheads and end funding for and production of a new and dangerous generation of nuclear weapons and first-use, tactical warheads; (b) resume negotiations for

- nuclear reduction treaties such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (“New START”); and (c) end funding for the U.S. Space Force; and
12. Support foreign-aid models that ensure transparency and accountability and maximize local participation, especially women-led engagement, and prioritize funding in disaster relief and humanitarian assistance operations to build capacity and minimize dependence on external actors; and
  13. Support foreign aid and economic-development models that open market access and attract investment to local small businesses in the target area while providing training in entrepreneurial skills that facilitate sustainable economic development in target nations; and
  14. Call on the U.S. government to reduce reliance on military arms sales to countries around the world and to seek to reduce expenditures on the military in line with humanitarian campaigns here and abroad to end U.S. empire-building; and
  15. Call on legislators, officials in the executive branch, and civil society to hold the U.S. government accountable for ending and remediating the damage caused by U.S. foreign and military policies; and
  16. Work for meaningful oversight and reform of the military-industrial complex by eliminating the use of mercenaries; creating transparent processes, including competitive bids for defense contracts, oversight of bidding and implementation, and general accountability; and specifically call on our New Mexico delegation to order a Government Accountability Office report on spending for nongovernment military and intelligence operations; and
  17. Demand that the U.S. government support self-determination and independence for the people of non-self-governing territories around the world for example a plebiscite on self-determination and independence for the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara (Africa's last colony), in keeping with international law and multiple U.N. Resolutions; and
  18. Support self-governance and self-determination that empowers Tribes as sovereign nations to prioritize their needs and plan for the future consistent with their distinct traditions, economies, and institutions. Work to make this principled approach effective within the Bureau of Indian Affairs by encouraging the BIA and other federal agencies to negotiate such agreements with Tribes; and
  19. Prioritize the participation of women in the leadership of State Department programs and ensure the balance of women in funded programs around the world. Prioritize the role of women in the global peace processes to increase the likelihood of success and sustainability; and
  20. Develop renewable energy technologies and share them without intellectual property restrictions with the rest of the world. The U.S. has a major role in turning back the climate emergency and averting a climate catastrophe by joining nations across the globe in immediately eliminating the use of fossil fuels and providing financial and other resources to nations who need support in achieving the transition to a sustainable environment due to historical exploitation by the U.S. and other nations; and
  21. Work with the World Health Organization and other international agencies to create equitable vaccine availability and distribution in the Global South and elsewhere and minimize health disparities in lower-income nations; and
  22. Challenge the unilateral authority of the President to use nuclear weapons; and
  23. Participate in programs that are geared toward the global prevention, containment, and eradication of contagious disease; and
  24. Support worldwide programs that retrain workers displaced by public health emergencies, acute national security threats, and the transition from a fossil-fuel economy to a clean-energy economy.

## Labor

**Democrats will remove obstacles for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize, form, and join unions. We recognize that unions contribute to building a stronger middle class, as well as their crucial role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions. In the absence of a state-based living wage, unions have been shown to close the earning and wage gaps, especially for women and communities of color. Unions have democratized our workplaces and help to counterbalance the overreach of modern monopolies, providing a much-needed check on the unfettered socioeconomic stratification of our society.**

### **We Affirm:**

1. That our elected leaders must stand in support of unionization in fields that are typically unrepresented by unions e.g., the gig economy, service and home-care jobs, and adjunct college teachers; and
2. The rights of workers to organize and to bargain collectively for a safe and fair working environment; and

3. The government should bargain in good faith at all times.

**We will:**

1. Protect and expand Social Security; and
2. Oppose the privatization of Social Security; and
3. Support paid parental leave and expand publicly funded childcare; and
4. Reject tax policies and global trade agreements that incentivize the outsourcing of American jobs; and
5. Support fair labor practices for all workers; and
6. Support Project Labor Agreements; and
7. Support fair and equitable Earned Sick Leave policies for all workers in New Mexico; and
8. Hire local union shops and businesses that uphold the rights and dignity of workers; and
9. Expose and oppose “right-to-work” laws, which are anti-union and limit the rights and benefits of workers and suppress their wages; and
10. Eliminate unfair hiring and firing practices; and
11. Support retirement plans for all without diminishing benefits or increasing employee contributions to benefits; and
12. Give preference to employee-owned companies, cooperatives, and companies that operate under workers’ councils (workers holding seats on corporate boards of directors) in the awarding of state contracts; and
13. Support equal pay for, based on seniority within same-level positions; and
14. Encourage all employers to recognize workers’ needs for rest periods and call upon New Mexico legislators to enact a law requiring rest periods for employees; and
15. Support guaranteeing severance pay for workers laid off from companies acquired by private equity investors.

## **Media**

**Free, fair, and balanced media is foundational to our democracy. Locally sourced news presented in diverse platforms with multiple opposing views from independent journalists and other members of the information landscape is essential to a functional democracy. People must be media literate to make sound voting decisions and to be rational participants in civic engagement.**

**We affirm:**

1. Journalism that is independent of government interference and corporate domination is core to the function of our democracy; and
2. Freedom of the press requires that practitioners of journalism must be protected by society and its government justice systems; and
3. Mergers of large media companies stifle information by limiting the number of voices, opinions, and facts that inform our worldview; and
4. Responsible public discourse requires that all people are accorded respect and dignity. Media should report news and events objectively, accurately, and fairly to rebuild and maintain the public trust. The media must maintain ethical, respectful standards for treatment of all people; and
5. Participants in all media have a social contract that must be fulfilled by delivering fair, balanced, accurate reporting of factual information; and
6. The importance of media literacy, which is the ability to critically evaluate media messages and create media thoughtfully and conscientiously.

**We will:**

1. Support Net Neutrality and an Open Internet so that all internet content is equally accessible without favoring, blocking, or throttling particular content. The internet must remain open, accurate, and uncensored; and
2. Lobby media outlets to give candidates free and equal time and coverage during elections; and
3. Support a New Mexico film industry that responsibly creates movies, television programming, and commercials with crews and performers who reflect the diversity of all people in our state; and
4. Encourage accurate portrayals and representation of people within all forms of media, eliminating negative stereotypes of Black, Native American, and people of color; and
5. Support the diversification of media sources to avoid monopolies in any given geographic area; and

6. Encourage continued support and funding for NPR, PBS, and other public media; and
7. Defend journalists and media organizations from intimidation and resist efforts to marginalize and undermine objective media sources; and
8. Support systems of accountability for social media that preserve free speech, remove hate posts and false reporting, and deliver factual, evidence-based information; and
9. Work to ensure that New Mexicans and their private data are safe from unauthorized and illegal access, analyses, sale, and use; and
10. Ensure that social media platforms provide robust protection of private data; and
11. Lobby for media literacy classes at all levels of education; and
12. Support programs in schools, libraries, and community centers that educate people to interpret and critique the news they receive; and
13. Encourage widely available platforms (public-access video, low-power FM radio, and other forms of public media) where people can participate in the creation of information pertinent to their communities; and
14. Support legislation that will identify and implement the implicit social contract for the media in order to restrain pernicious disinformation used for manipulative political purposes. We will make the truth matter again by supporting transparency, equity, and information justice.

## Public Safety

**Everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion, exploitation, economic injustice, and violence, perpetrated by individuals and/or institutions, including harm imposed by private and corporate degradation of water, air, and soil. We support a multi-faceted strategy for public safety including law enforcement, intervention and treatment, and a comprehensive layering of firearm safety policies. We support safety and economic justice for all.**

### **We affirm:**

1. Firearm licensing laws and other firearm regulations must be strengthened including the enforcement of waiting periods for background checks prior to completing firearm purchases; and, stopping the unregulated sales of ghost guns, sales of firearms at gun shows or private sales, and sales of firearms without licensed firearms training; and
2. Crimes of sexual violence against women, LGBTQIA+, and missing and murdered indigenous people and relatives deserve full and timely investigation, due process, and serious attention of the legal system; and
3. Public safety is better achieved by providing holistic and trauma-informed responses that emphasize alternative first responders, such as behavioral health or community outreach professionals, as not every situation is improved by police intervention; and
4. Native Sovereign Nations must be given timely and expeditious access to justice at the Federal level consistent with principles of Native American sovereignty.

### **We will:**

1. Support the principles and best practices of the Community Policing and Safety models that dedicate resources to alternative approaches and establish meaningful measures to disentangle police from nonviolent crimes; and
2. Prioritize police resources to address serious threats to public safety by resolving nonviolent crimes without the threat of arrest, using instead a focus on intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation; and
3. Oppose the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines by reinstating and strengthening the national assault weapons ban; and
4. Oppose the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines at the state level; and
5. Demilitarize law enforcement; and
6. Support increased training for de-escalation procedures for law enforcement and the use of behavioral community health and safety teams that are available 24 hours a day. Oppose the use of excessive force by law enforcement; and
7. Support efforts to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the effects of gun violence as a public health issue and apply these data to common-sense gun legislation; and
8. Demand the collection of state-level data on gun violence as a public health issue and apply these data to common-sense gun legislation; and

9. Demand firearms legislation and other regulations that prioritize the protection of the public, especially children and those who are injured or killed by firearms, caused by gun violence; and, stand up to the gun lobby that has impeded the passage of this legislation for political and monetary gains; and
10. Increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school and college campuses by providing educational and other programs that help shift cultures of violence and expand comprehensive services for survivors of violence and their families; and
11. Ensure that all necessary measures are taken to heal and prevent family violence upon relatives, children, and animals; and
12. Support fully funded crisis triage centers that divert people experiencing mental health episodes from jail and provide safe houses and psychological counseling 24 hours a day; and
13. Support strong civilian management and community oversight of law enforcement agencies to improve transparency in the hiring and firing of officers and to make recommendations for disciplinary action, budgets, and policies; and
14. Support the creation and use by law enforcement agencies of a publicly accessible national database of disciplinary actions against law enforcement personnel; and
15. Support the repeal of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke dangerous legal immunity protections for firearm manufacturers and sellers; and
16. Support the enactment and enforcement of vigorous laws against illegal gun trafficking; and
17. Support the creation of an MVD-style state gun license process for purchasers and owners of firearms; and
18. Support efforts to collect and maintain data on the use of ghost guns and other guns used in criminal acts by using microstamping and other means; and
19. Recognize that nuclear material poses inherent risks to safety and encourage stronger safety-focused oversight and accountability; and
20. Demand continued public access to nuclear safety reports; and
21. Support the continued reduction of nuclear warheads and continued research on nuclear warheads' safety, security, and reliability; and
22. Demand that the U.S. Department of Energy fully disclose its plans for future nuclear waste transportation and ensure that the public is informed about the risks involved when transporting nuclear waste through or near their neighborhoods; and
23. Demand that the legal limits on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) repository, encoded in the Land Withdrawal Act and the Consultation and Cooperation Agreement, be rigorously enforced to protect New Mexico from federal overreach and risk to public health and safety; and
24. Demand that the New Mexico Environment Department strongly enforce the requirements of the new Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Renewal Permit and support efforts to stop expansion of the WIPP mission, so that no new types of waste are added and also require that the U.S. Department of Energy require additional nuclear waste repositories in other states.

## **Science & Technology**

**Government has a primary role in supporting science and technology for the public good and for economic development. Technology has the potential to drive social and economic change and should be equitably accessible to all. Policymakers should be informed by the best science available.**

### **We affirm:**

1. Ambitious public and private investments in infrastructure, education, and research and development are crucial to job creation and economic growth in New Mexico; and
2. Affordable, unhindered high-speed internet access is essential for success in all sectors of the economy; and
3. New Mexico must employ qualified scientists in all regulatory and policy-making bodies that use or oversee research and the application of science and technology within the state. These scientists should be consulted and have a role in decision-making on applicable policy and regulations; and
4. New Mexico must understand the potential impact of new technologies on labor, education, health care, financial services, and social and economic matters of concern to New Mexicans to determine if and when actions by the state should be considered; and

5. As disruptive technologies emerge that have the potential to impact our social and economic landscape, New Mexico must create mechanisms that encourage local workers, companies, educational institutions, and the state itself to adapt and take advantage of new opportunities; and
6. New Mexico must encourage, support, and implement technologies that will reduce climate change; and
7. The world must move swiftly to 100% renewable electricity and fossil fuels must be removed from all sectors as soon as possible. New Mexico must be using 100% renewable electricity by 2030; and
8. Science talent is rare and the problems we are facing are hard. New Mexico must improve both the quality and availability of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education at all academic levels to ensure equitable access to careers.

**We will:**

1. Leverage the science and technology research and development in our university systems, the National Laboratories, and the private sector in New Mexico to support technology transfer and entrepreneurship, especially in the sectors of the state economy New Mexico has identified as strategic for its economic future; and
2. Support the growth of local companies that develop and deploy next-generation technologies, including by championing workforce development efforts; and
3. Enact programs and policies that enable New Mexicans to benefit from transformative technologies while also protecting them from potentially abusive practices that might result from these new technologies, such as social media bullying, surveillance through facial recognition, and using racial and economic data to perpetuate inequities, including access to banking and predictive policing; and
4. Implement apprenticeships and retraining programs to assist workers displaced by disruptive technologies; and
5. Encourage students who have an interest in STEM to pursue that throughout their education by providing equitable resources, e.g., teachers, mentors, facilities, curriculum, and opportunities for internships; and
6. Ensure New Mexico has a trained workforce for the rewarding jobs of the future by creating programs that encourage the development of STEM-specific vocational education programs; and
7. Develop educational programs that focus not only on technical skill development but also on entrepreneurship; and
8. Showcase New Mexico's national science and technology leadership by hosting scientific meetings and conventions in New Mexico to stimulate the creation of networks of science and business leaders; and
9. Call on our federal and state legislators and government regulatory officials to ensure that the oil and gas industry use only those current and emerging technologies that will reduce its emissions in a timely and effective manner in compliance with the Paris Climate Accords and other such international standards; and
10. Call on our federal and state legislators and government regulatory officials to ensure that all New Mexicans are able to enjoy the fruits of emerging technologies, including open high-speed internet, unimpeded by monopolistic, duopolistic, or other noncompetitive corporate behavior.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

**Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state's economic competitiveness, create jobs, fulfill climate targets, and achieve equitable and safe communities. We also believe everyone should have clean affordable water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.**

**We affirm:**

1. New Mexico's roads are ranked as the third worst nationally by the American Society of Civil Engineers costing the average New Mexican \$769 in additional vehicle repairs. Fully 25% of students in New Mexico do not have access to broadband at home; this is drastically worse in rural communities. Native Americans in New Mexico are 67 times more likely to live without running water than other Americans; and
2. That New Mexicans suffer disproportionately from a lack of regional transmission network for renewable energy; and
3. Native, rural/frontier communities, and underserved communities throughout the state, including urban communities, lack adequate infrastructure. Government has a role in providing all our communities with affordable housing, affordable and reliable essential utilities, including electricity, clean water, sewage, heat, high-speed internet, and transportation; and
4. Good-paying jobs from infrastructure projects can lift families out of poverty; and

5. The practice of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) uses a disproportionate amount of water relative to all other industry and domestic uses; therefore, water availability and infrastructure must be prioritized for human use over fracking use; and
6. It is essential to improve broadband and infrastructure for rural/frontier and tribal communities and ensure parity and predictability in the distribution of funds so that telecommunications companies have the ability to serve those areas equitably; and
7. Infrastructure development must coincide with climate-protection goals; and
8. Infrastructure development must be resilient and minimize resources used and environmental impacts; and
9. Infrastructure development and the ensuing benefits must be accessible to all people, including those with disabilities; and
10. Clean, running water must be available to all New Mexicans for health and sanitation; and
11. Broadband infrastructure must be adequate to support telehealth, remote learning, and other services needed by communities, especially during public health or safety emergencies, such as COVID-19 and future pandemics.

**We will:**

1. Support the formation of a National Infrastructure Bank modeled on the four previous nationally chartered public banks. This would require no new federal debt, no new taxes, and would be budget neutral, operating as a government-owned, depository bank that lends to state and local governments for targeted infrastructure projects at low rates; and
2. Demand that New Mexicans, in part through training, have the ability to access a fair share of National Infrastructure Bank, Inflation Reduction Act, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Act funding for jobs created in the U.S., many of which will pay Davis-Bacon Determination wages, promote Project Labor Agreements, encourage buying American-made products, and develop apprentice programs for youth to acquire long-term skills; and
3. Demand the reduction of income inequality by increasing wages, building the middle class, and investing in disadvantaged communities and lower-income areas; and
4. Demand that New Mexicans and particularly those most impacted in affected communities receive hiring preference and opportunity to restore roads and bridges to address decades of neglect; and
5. Demand the expansion of infrastructure for affordable public transportation, electric vehicles, and bicycle routes; and
6. Support the transition away from funding road maintenance using the gasoline tax, given our goal to transition to electric vehicles; and
7. Demand that local infrastructure be expanded now so that affordable high-speed broadband networks are an immediate reality for urban, rural, frontier, and other unincorporated New Mexican communities so that they can meet all broadband needs related to health care, education, and employment; and
8. Support the modernization of all public buildings, while maintaining historical preservation, at all levels of government, to be energy efficient and powered by renewable energy; and
9. Demand the development of a statewide plan for land use and infrastructure growth to secure the necessary public funding, through sources such as a public bank, to implement this plan; and
10. Protect communities from the impact of climate change and help them to mitigate its effects by incentivizing renewable energy utilities; and
11. Encourage the reduction of residential and industrial water usage by providing sustainable water policies, including aquifer protection, water-supply planning, consumptive water-use permitting, shortage-sharing, and resource protection programs; and
12. Protect our water supply by demanding the cleanup of toxic substances in aquifers around New Mexico by those who are responsible for the pollution; and
13. Protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and nonindustrial wastewater systems, including technology to recycle water; and
14. Provide necessary infrastructure, roads, and access to water to officially recognized colonias and other unincorporated areas; and
15. Fully fund the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) to include water-line projects, fire stations, and other community development projects on Indigenous lands, including funding for Enhanced 911 Service/Rural addressing and signage; and
16. Increase energy efficiency and make transportation more affordable by:
  - a. Reducing vehicle energy consumption and/or increasing vehicle fuel efficiency; and



- b. Increasing access to and use of cheaper and more efficient fuels, vehicles and vehicle models (including electric vehicles), transit, biking, and walking; and
  - c. Supporting new technologies for energy-efficient, safe forms of transportation, such as electric bicycles;
  - d. Increasing vehicle occupancy, e.g., through carpooling, car sharing, rail freight; and
  - e. Reducing the distance that people and goods need to travel as a part of daily life; and
17. Ensure that infrastructure is consistent with developing forms of transportation, such as safe roads for electric bicycles; and
18. Develop a robust public transportation system, with a focus on Railrunner and other conventional rail and high-speed rail, that serves all communities, including rural ones; and
19. Increase equitable access to mobility by:
- a. Reducing the need for vehicle ownership, e.g., by developing public transportation; and
  - b. Enabling more people to live closer to where they need to be, such as through the development of housing with easy access to goods and services and economic opportunities; and
  - c. Increasing the stock and availability of such location-efficient affordable housing; and
  - d. Increasing the convenience and affordability of public transit or other shared modes of travel; and
  - e. Prioritizing mobility access improvements for underserved communities.

## Veterans & Military Affairs

**All qualified persons who wish to serve our nation should be free to do so without discrimination. Our country must honor all of its veterans and wounded warriors, especially those who have been historically marginalized within the Veterans Affairs system, such as women, Black, Indigenous, people of color, non-citizens, and LGBTQ+. Our party passed the G.I. Bill of Rights and will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation and its interests.**

### **We affirm:**

1. The threat and use of military force should never be used in violation of international law and should only be used as the last resort, e.g., to end human rights violations or when all other foreign policy tools have failed to effectively defend the national security interests of the U.S. and the interests of its allies; and
2. Our country has a moral responsibility to provide adequate support to all veterans and military families. We must honor our obligations to all who served in any capacity because they were willing to risk their lives in the furtherance of the interests of the U.S.; and
3. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must increase its outreach to identify and fully serve all veterans; and
4. The VA must be responsive to the conditions of veterans, many of which derive directly from their service, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues leading to addiction and being unhoused; and
5. All service members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been honorably discharged and meet all other naturalization requirements should receive priority for citizenship; and
6. The VA must be fully resourced; and
7. All veterans who have fulfilled the terms of their initial enlistment contract and those who have deployed to any combat zone have earned and deserve high-quality health care for the rest of their lives. This includes veterans of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and
8. Veterans whose physical and/or mental health injuries are related to their service deserve timely, high-quality health care. This is especially applicable to veterans who suffered sexual assault during their service; and
9. Aggressive prevention, investigation, and prosecution of sex crimes in the armed forces must serve as a top priority to ensure the safety, security, and rights of service members and veterans, especially those of sexes, genders, sexualities, and races that have long suffered persecution and disrespect in the U.S.; and
10. Diversity strengthens individual service members, builds unit cohesion, expands opportunities, and enables service members to work better in defense of our nation and its interests. The honorable, diverse members of the U.S. Armed Forces strengthen the military and their sacrifice deserves our respect and admiration. People of every race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, and sexuality shall receive fair treatment in the chain of command and health care that honors and expands diversity; and
11. We reject any and all attempts to privatize the VA; and
12. To protect the well-being and health of veterans, especially during public health emergencies.

**We will:**

1. Support full federal funding for comprehensive veteran-centric systems to fulfill our commitment to all veterans by meeting their needs upon discharge, with an emphasis on suicide prevention, employment, housing, family support, reintegration, comprehensive health care with timely processing of claims and appeals, and legal assistance, including for the lasting damages incurred during the global pandemic; and
2. Provide support to care for our military family members, especially for the parents, spouses, partners, caregivers, and children who have to rebuild their lives after the loss of a loved one or life-altering injury or disability; and
3. Push for more educational benefits and job training, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations; and
4. Ensure that Reservists and National Guard members are treated equitably when it comes to employment, health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration; and
5. Oppose the exploitation of veterans by the for-profit college industry and support strengthening programs that help veterans choose the best educational programs possible; and
6. Proactively review and update/upgrade discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, citizenship status, misdemeanor (e.g., cannabis) charges; and
7. Commit to ensuring fair treatment to LGBTQ+ individuals throughout and after their military service; and
8. Support the construction of clean energy on bases and in surrounding communities; and
9. Declare that the Department of Defense (DoD) is the most egregious polluter and it is their responsibility to adopt clean energy; and
10. Support the full adoption of the Biden DoD Climate Adaptation Plan; and
11. Support laws that benefit qualifying veterans, spouses, and children seeking higher education without time limits or other restrictions; and
12. Support the expansion of National Guard training in climate mitigation/wildfire response missions; and
13. Support the full removal of anyone within the immediate chain of command from decisions and investigations in sexual assault claims; and
14. Adopt the Vanessa Guillen Act which adds extra support to survivors and victims of military sexual assault; and
15. Support the full implementation of the VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs; and
16. Provide free, safe, and accessible treatments and preventive measures to veterans and their households in response to public health emergencies.

## **Water**

**Democrats must act now to secure our water future. We must support equitable, evidence-based, water planning, management, and stewardship. New Mexico will equitably and effectively adapt to climate change and best sustain what we value: our diverse cultures, our people and economy, food production, and riverine and riparian ecosystems.**

**We affirm:**

1. As Indigenous and traditional communities know and honor, El Agua es Vida, Water is Life; and
2. New Mexico is in a period of prolonged drought and the New Mexico Climate Report predicts there will be less snow mass, increasing temperature, and prolonged drought in the future; we must act now to help ensure our equitable survival; and
3. Water uses in many of New Mexico's diverse river basin segments and aquifer systems are not sustainable now and supplies will be further diminished by 25% or more by 2070 because of climate change; and
4. The recreational value of our state's lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water, and the ecotourism dollars they create; and
5. That there is a discrepancy between paper and wet water rights and how it disproportionately affects rural and traditional farmers while favoring large corporations and entities; and
6. New Mexico's de facto system of sharing shortages in most locations is unfair and inequitable; and
7. Water governance in New Mexico is inadequate and has been neglected for too long and, if not improved, will deprive New Mexico's future generations, ecosystems, and marginalized communities of water; and

8. New Mexico’s water resources agencies require inspired leadership, restored staffing and funding, qualified staff, modern computer and data systems, the capacity to defend New Mexico in high-stakes litigation with Texas, and the resources to focus on other crucial water issues; and
9. Improved state, regional, and local water planning and management are essential to New Mexico’s future; and
10. Water use reductions and infrastructure improvements are required to secure the long-term viability of New Mexico’s water supplies and essential water uses.

**We will:**

1. Respectfully demand that Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham fully implement her October 2018 water policy platform *Managing and Conserving our Water to Preserve our Culture, Communities and Future Generations of New Mexicans*; and
2. Support the creation of a new billion-dollar state water resilience fund for planning, project development, and implementation of projects identified by approved state, regional, tribal, and community water plans prepared with scientific integrity; to include funding the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and regulation pertaining to water; and
3. Urge state water officials to maximize federal matching funds for community, regional, and state water projects; and
4. Organize our communities to face our changing climate and participate in water decision-making, including the prohibition of the exportation of water out of our state, except to fulfill our existing compacts and other legal obligations; and
5. Demand adequate funding to manage New Mexico’s water as the scarce resource that it is; and
6. Demand legislation to require that paper water rights be quantified before buying, selling, or using the wet water rights; and
7. Support the requirement that proposed subdivisions demonstrate that they have adequate aquifer water supply for their residents; and
8. Support legislation to establish and fund a framework for New Mexicans to collaboratively decide appropriate and acceptable uses of water and also support changes in laws and policies that allocate water accordingly; and
9. Support the implementation of an expedited and robust program of evidence-based regional and community water planning and other community input, in each of the diverse hydrologic regions of New Mexico; and
10. Support adding staff and funding to the New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission to fully implement the 2019 New Mexico Water Data Act; and
11. Support legislation to substantially improve water resources investigations and data collection by state and federal science agencies for water planning and governance; and
12. Demand priority administration (senior water rights over junior water rights usage) or an equivalent shortage-sharing agreement for hydrologic regions of New Mexico where water uses exceed the sustainable water supply; and
13. Demand New Mexico deliver water in compliance with the Rio Grande Compact through the Middle Rio Grande for use below Elephant Butte Dam; and
14. Require the continuity and vitality of New Mexico’s diverse cultures, particularly protecting our agricultural heritage through thoughtful reform of New Mexico’s water laws and governance policies; and
15. Support the creation of a New Mexico Water Resources Department with a diverse, qualified staff and a cabinet secretary who need not be a licensed engineer; and
16. Request a cabinet-level Secretary of Water responsible for coordinating among all departments and agencies dealing with water; and to investigate the potential impact of the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* that narrows the scope of waters protected by the Clean Water Act; and
17. Support the creation of a state-funded Water Ombudsperson for New Mexico on matters such as senior and junior water rights, paper and wet water rights, the allocation of water during periods of scarcity, and the effect of the Sackett decision on clean water in NM; and
18. Support efforts to prevent and mitigate damage to and exploitation of our aquifers, such as fracking and the commercial bottling of water; and
19. Support the New Mexico Departments of Game and Fish and Outdoor Recreation in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and responsible use of our lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water; and
20. Support implementation of integrated water resources management, including water quality and quantity; and

21. Demand compliance with the State-Tribal Collaboration Act so that state cabinet agencies diligently seek collaboration with tribal governments and give full consideration to their water management strategies, policies, and concerns; and
22. Support water management strategies that encompass Indigenous perspectives and science; and
23. Demand legislation to protect and defend the rights of traditional communities to safeguard their water rights, and remedy the lack of resources for those communities; and
24. Demand that water allocations provide water for rivers, riparian habitat, and ecological services; and
25. Support the creation of flood control authorities to help mitigate devastating flooding from climate change; and
26. Respect the cultural heritage and historical use of acequias and other traditional irrigation practices; and
27. Support training and educational opportunities for our youth on water, including traditional knowledge.

## Women

**Democrats shall ensure equitable treatment for women in education, employment, health care, civic and political participation, and in all other spheres of society. We recognize that violence against women and girls is a pandemic and we stand firm in the need for a societal shift away from violence, exploitation, exclusion, and harassment, including vigorous prosecution of perpetrators. Democrats support women’s rights to make their own decisions regarding their education, employment, opportunities, and body.**

### **We affirm:**

1. That all women, regardless of their gender identities, have the right to safety, security, peaceful existence, and protection under the law; and
2. That effective reproductive health care is a human right; and
3. That reproductive health care is reproductive justice. A person’s health care choice is their personal decision; and
4. The responsibility to uplift women into leadership and support them as leaders, especially underrepresented women, including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ+, unmarried, young, and lower-income individuals; and
5. That all women, regardless of their gender identities, have the fundamental right to live free of microaggressions, abusive language, intimidation, and physical violence; and
6. That every case of violence against a missing and/or murdered Indigenous woman is a transgression against us all. Their stories are our stories and must be shared widely until the cycle of violence is stopped.

### **We will:**

1. Advocate for resources and options for birth control, reproductive health and family planning centers, safe abortion care, comprehensive sex education, and school-based health care; and
2. Support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for all people; and
3. Fight to secure equal pay for women and against other factors that contribute to the wage gap to ensure women’s economic independence and power, which will benefit all women and their families, particularly women of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices; and
4. Fight to end gender discrimination in all areas by combatting biases across economic, educational, political, and social life that hold all women, girls, and non-binary individuals back and limit their opportunities; and
5. Fight to end sex and gender discrimination so that a woman can achieve any goal or objective she may choose; and
6. Call for our political leaders to set the precedent to address any form of sexual harassment and sexual violence wherever it occurs, and to end non-disclosure agreements and “cooling off periods” that silence women and others who have suffered sexual harassment and violence; and
7. Promote civility and speak out against sexism and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse; and
8. Promote adequately investigating and prosecuting all cases of violence against missing and murdered women, including Indigenous women; and
9. Support state and federal legislation, including the right to sue after the end of their incarceration, to protect women, including asylum seekers, non-citizens, and trans women, who are incarcerated and/or in custody, from discrimination, sexual exploitation, and harassment; and
10. Demand funding to Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people, and encourage expansion of Planned Parenthood’s capabilities in rural areas; and

11. Demand the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds for abortion and impedes a woman's access to safe and legal health care; and
12. Ensure all women have full and equal access, within reasonable proximity, to comprehensive health care, including "state of the art" reproductive health care services, cancer prevention, screening, and treatment; and
13. Strongly and unequivocally support women's reproductive freedom, including a woman's right to choose when to have a child or end a pregnancy. Work to provide support during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including protections for women against pregnancy discrimination, and for affordable childcare, adoption and social support services, behavioral health services; and
14. Strongly oppose forced pregnancy and a national abortion ban; and
15. Fight to end the epidemic of violence against women and girls wherever it occurs, including in our homes, streets, schools, military installations, detention facilities, institutions, and workplaces; and
16. Work to end human trafficking in all its forms; and
17. Support the Violence Against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the training, tools, and social and financial support services needed to prevent violence and to protect survivors of violence; and
18. Demand the Legislature extend the statute of limitations for adult survivors of sexual assault, such as the Adult Survivors Act of New York; and
19. Support the leadership and work of Indigenous women and their communities to achieve justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR); and
20. Develop law enforcement agreements between state/county/city agencies and tribal agencies to increase communication and collaboration to address existing challenges; and
21. Increase investigatory and data collection capacities of law enforcement agencies to improve accountability and analysis of the frequency, causes, and locations of MMIWR cases; and
22. Maintain tribal justice systems with adequate operational resources, training, and other technical support to respond to incidents of MMIWR; and
23. Develop and provide tribal education and outreach services to share the narratives of the missing and murdered Indigenous women, as well as those of the survivors of violence, and establish other preventive measures; and
24. Develop and provide shelters and housing and other support services to survivors of violence and their families in currently underserved areas, such as border towns and rural areas; and
25. Take action to protect the rights of pregnant women in the workplace, including by requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant and breastfeeding workers and those who have recently given birth. Enact paid sick days and universal paid family and medical leave, and bereavement leave for the loss of a pregnancy; and
26. Stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violence against women as they assert their moral, civil, and legal rights to transform their conditions and thrive.