**Utah State Platform**

Utah Democrats: Forward Together

Utah Democrats believe we all share a common humanity. This belief drives our efforts to build a vibrant society in which all can pursue their dreams.  Quality education, good health, economic security, environmental protections, and effective governance are key to our success.

*This platform was approved by State Delegates at the 2018 Utah Democratic Party State Convention.*

**Shared Humanity**

We believe our shared humanity transcends age, race, religion, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, country of origin, immigration status, class, or ability; it drives all we do. Thus, we:

* Promote policies that protect the basic civil rights guaranteed by our Constitution;
* Support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment;
* Oppose the death penalty as an inhumane and fundamentally unjust practice;
* Strive to eliminate discriminatory practices and systemic barriers that impede personal aspirations and contribute to intergenerational cycles of poverty;
* Support efforts to protect the most vulnerable among us, such as children; people experiencing housing insecurity; veterans; people with disabilities, including those with mental illness or addiction; the elderly; and those re-entering society after incarceration.

**Quality Education**

We believe education is essential to personal fulfillment, economic development, and a flourishing, stable society. Accordingly, every child and adult needs access to quality public educational resources with which to equip themselves for a complex world. Thus, we support:

* Funding for competitive teacher salaries, smaller class sizes, and modern, well-maintained facilities;
* Resources needed to address the physical, social, and mental health needs of students;
* Evidence-based curricula that prepare students to be citizens of the 21st century;
* Certification standards that put well-qualified teachers in the classroom;
* Early childhood education, especially for vulnerable and at-risk children; and
* Affordable post-secondary education.

**A Healthy Utah**

We believe society has a moral imperative to ensure universal access to affordable, quality healthcare. Thus, we support:

* Comprehensive preventive, reproductive, and mental health care, including treatment for substance abuse disorders;
* The right of individuals to use whole plant medical cannabis under the direction of a medical professional;
* A multifaceted approach to the epidemic of gun violence, including common-sense regulations and increased support for mental health care;
* Standards of excellence for health care institutions, providers, and training programs; and
* Strong Departments of Health, health/wellness promotion and education programs, and biomedical research.

**Economic Security**

We believe Utahns deserve an economy that provides the financial security needed for individuals and businesses to thrive, not just survive. Accordingly, we support policies that:

* Allow unions to bargain on behalf of workers;
* Ensure one’s labor is rewarded with a living wage;
* Attract and facilitate the creation of businesses that employ individuals with diverse abilities and skills;
* Ensure workplace safety and promote employee well-being, including work life balance;
* Eliminate discrimination in hiring, promotion, and compensation;
* Protect those living at or below poverty’s edge, including those that enhance food and housing security.

**Environmental Protections**

We believe a healthy environment sustains and improves life and supports a dynamic tourism and recreation industry. Thus, we support:

* Preparing for the impact of climate change on our health, economy, and environment;
* Improving our air quality;
* Protecting and effectively managing our water supply;
* Protecting against the development of and damage to our wilderness areas, landscapes, parks and monuments, Native sacred lands, unique ecosystems, and vulnerable habitats;
* Preventing the privatization of state and federal lands; and
* Promoting the development of clean, renewable sources of energy.

**Effective Governance**

We believe good government is the foundation of a healthy society. Thus, we will strive for:

* Government that is efficient, fiscally responsible, transparent, ethical, accountable, and that puts the welfare of Utah residents above the welfare of special interest groups;
* Government that advances the common good through infrastructure development; public education; environmental protections; social supports; public health and safety programs; and an unbiased justice system, including access to jury trials;
* Increased voter participation, both in candidate selection and in the final election of those who govern;
* Secure voter registration and electoral processes that ensure reliable results; and
* Fair and non-partisan electoral boundaries that respect existing communities.