

PLATFORM OF THE

OKDEMS



OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**3700 N Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.427.3366**

Submitted for Consideration and Adoption June 9, 2019

By the 2019 State Resolutions Committee

Chair, Crystal LaGrone

Committee Members,

Eric Barr, Jacobi Crowley, Hermorene Douglas-Ezeobele, Allison Ikley-Freeman, Helen Tang
Wesley Forbes, Eric Hermansen, Will Irwin, Lauren McElfresh, Chris Odeal, Sache Primeaux-Shaw

INDEX

Preamble	6
The Oklahoma Democrat	6
Note from the Committee Chair	7
Criminal Justice	7
Legal Reform	7
Smart on Crime Initiative	7
Sentencing	8
Jail Diversion Programs	8
Civil Asset Forfeiture	8
Legal System Costs	8
Mandatory Minimum Sentences	8
State Questions 780 and 781	8
Hate Crimes	9
Police Reform	9
Prison Reform	9
Drug Legalization/Decriminalization	9
Democratic Party	9
Precinct Elections	9
Community Outreach	9
Separation of Church and State	10
Candidate Support	10
Open Primaries	10
Candidate Selection	10
Superdelegates	10
Inclusive Environments	10
Organizational Structure	10
Legislative	10

Economy	10
Auto Sales/Insurance	10
Student Loan Discharge	10
Banking Industry	10
Corporations	11
Trade Agreements	11
Public Transportation and Passenger Rail	11
Education	11
Public Education	11
Education Funding	12
Vouchers	12
Teacher Pay/Benefits	12
School Safety	12
Curriculum	12
Title IX	13
Special Needs Education	13
Higher Education	13
Vocational School	13
Student Leadership Education	14
Environment	14
Climate Change	14
Water Rights	14
Fossil Fuels	14
Renewable Energy	15
Environmental Protection Agency	15
Recycling	15
Food/Agriculture	15
Mandatory Labeling/Inspecting	15
Organic Farming	15
Meat Industry Regulation	15
Animal Rights	16
Local Foods	16
Fairness in Farming	16
School Food Programs	16
Federal Disaster Relief	16
Corporate Farming	16
Family Farms	17
Food Assistance Programs	17
Government	17
Taxation	17

Campaign Finance Reform	17
Consumer Financial Protection	18
Immigration	18
Foreign Policy	18
Tribal Sovereignty	18
Elections	18
Same-Day voter registration	19
Technology and Media	19
State Government	19
Reparations	20
Federal Issues	20
Healthcare	20
Healthcare Coverage	20
Reproductive Health	21
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment	21
Prescription Drugs	22
Medical Research and Funding	22
Human Rights	22
Discrimination	22
Equality	22
Human Rights	22
Child Welfare	23
Human Trafficking	23
Labor	23
Collective Bargaining Rights	23
Employer Protection	23
Equal Pay and Standards	23
Job Training	23
Minimum Wage	24
Right to Work	24
Worker Pay/Benefits	24
Workplace Safety	24
Workers' Compensation Reform	24
Employee Rights	24
Unemployed/Underemployed	25
Military	25
Increased pay	25
Veterans Programs	25
Veterans Hospitals	25
Veterans Justice	25

Platform of the Oklahoma Democratic Party

Nuclear Weapons	26
School of the Americas	26
Sonar Damage & Environmental Degradation	26
Geneva Convention Support	26
Military Hardware Sales Restrictions	26
Terrorism	26
United Nations and Alliances	26
Guantanamo Bay	26

PREAMBLE

The Oklahoma Democratic Party commits to influence governance and public investment in order to promote the common good and welfare of the citizens of the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America. Further, it is our goal to restore and maintain integrity to all branches of government and to the political process. Guided by the principles outlined in the Constitution of the United States and the Oklahoma Constitution, it is our commitment to advocate for legislation that promotes social justice and opportunity for prosperity for all. To this end, we find it to be self-evident, that the Founding Fathers of this Great Nation intended to secure certain perimeters to the Rules and Laws of Governance, those being:

- To protect, preserve, and defend the standards, rights, and blessings established by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Oklahoma Constitution and ensure those blessings to all Americans and Oklahomans.
- That the various States remain united to protect the common welfare of all Americans.
- To remain true to the causes of Liberty and Justice for all Americans.
- To secure an opportunity for prosperity and freedom to conduct business without infringement from foreign or domestic corporate entities.
- To secure uninhibited participation in the electoral process by American Citizens.
- To secure legal recourse against the seizure of personal property by the appointed or elected authority without due process and fair compensation.
- To ensure equal protection under the law regardless of economic status or self-identity.
- To eliminate all laws that attempt to regulate free expression of self when the said expression does not infringe on a neighbor's rights.
- That the intent of all Laws, Rules, and Regulations must be to promote the common welfare of the people of this Great Nation and must be in the spirit of the intended purpose of the Constitution of the United States of America.
- That true patriotism stands committed to a progressive ongoing process of forming a more perfect Nation for all.

The Oklahoma Democratic Party stands united and committed today and tomorrow and all the days that follow to this worthy and honorable mission.

THE OKLAHOMA DEMOCRAT

Oklahoma Democrats declare that we the people are our government and that we the people can create our government and change the government to do what is best for us. Democrats believe that we can use our government to make a better life for all of us through free public education for everyone, through affordable health care for all, through equal rights for all people through the protection of workers and their rights to bargain collectively, through the protection of the environment and a just tax system.

Oklahoma Democrats believe in equal opportunity for all people and that means public education for all preschool through college, it means health care for all, it means a fair tax system for all where wealth and non-work-related income are taxed just like work income is taxed. Equal opportunity means everyone should be treated equally under the law and the few should not get special privileges or tax breaks.

Oklahoma Democrats declare that America should be a nation of fairness and equality for everyone and that we ought to be a nation where everyone feels comfortable living, working, and raising a family. Democrats should promote fairness and equality for all Americans regardless of age, race, gender identity, religion, or sexual orientation.

Oklahoma Democrats declare that every worker should be treated with fairness and respect in our economy and that we ought to provide safety nets for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Oklahoma Democrats declare that every American is entitled to clean air, safe food, and clean healthy drinking water. Democrats have a long and strong record of protecting our environment and making ourselves accountable for our actions.

Oklahoma Democrats declare that every American who wants a job should have one, that government policies can grow our economy in a way that benefits everyone, and that the government can effectively fix harmful skews in the market.

Oklahoma Democrats declare that the rest of the world does matter and that we should work hard to promote a positive image of Americans abroad by reaching out to the rest of the world to show that we not only welcome our membership in the international community but that we can lead it responsibly.

NOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are considered the party with a big tent. We listen, we confer, we deliberate, and hopefully, at the end, we are wiser. From the resolutions we received from the state, we can say, that we are largely on the same page. The committee was able to see patterns in the resolutions, which gave us a good picture of who we are as Oklahoma Democrats.

As Democrats, we believe in a clean environment, social justice, equality, workers' rights, education, responsive government, and responsible foreign policy. The Congressional Districts laid out their priorities in great detail. The committee sought to keep the concepts and ideas we were given, but we also tried to keep this document consumable. We added topic headings to make the document easily searchable, and we used concise language to communicate the important issues quickly.

I am grateful for the committee members that stepped up to harmonize the views of our five Congressional Districts. There was care and deliberation that went into making every merge and edit. It's an honor to help craft our resolutions document, and we did not take this job lightly.

Sincerely,
Crystal LaGrone
Wagoner County Vice Chair
Resolutions Chair 2019

RESOLUTIONS BY TOPIC

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Legal Reform

We support

- Federal Government to declare an end to the War on Drugs.
- Sufficient mental health and substance abuse treatment for offenders in need
- A judicial system that applies the law in a consistent and equitable manner regardless of race, creed, gender, privilege, or sexual orientation.

Smart on Crime Initiative

We support

- Federal initiatives such as "Smart on Crime" and the "Justice Reinvestment Initiative" that promote fairer enforcement of the laws, alleviate disparate impacts of the criminal justice system and ensures just punishments for low-level, nonviolent convictions.

- We support community policing as defined by the US Dept. of Justice - a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

Sentencing

- We support an end to the death penalty.
- We support the elimination of Life Without Parole (LWOP) sentencing.
- We support retroactively applying new sentencing guidelines that, if applied at the time of conviction would reduce or eliminate prison sentences and probations currently being served.
- Alternative sentencing for nonviolent crimes rather than felony convictions and prison terms
- Statewide use of Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Veterans Courts, and Community Sentencing
- The immediate and automatic expungement of convictions of criminal records for convictions that would no longer be criminal actions under current law

Jail Diversion Programs

We support

- Jail diversion programs such as Women in Recovery, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Court.
- Prevention with anti-drug education programs to decrease the number of drug offenders, drug-related crimes, and incarcerations.

Civil Asset Forfeiture

We support

- An end to civil asset forfeiture.
- Legislation which requires that any property one can hold legally that is seized as evidence will be returned to the accused at the conclusion of the trial or to the accused relatives after a conviction.

Legal System Costs

We support

- A review and revision of imposing fines in criminal matters on those who do not have adequate means to pay them
- Not charging interest while the person fined in incarcerated

We oppose

- Discriminatory bail and administrative fines

Mandatory Minimum Sentences

We support

- The repeal of mandatory minimum sentencing legislation such as that established by the passage of HB 1306 (the Blue Lives Matter Bill).
- Rape Victim Protections

We support

- Strengthening rape victim protections while increasing the time on the statute of limitations for sexually motivated crimes.

State Questions 780 and 781

We support the will of the people in regard to State Questions 780 and 781.

Hate Crimes

We support the addition of crimes against LGBTQIA+ persons or their property in hate crimes legislation in Oklahoma.

Police Reform

We support

- Oklahoma law enforcement officers who faithfully serve and protect the public.
- Complete review of our City, State, and Federal criminal justice system.
- Advanced training in the avoidance of lethal force by law enforcement.
- Independent reviews of all police excessive force claims and the use of body cameras.
- Statewide independent oversight authority over policing actions.
- Mandatory education covering Implicit Bias, cultural sensitivity, and diversity education for our public officials and law enforcement.
- Adequate pay, training, and support for correctional officers and the Department of Corrections employees

Prison Reform

We support

- Investing in rehabilitation efforts within our prison system and in discharge planning for inmates focusing on housing, vocational training, and job search in advance of their release.
- Programs that assist the reintegration of ex-felons back into society.
- Removing the Governor from the parole process.
- Fully funding our prison system so that our correctional officers have the tools and staffing to keep themselves and the inmates safe.

We oppose

- Private and for-profit prisons in Oklahoma.
- Accepting out-of-state prisoners in the State.

Drug Legalization/Decriminalization

We support

- The legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol, particularly removing or greatly reducing the penalties for possession of less than 1.5 ounces of marijuana;
- The safe and legal access to medicinal marijuana when prescribed by the patient's physician
- Legislative study on the decriminalization of other minor drug offenses and related property crimes.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

As Democrats, we believe in a democratic decision-making process that ensures different opinions to be heard and considered for a more inclusive and effective solution. We respect and collaborate with a diverse group of people for our common goal of a prosperous nation.

Precinct Elections

We support an option for holding precinct election meetings in the individual precincts.

Community Outreach

We support efforts as a party to reach out to all communities through voter registration drives.

Separation of Church and State

We support the separation of church and state while opposing discrimination on the basis of religion.

Candidate Support

We support all candidates in nonpartisan races that have identified with and are dedicated to the promotion of values consistent with the Democratic Party.

Open Primaries

We continue to support open primaries to allow registered independent voters to participate in the Democratic Party's primary election process.

Candidate Selection

The Oklahoma Democratic Party is committed to recruiting, running, and supporting the campaigns of Democratic Candidates who support Democratic Party values and principles for all partisan general elections that fall within its jurisdiction.

Superdelegates

We as the Oklahoma Democratic Party oppose the use of the superdelegates in the party primaries.

Inclusive Environments

We resolve to make the Oklahoma Democratic Party a safe, welcoming space for all Democrats regardless of ideology, race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other discriminating factor.

Organizational Structure

We support the Democratic organizations at all levels will work harder to educate voters about the goals of the Oklahoma Democratic Party.

Legislative

We support the monitoring of bills introduced which are contrary to the Democratic philosophy.

ECONOMY

Auto Sales/Insurance

We support

- Requiring the car dealer to include tag and tax expenses when purchasing a new car.
- We support requiring automobile insurers to refrain from using credit scores to determine insurance rates.

Student Loan Discharge

We support amending the Federal Bankruptcy Code to allow for the discharge of federal student loans in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 federal bankruptcy proceedings.

Banking Industry

We support

- The drafting and passage of a modern Glass-Steagall Act.
- Supports the ability to refinance mortgages as part of stabilizing housing.
- Strengthening the new Consumer Protection Agency in its efforts to end deceptive and unfair lending practices of mortgage brokers, payday lenders, debt collectors and other financial institutions and urge the re-enactment of an up-to-date version of the Banking Act of 1933.
- We support repeal of federal legislation giving special protection to credit card companies in bankruptcy proceedings vs. consumers.

Corporations

We support

- Limits on the compensation of businesses receiving taxpayer funds, including caps on corporate executives' compensation and retirement "golden parachutes."
- We support dissolving incentives for corporations to offshore workers or outsource jobs that are being done by US-based workers.

We oppose

- Corporations moving operations outside the US to avoid the U.S. environment and labor standards.
- Corporate welfare to mega-corporations to the disadvantage of smaller companies and believe that common-sense regulations should once again be enacted.

Trade Agreements

We support

- Fair trade agreements that guarantee the rights of workers and environmental safety for all.

We oppose

- Any and all international trade agreements that do not address fair labor and environmental issues.
- Flawed global trade policies that have cost the U.S. millions of manufacturing jobs since 1994.

Public Transportation and Passenger Rail

We support

- Expanded public transportation.
- Funding for Oklahoma passenger rail systems, specifically, the Eastern Flyer between Tulsa and Oklahoma City and the Heartland Flyer from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth.
- We support the retention of all existing state-owned rail assets for passenger rail service.

EDUCATION

The Oklahoma Democratic Party supports free public education as a right to which all individuals are entitled, regardless of ability, creed, gender, language, national origin, race, disability, sexual orientation or financial status; this includes early childhood learning, special education, accelerated or honors programs, instruction in arts, music, world languages other than English, and physical education as well as skills of good citizenship, anti-bullying instruction, comprehensive sex education based on scientific principles

Public Education

We support

- Quality public education beginning with early childhood education continuing through higher and post-graduate education.
- Class sizes and student-teacher ratios mandated in HB 1017 be enforced.
- Elimination of any attempt to rank public schools with a letter grade.
- The State Board of Education members serving staggered terms.
- The expansion and reforming of Head Start and similar programs and grants to states to raise standards and improve instruction in their early learning programs.

We oppose

- Parental "trigger" legislation which allows private individuals or groups to take control of public schools.
- The over-emphasis on standardized testing in our education system.

- The consolidation of schools and school districts, which creates an undue burden of transportation on parents and leads to an unacceptable student to teacher ratio.

Education Funding

We support

- Increased funding for public education in order to reduce and limit class sizes to the levels mandated in HB 1017, to attract and maintain qualified teachers, provide continuing education for teachers, provide adequate textbooks and materials, and allow access to technology for all students.
- Equalized funding of public schools per pupil across the state when this law is used appropriately and fairly as it was intended.
- The addition of fully funded intervention for Title I schools.
- Equal financial distribution of funds for all public schools based on enrollment; school funds should be distributed fairly and evenly for the benefit and education of each student and for each district/area.

We oppose

- Any public funds from going toward private and/or for-profit educational institutions.

Vouchers

We oppose “school choice” and other voucher systems that divert public resources from public schools to private educational institutions.

Teacher Pay/Benefits

We support

- An increase in teacher’s pay to provide a competitive compensation package matching the regional average. Measured strictly by base pay and not including benefits values.
- The permanent and adequate funding of the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System (OTRS) and cost of living increases consistent with the Consumer Price Index for retired educators.
- Supports the right of teachers to join any union, to bargain collectively and to obtain a legally binding collective bargaining agreement.

School Safety

We support

- Additional safety education in public schools including pedestrian safety as well as safe use and awareness of wheeled vehicles, including scooters, skateboards, bicycles and firearm safety.
- The passage of House Bill 1989 as well as any other similarly proposed legislation, which will take into consideration the needs of a student before enacting mandatory out of school policies.
- The development and implementation of statewide school policies to protect the rights of transgender members of the educational community to use facilities and participate in educational opportunities consistent with their gender identity.

We oppose

- Access to guns in schools other than those lawfully carried by law enforcement or other security personnel.

Curriculum

We support

- Continuation of Advanced Placement (AP) classes in public schools
- Additional emphasis on STEM subjects in schools and funding for STEM subjects.
- We support the inclusion of comprehensive education on American & Oklahoma cultural history in our schools, including the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and the Trail of Tears

- Funding of impartial science-based education and information concerning human sexuality including all options of reproductive health care, sexual responsibility, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.
- The inclusion of cultural sensitivity education both for students and school district employees.
- We support anti-bullying programs in schools.
- Adequate funding and restoration of art, humanities, and vocational curriculum in Oklahoma schools.
- We support providing students with environmental education (climate change).
- All students should be provided with education to emphasize the duties and responsibilities of citizenship through courses incorporated in high school government classes.
- Supports curricula that promote critical thinking, the scientific method, decision-making, and creativity.
- Providing students with information on agriculture, health and nutrition topics

We oppose

- we oppose any legislation which attempts to eliminate AP classes in public schools.
- We oppose the evaluation of schools and teachers based disproportionately on test scores.

Title IX

We support

- The interpretation of Title IX, the prohibition of sex-based discrimination at schools and other education programs receiving federal funding, to extend its protection to transgender students.
- The vigorous enforcement of Title IX to ensure effective and just processes for the prevention and prosecution of campus sexual assault and rape.

Special Needs Education

We support

- adequate funding and training of educators to deliver quality education to students with special needs.
- Increased staffing to bring the educator to student ratio in line with recommended levels.

Higher Education

We support

- Free access to public colleges and universities for all residents.
- The intellectual freedom of students at all colleges and universities.
- Increased state funding for higher education so that sufficient salary and benefit levels are in place to attract and retain high-quality faculty and support personnel and the creation and retention of high-quality academic programs.
- Programs to lower the cost of existing student loan debt and debt forgiveness in exchange for community service.
- Supports the Oklahoma Higher Learning Assistance Program (OHLAP) and Oklahoma's Promise and their continued funding by the state government.

Vocational School

We support

- Awareness and availability of technical and vocational training in the public school system be increased.
- Supports vocational education offered at public technology centers, making every effort to bring distance learning to isolated Oklahoma communities.
- We support a rural revitalization program, investing in state-of-the-art education techniques and materials, and the expansion of internet access and training in rural schools, to attract and retain young people to rural Oklahoma.

- We support access to adult education to offset the challenges of a changing economy.

Student Leadership Education

We support

- Providing opportunities for at-risk students to learn and use leadership skills, regardless of income level, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or any other criteria.
- We support programs for schools to involve community members as mentors to at-risk students to encourage and reinforce leadership skills and responsible relationship skills.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

We support

- Taking practical steps to reduce greenhouse gases by increasing energy efficiency, developing alternative energy sources, conserving energy, and promoting sustainable development, as we recognize that reality of global climate change is based upon sound scientific evidence.
- Dramatic and bold actions be taken on a worldwide basis to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- Renewing membership and participation in The Paris Agreement (on climate change), to which the US is a signatory. We support work to increase the effectiveness of this agreement to further mitigate and reverse global warming.
- Increasing funds to scientific-based research to reduce the effects of global climate change.
- A major new innovative approach to reducing carbon emissions with programs that are described in the “Green New Deal” (H. RES. 109) resolution which is now being discussed in Congress.

Water Rights

We support

- The preservation and protection of water needed to sustain the environmental, social and economic interests within Oklahoma’s basins of origins for current and future generations of Oklahomans.
- The comprehensive regulation of industrial, agricultural, and municipal use of water in our state which is based upon available scientific evidence and that recognizes the interrelation of ground and surface water.
- We support the continuing efforts of conservation districts in our state.
- The protection of water rights of Oklahoma’s Indigenous Tribes.
- Stronger guidelines for Title 252, Chapter 641 governing aerobic sewage systems, with stricter enforcement.

We oppose

- Out of state water sales that do not invest the proceeds of the sale into Oklahoma’s system of water infrastructure and also protect the water rights of Oklahoma Indian Tribes.
- The privatization of water and water resources.

Fossil Fuels

We support

- Elimination of all oil and gas drilling and mining operations in the Arctic region.
- Creating strong and effective regulations of the process of wastewater injection into disposal wells.
- Eliminating all coal-fired power generation.
- The public release of information on chemicals used during the fracking process, as well as chemicals injected during the disposal process.

- Maintaining the safety of all pipelines with regular inspections, specifically focused on those constructed 50+ years ago.

We oppose

- All efforts to construct toxic, tar sands pipelines, especially above or under rivers and lakes, and/or on or near tribal land and nations;

Renewable Energy

We support

- Establishing a Renewable Energy Credit (REC) that allows utilities to trade excess renewable energy they produce to other entities who need to meet their RES requirement
- Establishing a Renewable Energy Standard (RES) that sets a minimum requirement of renewable energy produced, utility providers must meet by a certain date.
- Subsidizing renewable energy production over a prorated period of time.
- Transitioning to the use of renewable, alternative power sources, such as wind and solar power

We oppose

- Penalizing (by taxes or fees) residential or business customers who opt to use renewable forms of energy.

Environmental Protection Agency

We support a strong and effective Environmental Protection Agency that protects us from those who would pollute our air and water and not an agency that is being systematically destroyed by the current administration.

Recycling

We support expanding the availability of recycling options across the state, both in curbside recycling in urban areas and drop off locations in areas where residential pickup is unavailable.

FOOD/AGRICULTURE

Mandatory Labeling/Inspecting

We support

- mandatory labeling of all genetically modified food products.
- We support vigorous mandatory inspection protocols of imported food products.

Organic Farming

We support

- Organic farmers and family farm operations and support efforts to ensure economic opportunities for family farmers and rural economic development and oppose subsidies for large, out of state or foreign agribusiness.

Meat Industry Regulation

We support

- Better regulation and enforcement of the meat industry, including identifying meat sources on consumer packaging and inspecting cows for Mad Cow disease.
- Banning meatpackers from owning livestock and we support better regulation of the meat packing industry.

Animal Rights

We support

- The enforcement of the Animal Protection Act/ Animal Facilities Protection Act, which provides for the prohibition of animal cruelty and animal fighting.
- Humane methods of raising livestock.

We oppose

- Any law that would allow the slaughter of horses to provide meat as a food product.
- The mistreatment of animals, puppy mills, and the sale of dogs for the purpose of fighting.

Local Foods

We support

- Policies to produce, market and increase the accessibility to healthy, fresh, and locally grown food choices, including incentivizing businesses to open outlets for healthy, fresh food in “food deserts”. As well as increased public education about local food systems and the benefits of eating healthy, locally grown food and community gardens.

Fairness in Farming

We support

- Federal and State governments cease federally mandated check-off dollars from being transferred to parties that seek to influence government policies or actions relating to agricultural issues.
- The state and the federal government to enforce the prohibition against conflicts of interest in contracting and all other decision-making operations of the checkoff program.
- Federal and State government stop federally mandated funds from being used for anticompetitive programs or from being spent to disparage another commodity in the marketplace.
- Federal and State governments increase the transparency of the individual boards’ actions to shed light on how federal checkoff funds are spent and the purpose of their expenditures.
- Federal and State governments require audits of each program every five years to ensure their activities are in compliance with the law.
- We support the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) The OFF Act would put an end to the most egregious abuses committed by the boards and contractors of the federally mandated commodity checkoff programs.

School Food Programs

We support

- Congressional oversight with respect to the implementation of new federal guidelines for the school lunch program.
- We support the bipartisan Farm to School Act of 2015 that will expand the highly successful USDA Farm to School Grant Program to increase children’s access to fresh foods, support family farmers, and help to build strong local food economies.

Federal Disaster Relief

We support

- Renewing crop disaster relief and maintaining strong crop insurance programs as well as the creation of a permanent disaster relief program.
- Reinstatement of federal disaster programs for livestock production losses.

Corporate Farming

We support

- The elimination of huge subsidies to large corporate agribusinesses, including Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that pollute the air, water, and land.

- Stricter regulation and limits on the use of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

Family Farms

We support

- The fight to enable family farmers to have fair access to markets, control over their production, and fair prices for their goods. We want to ensure that farm programs help family farmers, not giant corporations.
- We support the preservation of family farms, ensuring economic opportunity for family farmers, rural economic development, and improving rural quality of life.
- We urge Congress to pass a new Farm Bill immediately that is directed toward helping family farmers and ranchers and not corporate farms and agribusiness.

Food Assistance Programs

We support

- Full funding for existing means-tested assistance programs for children, families, veterans, people with disabilities, and the elderly that helps maintain quality of life for these groups.

We oppose

- Efforts to eliminate the eligibility for food stamps.

GOVERNMENT

Taxation

We support

- The repeal of the capital gains tax exemption.
- Corporate tax reporting that prevents tax avoidance.
- The restoration of an equitable progressive income tax and the elimination of unnecessary corporate tax subsidies in order to correct the budget deficit.
- Taxing of investment income at an equal rate to wage income.
- Closing loopholes for pass-through income.
- Elimination of sales taxes on groceries.
- Repeal of the cap on Social Security taxes.
- Restructuring of state income taxes, so that individuals and families living below the federal poverty level do not pay state income taxes.
- The adequate funding of state agencies with a graduated income tax structure.
- The immediate restoration of the refund-ability of the Oklahoma Earned Income Tax Credit.
- The restoration of the gross production tax on oil and natural gas wells to a minimum of 7 percent.

We Oppose

- Any reductions in state income tax unless we have a state surplus for three years in a row.
- Laws that make it easy for American Corporations to offshore profits as a way to avoid US taxes.
- Tax breaks and loopholes for large, profitable corporations.

Campaign Finance Reform

We support

- Comprehensive campaign finance reform.
- Full Disclosure of campaign financial contributions.
- A Constitutional amendment or legislation that will overturn the Citizens United decision.

Consumer Financial Protection

We support

- Prosecution of Wall Street financial institutions for financial crimes against U.S. citizens.
- Efforts to protect consumers from abusive financial practices.

We Oppose

- Unnecessary government actions that harm Oklahoma by deterring business growth by targeting specific religious or ethnic communities and by inviting costly lawsuits.

Immigration

We support

- The termination of any 287g contract between Tulsa County and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- A Commonsense approach to federal immigration legislation and remain, foremost mindful of the human rights of undocumented immigrants and their children.
- We support the Dream Act, which is a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants that would first grant conditional residency and upon meeting further qualifications, permanent residency for children.
- The issuance of a driver's license regardless of a person's US citizenship status.
- An expedited path to citizenship through military service.
- Immediate reunification of any currently separated families.

We oppose

- The building of a border wall between the US and Mexico.
- Any form of family separation pertaining to immigration status.
- The restriction or denial of essential services to individuals based on their immigration status.
- Travel bans on individuals based solely on their religion or nation of origin.

Foreign Policy

We support

- The reestablishment of the Iran Nuclear non-proliferation agreement.
- The use of diplomacy and other non-violent means before the use of military force in order to promote stability and peace.
- The continued withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan.
- The US commitment to NATO and the United Nations.
- We support withdrawal of U.S. aid from the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

We oppose

- Preemptive war with Iran.

Tribal Sovereignty

We support

- The protection of the sovereignty and police jurisdiction rights of the numerous native and indigenous tribes of Oklahoma and support their right to protect their lands and cultures.

Elections

We support

- Automatic voter registration upon becoming eligible to vote.
- An embargo on any election board releasing official election results until all ballots for that election have been cast.

- Replacing the Electoral College with the popular vote.
- Requiring the disclosure of tax returns and pertinent financial information for all statewide and federal office candidates.
- Requiring candidates for state and federal officials to place all business interests into a blind trust before the state puts the nominee's name on the ballot.
- Legislation and/or initiatives that encourage the participation of citizens.
- The establishment of a nonpartisan commission consisting of equal numbers of members officially recognized political parties to ensure the fairness of representation and minimization of political, racial, ethnic and religious gerrymandering.
- The use of computer algorithms to choose "optimally compact" districts of equal population that follow census block boundaries so that neighborhoods aren't split.
- The use of verifiable paper ballots in all elections.
- The right to vote for felons who have completed sentences and parole.
- The elimination of the 15-voter notarization limit on each notary for absentee ballots.

Same-Day voter registration

We support

- Changing state law to allow voters to vote at the polling location nearest to their home
- The repeal of straight party voting.
- The repeal of voter identification laws.
- The expansion of early voting days including Saturdays.
- The creation of a national holiday for federal elections.
- The restoration of the monitoring and enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act.
- The rights of state and city employees to campaign for a candidate, or an issue, without coercion or threat, when on their own time and out of uniform.

We oppose

- Any legislative action that creates a burden on or suppresses a citizen's right to vote.
- The purging of voter records.

Technology and Media

We support

- Net neutrality.
- Enacting data protection regulations for citizen's personally identifiable information.
- Raising awareness and increased funding for Oklahoma Cyber Command.
- The repeal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which deregulated the telecom industry, which allowed rampant media consolidation.
- The Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

We oppose

- Any attempts to decrease federal or state funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, or impose politically biased mandates or impositions upon them.
- Any governmental effort to regulate the Internet, except for any illegal activities.

State Government

We support

- The funding of core services, here defined as education, public safety, human services and health services as the first priority of state government.

- The establishment of penalties and consequences for sitting legislators for failure to pass the State Education Budget by April 1st, as established by state law.
- Citizen's rights to assemble.
- The repeal of State Question 640, which requires a 75-percent majority in both houses in order to raise revenue.
- Supports the adoption of an Oklahoma Constitutional amendment granting the People the right to recall all elected public officials.
- An increase in state employee's pay to provide a competitive compensation package, measured strictly by base pay, not including benefits.

We oppose

- The expansion of appointment powers allocated to the office of Governor.
- Any legislation that limits free speech.
- Any changes to the manner in which Oklahoma state judges are chosen.
- The passage of legislation that prevents municipalities from providing for the safety and welfare of their citizens.
- Any statute of limitations for civil complaints committed with the State of Oklahoma.
- Constitutional carry in Oklahoma.

Reparations

We support the establishment of a national commission to study and develop reparations proposals for African-Americans and Indigenous Americans.

Federal Issues

We support

- A mechanism with the Federal government that protects "whistleblowers" who report wrongful activity in classified environments.
- The use of scientific evidence in the establishment of government policy.
- The expectation that all elected officials and appointees will exhibit the characteristics of honesty, integrity, good moral and ethical conduct.
- The right of Congress to continue the investigation into allegations from the Mueller Report which includes obstruction of justice and election tampering.

We oppose

- The use of drones for domestic surveillance.
- The lease of federal lands to large corporations at amounts below market value.
- The privatization of public lands.

HEALTHCARE

Health care is a basic human right and includes, but is not limited to dental, vision, pain management, and mental health.

Healthcare Coverage

We support

- Access to physical and mental healthcare as a human right.
- Working towards a universal health care system
- Accepting the Federal funds required to implement the expansion of Medicaid in Oklahoma.

- Legislation requiring medical insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions, autism, birth control, preventive care, prescription medication, and durable medical equipment needed for full quality of life.
- Supports programs and policies to provide health care for all.

We oppose

- Any attempt to eliminate coverage provided by the ACA.
- Discrimination in healthcare coverage on any basis.
- Discrimination or denial of healthcare on the basis of perceived gender, as we recognize transgender/gender non-conformity as a medical condition.
- We oppose that denial of access to healthcare related to transition for transgender or gender non-conforming minors by parents.
- Any efforts to privatize Medicare.
- Any effort to allow employers to access or to require employees to provide their genetic information.

Reproductive Health

We support

- Women's health care as a fundamental human right not subject to Government scrutiny.
- We believe that women's health care extends to transgender and intersex persons.
- The repeal of all legislation designed to limit a woman's right to her reproductive decision-making.
- We strongly support Roe v. Wade, which among other things allows a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay.
- Funding of impartial, science-based education and information concerning human sexuality, including reproductive health care, sexual responsibility, consent and prevention of the spread of sexually transmitted infections.
- We support embryonic stem cell research.
- Access to affordable prenatal care from conception to birth.

We oppose

- Any punitive laws or restrictions intended to make abortion care inaccessible or more difficult to obtain.
- Any effort to defund Planned Parenthood or to restrict access to contraceptives and birth control.
- So-called "conscience clauses" that allow pharmacists and medical providers to withhold treatment based on their religious beliefs.
- The defunding of Planned Parenthood.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment

We support

- Increased funding and access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, including the expansion of in-patient hospital beds.
- The expansion of outpatient, community-based mental health services for individuals and families in need, including but not limited to the PACT and COPES programs.
- Increased funding for community crisis centers, equipped for overnight and extended stays for those in crisis but not requiring hospitalization.
- We believe substance use disorder should be treated as mental health or medical issue, not a criminal issue.
- The protection of each person's right to privacy as it pertains to health care in any form.
- Bans on conversion therapy.

Prescription Drugs

We support

- American citizens being allowed to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.
- Medicare should be allowed to negotiate prescription prices with pharmaceutical companies.
- Access to medical cannabis and believe State Question 788 should be upheld in its entirety.
- Access to pain control for chronic pain, as defined by a licensed health care provider.

Medical Research and Funding

We support

- Continuing efforts to eradicate AIDS at home and abroad.
- The creation of a cryptographically secure data registry in Oklahoma for the sole purpose of tracking environmental causes of cancer.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Discrimination

We support

- The end of all forms of discrimination and oppression and the promotion of equal opportunity in all areas of life including employment, education, accommodations and public services for all Americans by prohibiting discrimination, based on race, socioeconomic status, age, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, ethnic background, national origin, or disability status in order to assure their full integration into society.
- We are committed to assisting the people in this country living with disabilities, assuring their full integration into society.

Equality

We support

- Equal rights for all persons and call for legislation that fosters this equality. We support anti-bullying and anti-hate crime programs and legislation.
- The right of all people to adopt, and oppose any kind of discrimination in the adoption process by any public or private agency such as based on race, class, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or familial status, while supporting the full enforcement of both the federal and state Indian Child Welfare Acts.
- We support the end of the practice commonly known as conversion therapy.
- We support the full protection for all LGBTQIA+ citizens in every sector of life including education, labor, private, and public life, and demand equal rights be granted under the law. We also support legally protected status for LGBTQIA+ citizens. We support each individual's right to self-determination and oppose discrimination in housing, education, and employment by all public and private institutions based on sex or gender identity.
- We support marriage equality and oppose any Act or Law that is designed to allow for discrimination married couples based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

We oppose

- All bathroom restriction bills that discriminate against transgender and non-binary people.

Human Rights

We support

- The reinstatement of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission as an independent state agency.
- The principles of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Ending homelessness by supporting services and programs that decrease poverty, lack of health and mental health services, and the paucity of other social safety net programs.

Child Welfare

We support

- Improvements to the foster parent system in Oklahoma.
- Expanding, monitoring, and adequately funding the foster care system and adoption programs.
- The rights of single people or couples regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation to adopt children
- We support changes in housing for children with special needs (DDSD) as they grow to adulthood, to include housing for adults with special needs with more security and opportunities for activities that meet their needs as they grow older.
- We support adequately funding programs of public health including prevention and treatment for obesity.
- We support reforming Head Start and similar programs and grants to states to raise standards and improve instruction in their early learning programs.
- Programs that protect children from violence and neglect, expanding, monitoring.
- Programs such as the “Innocence Lost National Initiative” in our country targeting the sex trafficking of children.

Human Trafficking

We believe that trafficking in persons is both an affront to our fundamental values and, as a source of funds for transnational criminals and terrorist organizations, a threat to national and international security. We support

- Providing technical assistance to improve law enforcement and grants to support grassroots prevention efforts around the world, targeting sex and labor trafficking, child sex tourism, forced child labor.
- The use of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, targeted foreign assistance, training programs, public outreach, and law enforcement to combat trafficking in persons across the globe.
- The efforts to provide annual assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of foreign governments’ efforts to address the issue, encouraging all countries to do more and calling out countries that have failed to do enough.

LABOR

Collective Bargaining Rights

We support the rights of all workers to engage in collective bargaining and stand against any legislation designed to weaken that right.

Employer Protection

We support relief from penalties for employers who employ undocumented persons while in compliance with workplace regulations.

Equal Pay and Standards

We support fair wage standards, worker protection laws, and enforce equal pay without any kind of discrimination such as on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, religion, or age.

Job Training

We support

- Increased funding for job training programs, such as the Department of Rehabilitation Services, for unemployed persons.
- Investment in the development of training programs to both retrain workers from outdated industries and train new workers in renewable energy technologies.

- Creation of public works jobs programs for young men and women to provide employment and training to youth in the United States with a pay rate of at least \$15 per hour.

Minimum Wage

We support

- Increasing the minimum wage to a living wage for all employees.
- We support an end to the discriminatory wage for tipped employees.

Right to Work

We support the repeal of Oklahoma's Right to Work law and oppose interference from the employer in the rights of workers to organize.

Worker Pay/Benefits

We support

- Ensuring that all Oklahoma workers have paid sick leave.
- Enforcing existing legislation prohibiting employee termination for the discussion of wages.
- Legislation that would return our broken workers' compensation system to a functional state.
- Protection of pensions for our public employees.
- Supports an increase in state employees' salaries to a level comparable to the private sector.
- Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for retired state employees should be granted as soon as is feasible, and distributed as widely and as fairly as possible.
- We support legislation protecting public and private retirement pensions from employer misappropriation.

Workplace Safety

We support

- Investment in infrastructure to maintain safe conditions for all Oklahomans.
- High standards and strong laws protecting occupational safety in the workplace

Workers' Compensation Reform

We support

- Repeal of limitations on damages and support an injured worker's rights to full recovery in the Worker's Compensation System.
- An injured worker's right to full recovery in civil courts if wrongful conduct by the employer is proven.
- Supports the restoration of the right of injured workers and other Oklahomans to choose their own doctors.

Employee Rights

We support

- The right of workers in both private and public sectors to bargain collectively for better wages, working conditions, and a voice at work.
- The right of public employees to deduct union dues from their paychecks.
- The requirement that all employers, public and private, remain neutral during union organizing campaigns, recognize a union voluntarily when a majority of their employees choose to form a union, and bargain in good faith to reach a collective bargaining agreement.
- Proposed legislation safeguarding employee rights for the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Supports strongly the Davis/Bacon Act to ensure continued safety and to assure that skilled workers are awarded work on government or public projects and contracts.

- Supports increased incentives to protect American jobs and employees and supports federal legislation that protects jobs from being moved overseas and removes any incentives to businesses to do so; prohibits the exploitation of foreign labor.
- The repeal of those portions of the 2011 Amendments to the Oklahoma Anti-Discrimination Act that limits the ability of victims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation to collect damages including front pay, emotional distress damages, and punitive damages.

We oppose

- Any attempt by the government to force employees to accept compensation time or regular time in place of overtime pay.
- Opposes forced arbitration that prevents employees from securing their rights in court.

Unemployed/Underemployed

We support

- Job-training programs for unemployed and underemployed Americans.
- Any needed retraining for displaced workers in keeping with the traditional goals of the employment security system.
- An evidence-based and fair system to re-employ workers who lost jobs due to downsizing, RIFs, or corporate bankruptcy or malfeasance.
- Reinstatement of the Oklahoma Employment Security Act as it existed prior to November 1, 2011, and which provided a more equitable manner of addressing unemployment disputes and determining “misconduct” than the present Act.
- Investment in the development of a trained workforce for renewable energy technologies, including the re-training of workers from obsolete energy industries.

We oppose

- Any decrease in the number of weeks for which out-of-work Oklahomans are eligible for unemployment benefits.
- We oppose unreasonable work search requirements, decreased benefit amounts and onerous denial provisions designed to blame and shame the unemployed.
- Any unreasonable and arbitrary efforts to reduce benefits to unemployed workers.

MILITARY

Increased pay

We support adequate pay for Active Duty Service Members

Veterans Programs

We support quality programs for veterans of any discharge status and their families that help with housing, vocational training, education, health care, substance abuse, and mental health care through both the Veterans Administration and the Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs

Veterans Hospitals

- We support a full and independent investigation of recent VA deaths at VA Hospitals
- We support a Federal and State system of authorizing Veterans to use the medical facilities and medical services close to their homes and reimbursement to those facilities.
- We support Family and health benefits for all reserve and National Guard military personnel called to active duty and adequate family health care for veterans of all wars and peacetime service.

Veterans Justice

We support Veterans’ Courts that specialize in assisting veterans in the legal system

Nuclear Weapons

We support

- A ban on the use of depleted uranium munitions that endanger our troops and civilians'.
- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

School of the Americas

We support the closure of the School of the Americas and the end of any program designed to train foreign soldiers in torture techniques

Sonar Damage & Environmental Degradation

We oppose practices by the US military that damage the environment or harm sea life through sonar activities in target practice zones

Geneva Convention Support

We support the Geneva Convention and oppose torture of any kind

Military Hardware Sales Restrictions

We oppose the export of military hardware to foreign governments guilty of human rights' violations

Terrorism

We support using every legal method to combat terrorism at home and abroad

United Nations and Alliances

We support remaining a fully committed member of the United Nations and all current defense alliances

Guantanamo Bay

We support closing of the detention facility of Guantanamo Bay and ending indefinite detention without trial and conviction of a crime.