



Davidson County Democratic Party Platform Approved Tuesday, August 27, 2013

We, as Davidson County Democrats, are committed to the following:

1. Economy

An economy that works for all: a Living Wage and fair tax policy.

- We support the expansion of public transportation in Nashville.
- Businesses that hire local workers at fair and Living Wage should have first priority at government contracts.
- Business tax credits should be evaluated on the basis of job creation, and ineffective credits should be repealed.
- We support modern workforce training, including work-study programs and Tennessee Technology Centers.
- We support the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining.
- We oppose a constitutional amendment that bans a state income tax.
- We support the Hall Income Tax to provide funding government for local governments.
- We support the elimination of the sales tax on food.
- We support the collection of sales tax on Internet purchases.
- We support a tax credit for businesses that hire people who are unemployed through no fault of their own.
- We support greater investment in basic scientific research.

2. **Education**

Access to quality public education for all children in Tennessee.

- We oppose privatization of the public school system.
- We support full funding for Head Start and Pre-K-12 and higher education and oppose efforts to increase class sizes.
- We support anti-bullying policies in public schools.
- We support our public school teachers and will make the investments necessary for them to succeed.
- Religious beliefs should not be presented as science in the classroom.
- We support increasing the HOPE lottery scholarship in order to cover the full tuition costs at state colleges and universities and reject any cuts.
- Community college and technical schools are a vital component of workforce training, and we support investment in these schools.
- We oppose a Tennessee state charter authorizer overriding the wishes of local school districts.

3. **Environment**

Stewardship of the environment for ourselves and for future generations.

- We recognize the danger of human-induced climate change and support vigorous means to combat this threat.
- We support policies that will bring greater recycling and composting to Davidson County.
- We oppose mountaintop removal and other destructive mining practices.
- We support a statewide program for recycling of beverage containers.
- We support measures to improve energy efficiency.
- We are concerned about the health risk of hydraulic fracturing (“hydrofracking”) of natural gas and support careful regulation of this practice.
- We support a complete transition away from the burning of coal and do not accept the notion of “clean coal.”

4. **Integrity in Government**

Accountability, transparency, honesty, and fiscal responsibility in government.

- Citizens should be able to view all spending by each state agency online in a transparent format.
- We oppose all measures that are designed to limit the right to vote, such as voter ID laws.
- We support reform of the US Senate filibuster to prevent its abuse.
- We support the creation of means to allow citizens to verify their votes, such as paper receipts.
- Tennesseans have the right to know the origins of bills in the legislature, particularly if they are written by corporate special interests.
- Outside groups should be required to disclose the political activities that they fund in Tennessee.
- There needs to be reasonable limits on campaign donations.

- Tennessee should have an Inspector of Accountability and Transparency that will guard against waste, fraud, and abuse in all state spending.
- We support a nonpartisan process of determining electoral districts.

5. **Rights for All**

The rights of all people, no matter their race, sex, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious belief, age, disability, or national origin.

- We support a woman’s reproductive freedom and oppose a state constitutional amendment to limit the right to choose.
- We support full rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and reject all discrimination.
- We oppose any kind of “English only” legislation.
- We support nondiscrimination rules for public contractors and oppose any ban on local governments enacting such ordinances.
- We support alternatives to sentencing and incarceration for nonviolent offenders.
- We support comprehensive immigration reform that secures the national borders while recognizing the value that immigrants bring to our economy.
- We support a federal constitutional amendment that guarantees all adult citizens the right to vote.
- We support the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment, together with reasonable background checks, an assault weapons ban, and proper enforcement of existing gun laws.
- We support the collection of personal data only as it pertains to national security needs, vetted by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- We support legislation to eliminate employee abuse.

6. **Health Care**

Health care is a basic human right.

- We whole-heartedly support the Affordable Care Act, since accessible, affordable, high quality health care is part of the American promise, Tennesseans should have the security that comes with good health care, and no one should go broke because they get sick.
- We support Tennessee’s participation in the expansion of Medicaid / TennCare.
- We support a greater emphasis in preventive medicine in order to improve health and reduce cost of health care.
- We support greater effort to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system.
- We expect that our health care system prioritizes health and coverage over profits.
- We support health policies that are based on empirical data and best practices.
- We support policies that insure no one is required to forfeit their assets for long term or short term health care.
- We support policies that allow people to receive care while remaining in their homes.