

Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2026 Platform

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Our Commitment to Democracy

We commit ourselves to a Nation and State which are democracies, where voters have unimpeded access to the ballot box and where their opinions are reflected by the representatives they elect.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to build a free, just, and strong society where all people have equal rights and opportunities to live meaningful, secure lives. We work actively for open, honest, and responsive government accountable to the needs and will of the people. We support democracy and work to prevent authoritarian rule.

Justice, Human Concerns, and Democracy

Everyone must be treated humanely.

We welcome everyone. We are the party of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our differences are a source of strength. Everyone must have equal opportunity to succeed, equal voice in government, and equal treatment under the law. We must uphold separation between government and religion. We respect everyone's religious liberties. It is vital that the right to choose beliefs and philosophies remain intact.

Every citizen is guaranteed the right to vote. We support same-day registration, multiple avenues of registration, early voting, vote by mail, automatic voter registration, drop-box voting, and making election days official holidays. We oppose onerous voter ID and documentation requirements. We have the right and duty to inspect and count all votes and to have a voter-verifiable paper ballot that guarantees accurate vote counting. The Presidential election should be determined by popular vote.

Government and the electoral process must be free of monetary corruption. We support limiting out-of-state campaign contributions and oppose unlimited political spending. The U.S. Constitution must be amended: corporations are not people and money is not speech. Wisconsin must rescind its call for an open-ended Constitutional Convention.

Empowering people in civic affairs strengthens our nation. Government must be an open institution that people trust, is compliant with open meetings and public records laws, and is elected through transparent, publicly funded state and national elections. We support fair, non-partisan redistricting processes and oversight of elections.

Wisconsin should allow citizen-initiated binding ballot referenda.

A primary duty of government is to ensure everyone can lead dignified, healthy, and fulfilling lives. We believe all are equal regardless of race, color, class, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, occupation, national origin, disabilities, appearance, and political beliefs. We value love,

1 commitment, stability, and the nurturing of all family members. We support marriage equality for all
2 couples. We will work to ensure basic civil liberties are forever preserved. The ERA has been ratified
3 and must be implemented.

4 Government must respect, support, and protect freedom of expression. We hold sacrosanct our civil
5 liberties, including but not limited to freedom of speech, right to privacy, presumption of innocence, the
6 principle of habeas corpus, and due process under law.

7 We will pursue legislation and cultural changes that end racial and ethnic profiling, respect Indigenous
8 Nations' sovereignty, and ensure equality among all genders. At all levels of government, we will work
9 for qualified representation which reflects our nation's diversity.

10 We condemn all forms of violence, discrimination, and bigotry against anyone based on their identity—
11 religious, racial, ethnic, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or otherwise. We believe
12 Black lives matter. We condemn all forms of anti-Asian, antisemitic, anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBTQ+
13 sentiment and violence.

14 We oppose any attempts to abrogate Tribal treaties or sovereignty.

15 Marginalized groups face formidable challenges including but not limited to oppression, voter
16 suppression, and inadequate access to nutritious food, healthcare, education, employment, and
17 housing. All forms of discrimination and oppression must be eliminated.

18 Access to accurate information and a diversity of viewpoints are essential to empowerment. The
19 broadcast spectrum belongs to all citizens. We support public broadcasting. We support community-
20 owned and diverse local ownership of media outlets. We support free and equal access to news media
21 for all candidates for public office.

22 We advocate for comprehensive immigration reform legislation providing a reasonable path to
23 residency and citizenship. The legislation must include a fair opportunity for current undocumented
24 residents to achieve legal status. We support protection of immigrants against unlawful acts and
25 inhumane treatment. Due process is imperative.

26 We need affordable, quality, licensed daycare centers and government support to pay for childcare. We
27 need public health programs addressing disease prevention, substance abuse, mental health, sexual
28 health, and firearm safety.

29 We must protect and expand Social Security programs for the elderly, disabled, and eligible dependents.
30 We oppose privatizing Social Security; it threatens recipients' financial security and the stability of our
31 economy.

32 Access to affordable, quality healthcare is a right. We support a single-payer system which provides
33 universal access for individuals of all ages; promotes preventive measures; includes comprehensive
34 dental, vision, and hearing care; provides medications and therapy; includes subsidized long-term in-
35 home and nursing home care; and covers all physical and mental illnesses equally. Until that system is
36 available, we support broader coverage and increased funding for the current healthcare programs on
37 local, state and national levels, including BadgerCare, Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Veterans
38 Affairs, and the Affordable Care Act. Wisconsin must fund healthcare and mental health services in
39 underserved rural and urban communities.

1 Moral, religious, and medical decisions should be left up to the individual. Individuals should be free to
2 make their own choices regarding reproductive care, family planning, gender-affirming healthcare,
3 choosing death with dignity and physician-assisted end-of-life. Everyone has the right to obtain properly
4 and legally prescribed medications from any licensed pharmacy on a timely basis. Funding for stem-cell
5 research should be supported on its scientific merits.

6 Safety is a right. We must reimagine our police and justice system. Budgeting, training, rules, and
7 systems of oversight must fight racism, build trust, prevent police brutality, and foster safety and justice
8 for all. Wisconsin's costly, high rate of imprisonment is racially discriminatory, with no evidence it
9 makes residents safer. We support reducing prison populations through increased use of probation,
10 parole, and specialized courts. Divert those suffering from substance addiction and mental health issues
11 from prison to treatment. We oppose prison privatization.

12 We must discourage dangerous drug use without criminalizing the user. Instead, provide rehabilitative
13 treatment for addicted persons. We encourage non-penal sanctions for minor drug violations.
14 Marijuana should be legal, regulated, and taxed like tobacco and alcohol.

15 We oppose the death penalty. We believe in equitable sentencing standards and increasing the
16 authority of judges to modify sentences.

17 We support the right to bear arms for legitimate and ethical use for hunting, sport, and protection. We
18 believe reasonable safety measures must be enacted, including: banning open and concealed carry of
19 any weapon in public places, requiring universal background checks, banning the sale or possession of
20 military weapons and ammunition, requiring a 48-hour waiting period for all gun dealer sales, including
21 a red flag law with due process, limiting the legal capacity of magazines, and requiring that locked units
22 be used for gun storage.

23

24 **Education, Labor, and Economics**

25 We affirm the Wisconsin Idea. Quality public education for all is critical to a healthy democracy and
26 economy. We advocate for free preschool and K-12 public education. Increased governmental funding
27 is essential for all levels of public education. Public funding for private schools, including voucher
28 programs, diverts resources from and adversely impacts public schools.

29 America must support worker training, affordable tuition at state-supported post-secondary institutions,
30 expanded access to grants and scholarships, and ample funding for research.

31 We must end the student debt crisis.

32 Free breakfast and lunch must be available to all K-12 students.

33 Students have the right to education in a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment, free from
34 harassment and discrimination. We support funding all curriculum content, including arts and physical
35 education and school supplies. Teacher and support staff compensation, including benefits, must keep
36 pace with inflation and be competitive with comparable positions outside of education.

37 Accurate history must be taught in public schools. We oppose laws restricting discussions on race,
38 gender and social justice.

1 We support restoring and funding DEI programs in public institutions.

2 Revenue caps on school districts and other local governments must be eliminated. State and federal
3 governments must fully fund their mandates.

4 Public investment in the arts and humanities promotes healthy communities and healthy economies.
5 We support increased funding of arts and humanities.

6 Equitable and affordable access to public transportation and high-speed internet must be provided in
7 rural and urban areas.

8 A strong and secure state and nation depend on sound economic policy promoting and sustaining full,
9 meaningful employment. Business, labor, and the public must work together to re-establish American
10 jobs on American soil. We support small businesses as a means of economic growth. We must resist
11 monopolization and outsourcing by eliminating tax breaks to employers who ship jobs overseas and
12 creating incentives to bring jobs back to the U.S.

13 We support a strategic reindustrialization plan that builds domestic industrial capacity in key
14 technologies.

15 The Federal Government should provide transitional jobs for all individuals who cannot find work and
16 have no unemployment compensation.

17 Public and private workers have a right to a living wage, gender pay equity, safe and equitable
18 workplaces, and secure benefits. Workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively, and strike without
19 fear of reprisal must be restored and strengthened. Election by card check reduces employer
20 intimidation of employees' choice of representation. Employees who benefit from union contracts
21 should pay fair-share dues. We support public employees' rights to speedy mediation and binding
22 arbitration of labor disputes. We support sectoral bargaining and prevailing wage laws.

23 Businesses must be held accountable for contracts with their employees. "Right-to-work" legislation
24 and the hiring of strikebreakers are anathema to a strong, justly compensated workforce. Pensions and
25 other retirement funds must be strictly safeguarded and responsibly managed through regulation. In
26 the event of bankruptcy, workers' unpaid wages must be the first claim on remaining assets.

27 We support a tax system based on ability to pay. The wealthy are under-taxed. The Federal Budget
28 must reflect responsible spending, debt management, and fair taxation. The State Legislature must tax
29 corporations equal to or greater than the national average. Local jurisdictions must have authority to
30 modernize their taxation systems.

31 Financial markets must be regulated to prevent fraud, excessive speculation, inappropriate
32 compensation, predatory lending, and the need for taxpayer bailouts of mismanaged firms.

33 American companies should be established here at home, follow our labor and environmental laws, and
34 pay taxes for the good of all. We must protect our industries from competition against nations that
35 tolerate unfair worker conditions and environmental degradation.

36 America's wealth should be measured not only by GDP and the Market but also by broad measures of
37 well-being that incorporate factors like health, education, literacy, employment, wages, and
38 environmental quality.

1 Regulation of artificial intelligence is in the public interest.

2

3 **Agriculture and Environment**

4 We must preserve responsible family farming by creating market systems that assure a fair return to
5 both farmers and processors. True cooperatives and family-farm subsidies are essential to the economic
6 viability and quality of life in rural areas. We support value-added agriculture which includes farming
7 endeavors outside traditional forms of agriculture. Regulations controlling environmental pollution
8 from agriculture, especially CAFOs, should be strengthened.

9 We support farming systems that are humane to animals, preserve soil, water and forest resources, and
10 produce wholesome, safe food for consumers. We support agricultural sustainability through growth in
11 “buy fresh, buy local” practices. We support accurate labeling of conventional, organic, and genetically
12 modified food.

13 We oppose seed producer patent enforcement that bars seed harvesting by farmers.

14 Federal and state funds should support the Wisconsin Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA).

15 Climate change poses an existential threat to life on Earth. We support aggressive action, including
16 using the governor’s emergency powers, to decarbonize our economy by 2035 to meet the global
17 heating goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Our leaders must pay heed to the scientific evidence
18 of climate change and its many inequities.

19 We support responsible environmental regulations affecting open space, wilderness areas, soil
20 conservation, forest management, industry, and toxic and hazardous waste disposal and cleanup. We
21 must maintain the integrity of our vast freshwater supply, especially the Great Lakes and Lake Wisconsin
22 aquifer. We support retaining and expanding publicly owned recreational lands and wilderness. We
23 oppose the transportation of shale and tar sands oil through Wisconsin.

24 We must develop clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources without relaxing regulation of
25 nuclear energy; encourage the use of fuel-efficient and alternate-fuel vehicles; reduce urban sprawl on
26 prime agricultural land; improve and expand local, regional, and national public transportation systems;
27 and increase recycling and waste management while maintaining biodiversity.

28 We must prioritize public health, environmental protection, and the land and water treaty rights of
29 Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation of all mining projects, including frac sand
30 extraction. We support public, local control of municipal water and sewage systems. We support re-
31 establishment of the Public Intervenor's Office and independent Department of Natural Resources
32 positions.

33

34 **Foreign Affairs**

35 Ukraine must be free and returned to its pre-2014 borders.

1 We stand for human rights, social and economic justice, the rule of law, and popularly adopted
2 democratic governments worldwide. Our leaders and policies must honor international law and
3 promote international agreements that provide groundwork for a just, prosperous, environmentally
4 healthy, and peaceful world. Our United Nations dues must be fully paid.

5 We call on our government to cooperatively and effectively lead in the pursuit of global accords to
6 improve the human condition and protect the environment. We encourage international efforts to
7 combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, discrimination, war, genocide, torture, genital mutilation,
8 human slavery and trafficking, capital punishment, pollution, and climate change. USAID must be
9 restored.

10 We oppose trade, immigration policies, and tariffs which undermine our economy, harm working
11 people, and harm the environment.

12 We oppose unfettered international arms trade, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, land mines,
13 radioactive materials in conventional munitions, ballistic missile defense systems, cluster bombs,
14 militarization of space, and American-run or funded internment camps.

15 We support a military sufficiently strong to safeguard national security. We must provide for the health
16 and well-being of members of the military during and after their service. We must not use National
17 Guard troops in undeclared wars.

18 Our military budget is disproportionately large and must be reduced. We should curtail the influence of
19 the "Military Industrial Complex." Greater emphasis should be placed on economic development and
20 diplomacy to achieve global security.

21 War is always a last resort. We must address grievances that foster terrorism, not fight wars that
22 perpetuate them. We must abide by the Geneva Conventions.

23 We oppose preemptive war, including the use of drone strikes, without verified direct threat to our
24 country.

25 We support refugees. We support the rights of people to seek a better life in America. Those rights
26 extend to those fleeing the effects of climate change, political persecution, and threats to their safety.

27 We support restoring America's commitment to the global community.

28

29 **Conclusion**

30 The membership of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin has crafted and adopted this platform. Our state
31 and country will become stronger and better by following the principles herein. We expect all
32 candidates supported by the Democratic Party to support this platform and to work to implement it.