

# Colorado Democratic Party Platform, 2008

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To the Colorado Democratic State Assembly:

After collecting the resolutions and platforms passed by Democratic County Assemblies all across Colorado, the Platform Committee met on six occasions to debate, condense and assemble them into our Colorado Democratic Party Platform.

The platform is posted on line at the Colorado Democratic Party website under “About Your Party:” <http://coloradodems.org/content/view/322/69/>

The dedicated committee members who worked hard to prepare this document setting out our Democratic principles, ideals and goals deserve our special thanks for their efforts.

John Walsh, Chair, Platform Committee

## Principles of Colorado Democrats

We, the **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**, are the oldest political party in America and the youngest in spirit, and will remain so because we are committed to government for, of, and by the people.

We **respect** all people and pledge to build and maintain a nation that is secure and respected worldwide for living up to the basic principles of our Constitution and for maintaining the same high standards for all international relations.

We **support** the equal right of all people to have freedom of expression, religion and the pursuit of happiness as well as a quality public education, a clean and safe environment, a secure and healthy future, a fair living wage, secure retirement, equal opportunity, and universal access to quality health care.

We **honor** the privacy and security of every individual, and an ethical government and society that is fair, open and fully accountable to all people.

We **realize** that citizenship entails responsibility to the commonwealth of our nation and support the fair and just contribution of all citizens.

We **accept** our fundamental responsibility to all future generations to pursue only policies that are sustainable and maintain or improve global well-being. We reaffirm that the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state is fundamental.

# **Top Priorities for Colorado Democrats**

## **The Iraq Invasion and Occupation**

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We call for the immediate, safe and responsible withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq, coordinated with multilateral and international political, military, financial and humanitarian efforts to promote Iraqi and regional stability, along with the closing of all U.S. bases in Iraq, the end of funding for the U.S. occupation of that country, and the recognition of the United States' obligation to reduce the suffering of the Iraqi people.

## **Health Care**

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The health of our citizens is essential to the health of our nation. Our health care system should be focused proactively on health promotion, preventative medicine, public health, and disease prevention, as well as primary care. We support implementation of a quality universal single-payer health care system, independent of employment.

## **Human & Civil Rights**

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Our nation was founded upon the principles of individual rights and liberties. We believe that the individual rights of liberty and freedom have priority over the power of government. We must ensure that all citizens are protected from the abuses and intrusions of government into our personal lives. We call for our country to live up to its own ideals by upholding our international treaty obligations, including the Geneva Conventions, and by renouncing the use of torture in any form.

## **Education**

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Strong public schools are the foundation of democratic community life. We believe that public education must be fully-funded from preschool through post-secondary education to provide a quality education to all and to ensure a competitive economy. We support content standards and a state accountability system that emphasizes fair measurement of student progress over time and overall academic performance to enhance student achievement and incorporate up-to-date knowledge and valuable workforce skills.

## **Environment**

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We believe that a clean and healthy global environment is vital for today and the future. Today, global climate change poses one of the greatest challenges humanity has faced. We support sustainable environmental policies to respond to that challenge, to preserve our public lands and Colorado's unmatched natural environment, and to ensure clean air and water today, and for future generations.

## **Energy Policy, Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy**

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We believe Colorado can and should be a national leader in the development of a sustainable and responsible energy policy that includes aggressive conservation methods and massive investment in research, development and implementation of renewable and alternative energy technologies, so as to decrease our dependence on declining non-renewable resources, lessen our impact on the environment and lessen our contribution to global climate change.

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## **Jobs, Economy and Fiscal Policy**

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We are committed to building a society that gives all individuals the opportunity for economic success. We call for the restoration of a progressive tax structure, and the repealing recent tax cuts that have largely benefited the wealthy and have contributed to the national debt. We support measures for elimination of poverty, and for fair trade policies with our foreign trading partners. Finally, we support urgent efforts to balance the federal budget.

## **Campaign, Election and Media Reform**

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We will create public confidence in the government by restoring the integrity of the voting and campaign finance process, including public financing of campaigns. We support Internet neutrality, and call on the FCC to reinstate prior standards limiting the concentration of the media in the hands of a few corporate entities.

## **Reproductive Choice**

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We believe that all women must be guaranteed affordable, safe, legal and confidential access to the full range of reproductive health services, including access to emergency contraception (the “morning-after pill”), birth control, and birth control information. We support a woman’s right to choose, and strongly oppose efforts to overturn or circumvent *Roe v. Wade*, such as changing state law to make abortion illegal, prosecuting individuals who assist women to cross state borders to obtain a legal abortion in another state, or legally redefining a fertilized egg as a “person.”

We believe that abortion should be safe, legal, and rare. We support educational and legal initiatives to accomplish this without making criminals of women or doctors.

## **Science and Technology Policy**

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We believe in the power of the human mind to gain understanding of the world around us to solve problems facing humanity. To that end, we support funding research and education in science and technology and call for an end to politicizing scientific study. We insist on freedom of inquiry for scientists, appointing qualified scientists to panels without regard to political or religious beliefs, and allowing scientists to publish their results without political interference.

## **Censure and Impeachment**

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No person is above the law. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney and their administration have abused their power and appear to have repeatedly violated the Constitution. They should be investigated, censured, and, if appropriate, impeached.

## **Immigration**

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We support safe and legal immigration that takes into account the safety of immigrants and the needs of our economy. To that end, we call for a simple, fair guest worker program, and support control of our borders and the enforcement of our laws.

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