

# **Johnson County Democratic Party Platform 2010 County Convention**

Revised County Platform

February 11, 2012

As proposed to the 2012 County Party Convention

## **STATEMENT OF GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH STATE PLATFORM**

Johnson County Democrats generally agree with the Wyoming Democratic Party Platform that was adopted at the 2008 State Party Convention in Jackson, Wyoming on May 24, 2008. Although Johnson County Democrats do not necessarily agree with and adopt each item in the State Platform, they do agree that it sets forth the basic ideals and beliefs of Johnson County Democrats. This County Platform amplifies national and state platforms to include local issues.

Proposed Johnson County Democratic Party Platform  
2012 Convention

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

1. We believe family, school, community, county and state share responsibility for providing a high quality public education in a productive and safe working and learning environment.
2. We believe free public education from early childhood through post secondary is necessary for an informed and responsible citizenry.
3. We support equitable early childhood, public school, community college, and university financing, and improved teacher salaries to raise the quality of education.
4. We support certification standards for teachers, administrators, and school specialists.
5. We support high quality humanities, art, and technological programs to supplement the standard math, English, and science curriculum in K-12 schools, community colleges, trade schools, and the University of Wyoming.
6. We support strong foreign and indigenous language programs in K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities.
7. We support programs to help end bullying in public schools and the community.
8. We oppose mandatory student attendance at military recruiting activities in public schools.
9. We support the inclusion of nutrition education in K-12 schools. The curriculum should focus on the importance of community control of the food supply, humane treatment of animals, the benefits of a fresh, healthful diet, and the risks of a diet high in junk foods.
10. We support the inclusion of a discussion of the impacts of over population in the school curriculum.
11. We support outdoor education programs that include field biology, outdoor training, such as wilderness camping in summer and winter, watershed education, back packing, and climbing. We support including adult mentors and teachers to participate in these outdoor education programs to enhance the links between the schools and the community at large.

**THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTING OUR BIRTHRIGHT**

1. We support scientific research to develop environmentally responsible policies at the local, state, national, and global levels.
2. We value the importance of clean air, land, and water, of open spaces, of abundant wildlife, and of wilderness. Recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking

available on public and private lands are valuable resources. The conservation and protection of these resources will enhance our quality of life and our economy.

3. We support the designation of Rock Creek as a wilderness area.
4. We support the strengthening and enforcement of local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations.
5. We support the expansion of the countywide recycling and waste reduction program.
6. We support sustainable growth that preserves green and open spaces to contain urban sprawl and encourage the maintenance of ranching and farming communities.
7. We support planning for and provision of public services to support new housing or commercial developments.
8. We support equitable distribution of state revenues and resources among all counties and communities.
9. We support access to public lands, minimizing additional roads in national forests, and maintaining roadless areas on public lands.
10. We support increased investment in scientific, agricultural, and ecological research to maintain agricultural productivity.
11. We support and encourage funding programs that support traditional family-owned and operated farms and ranches, and we recognize their importance to the stability of our national and local economy. We oppose the current trends toward livestock and agricultural monopolies.
12. We support strong regulations to enhance restoration of local lands following minerals development.
13. We support the local study of the impact of population growth on our resources and environment.
14. We support the expansion of the Johnson County trails system including the development of bicycle paths on local roads and highways.

#### **CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND BALANCING ENERGY NEEDS**

1. We support scientific research to address climate change at local, state, national and global levels.
2. We support development of alternative, green, renewable energy resources, including solar energy, wind power, and geo-thermal energy, through increased federal, state, and county incentives.
3. We encourage the innovative use of Wyoming coal and support development of clean coal

and clean methane technology projects. We support the continued investigation of safe methods for coal and methane processing, for gas sequestration and for “fracking” which includes full disclosure of the constituent materials in “fracking” fluids.

#### **HEALTH CARE ISSUES & SOLUTIONS**

1. Preventive care and education should be the foundation of any health care system.
2. We support local options using state or county funding that would provide health care and health care education to the uninsured and the underinsured in Johnson County.
3. We support the foundation of a free health care clinic.
4. We support providing wellness care benefits to all workers through a state or local program.
5. We support passage of a ban on smoking in indoor public places.

#### **INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

1. We believe that no individual should suffer discrimination or deprivation of rights based on gender, language, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, or political beliefs.
2. We support the prosecution of perpetrators of any acts of discriminatory violence.
3. We support local funding of family violence and abuse intervention and prevention programs, shelters, and support services.
4. We support providing information and tools to allow women and men to make informed decisions regarding family planning.
5. We support the extension of civil marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples.

#### **RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT**

1. We support open, ethical, and accountable government and the full compliance with and enforcement of all public meetings and open government laws.
2. We support fair, open, and inclusive elections. Voters should not be removed from registration lists unless they have not voted or registered for two voting cycles.
3. We support fiscally responsible government.

#### **SOCIAL ISSUES**

1. We support access to affordable, livable, and safe housing for all county residents.

2. We support incentives and opportunities that will measurably improve the lives of those in poverty.
3. We support the coordination of local services and programs to make them more streamlined and efficient and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.
4. We support the creation of a publicly funded Johnson County Arts and Humanities Council and a community center.
5. We support hunting rights in Johnson County. To this end, we support hunter safety courses.
6. We favor repealing laws that allow carrying concealed weapons without a permit, or carrying weapons into public places including schools, churches, and bars.
7. We oppose the sale of automatic weapons, assault rifles, and any firearm that is not appropriate for use in hunting.

#### **WORK PLACE & LABOR EQUITABILITY**

1. We believe in fair employment practices, equitable wages which includes equal pay for equal work, and safe, clean, and healthy workplaces.
2. We support making affordable licensed childcare a priority.
3. We support the protection of civil liberties in the work place.
4. We support the use of state and county funds to provide job training and internships to strengthen and enhance the local work force.

#### **JOHNSON COUNTY MAIN STREET**

1. We support a strong Main Street program for Johnson County.
2. We support public funding of the project to revitalize Buffalo's Crazy Woman Square and to initiate analogous projects the countywide.