

The 2008 Platform of the Texas Democratic Party

Beliefs Shaped by Democratic Values

Texas Democrats believe government can be as good as the people. We have faith that democracy, built on the sacred values of family, freedom and fairness, can afford every Texan, without exception, the opportunity to achieve their God-given potential.

We believe democratic government exists to achieve as a community, state, and nation what we cannot achieve as individuals; and that it must not serve only a powerful few.

We believe every Texan has inalienable rights that even a majority may not take away

...the right to vote

...the right to fair and open participation and representation in the democratic process

...the right to privacy.

We believe in freedom

...from government interference in our private lives and personal decisions

...to exercise civil and human rights

...of religion and individual conscience.

We believe in equal opportunity for all Texans

...to receive a quality public education, from childhood through college

...to have access to affordable health care

...to find a good job with dignity

...to buy or rent a good home in a safe community

...to breathe clean air and drink clean water.

We believe a growing economy should benefit all Texans

...that the people who work in a business are as important as those who invest in it

...that every person should be paid a living wage

...that no person who works full time should be paid a wage below the poverty level

...that good business offers a fair deal for customers
...that the burden of taxes should be fairly distributed
...that government policy should not favor corporations that seek offshore tax shelters, exploit workers, or pollute our environment.

We believe that our lives, homes, communities and country are made secure

...by cooperative efforts of involved citizens, law enforcement, and emergency personnel
...by retirement and pension security
...by encouraging job security where it is possible and providing appropriate assistance and re-training when it is not
...by the preservation of our precious natural resources and quality of life
...by compassionate policy that offers a safety net for those most vulnerable and in need.

We believe America is made stronger by the men and women who put their lives on the line when it is necessary to engage our military to secure our nation.

We believe America is made more secure by competent diplomatic leadership that uses the moral, ethical, economic assets of a powerful, free nation to avoid unnecessary military conflict.

We believe in the benefits derived from the individual strengths of our diverse population. We honor “family values” through policies that value all our families.

We believe an honest, ethical state government that serves the public interest, and not the special interests, will help all Texans realize economic and personal security.

We believe many challenges require national solutions, but talented and resourceful Texans, blessed with economic opportunities provided by agriculture, “old” and “new” energy sources, renowned medical and research institutions and high tech industries, should not need federal action to make progress in providing quality education, affordable health care, a clean environment, economic growth and good jobs.

Based on our belief in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, we recommend specific policy goals to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

For the entire 2008 platform, [download the PDF here](#) .