



Connecticut Democratic Party Platform

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Preamble:

America at 250: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution State Today

In America's 250th year, the Constitution State continues to be a model for fulfilling the promises laid out by our founders. The foundations of our republic have been severely shaken in recent years, testing the resiliency of America, its states, and its people in ways unimaginable just a few years ago. Connecticut Democrats are showing the way forward. We are setting an example for the nation by proudly standing up for and fighting to protect our state and its residents.

As we mark our 250th year, the Declaration of Independence takes on a new relevance as we remember what we are celebrating, and renew our work to fulfil the promise America holds for all.

As Connecticut Democrats continue this work, we look to the Declaration as our guide.

“...certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness...”

We believe that people cannot reach their full potential unless their basic needs are met, they have a sense of personal security, and are connected to a safe and inclusive society. This includes, but is not limited to:

Life - We advocate for safe food, clean water, clean air, affordable housing, and affordable healthcare. We also stand for the freedom to make decisions about reproduction.

Liberty - We stand for freedom of expression and identity, protection against all forms of discrimination and violence, strong elementary and secondary education, and individual rights.

the pursuit of Happiness - we work to ensure that all are able to live a fulfilled and meaningful life that is supported by pathways to post-secondary education and occupation that best suits them, a safe workplace, and livable wages and pensions that enable any person aspiring to comfortably afford life in the state for themselves and their families. We also work to ensure our residents are free from misinformation and fear, and to protect the natural beauty of this state.

“...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

We are committed to upholding democracy, civil rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law. This includes, but is not limited to:

Just Powers - We work to ensure that all in Connecticut can enjoy the benefits of life in this state while guarding against attempts to improperly deprive anyone who lives here of their rights and freedoms.

Consent of the Governed - We stand for expanding voting rights and candidate choices, while maintaining our high standards of election integrity. We work to enable residents to make decisions that affect them that are based on a shared reality, guided by shared values, grounded in science, and enabled by a free press. We stand for the protection of public information from the corrupting influence of excessive wealth and political privilege.

Education

Early Childhood

Every child deserves a strong start. Connecticut Democrats are committed to building a universal early care and education system, from infancy through pre-K, delivered through public schools, community providers, and family childcare homes. We are committed to ensuring quality and sustainability by investing in educators, setting high standards, and building a system that supports children's development and prepares them for lifelong success.

No family should pay more than 7% of their income for care. For families earning under \$100,000, it should be free. This approach ensures that cost is never a barrier while giving families real choices, supported by sustained investment through Connecticut's Early Childhood Education Endowment.

K–12 and Beyond

Connecticut Democrats believe a high school diploma should be a launchpad, not a finish line. We support connecting K–12 schools directly to college pathways, workforce training, and career-connected learning so graduates are ready for whatever comes next. We believe every Connecticut high school graduate should be equipped with 21st-century skills and global competence to compete successfully in today's workforce.

We are committed to equitable school funding, strong student and family support, promoting classroom innovation, and ensuring every community has the resources needed to help young people thrive. We support a coordinated education system that connects K–12 schools with higher education, workforce training, trade schools, and career pathways, expanding access to rigorous academics, career-connected learning, and dual enrollment opportunities so students graduate prepared for both college and in-demand careers.

We're committed to growing our technical schools and trade programs tuition-free, because a good-paying job shouldn't require a lifetime of debt. And we will keep working to recruit and retain a diverse educator workforce because who teaches matters as much as what gets taught.

Public Education

A meaningful and purposeful public education is foundational to everything we believe: individual opportunity, shared prosperity, and a functional democracy where we all participate fully. Connecticut Democrats believe it is the state and federal government's responsibility to ensure that every child receives that education, no matter who they are, what they believe and where they live.

That means recognizing and improving how we fund our schools and our commitment to closing fund gaps that have held students back and making universal pre-K available to everyone.

We must modernize Connecticut's education funding formulas to ensure fairness, predictability, and long-term stability for municipalities while addressing the rising costs of special education,

transportation, and student support services, including universal state-funded meals in schools.

Mental health support in schools isn't optional; it's essential. Unaddressed mental health issues are an obstacle to learning, and continued investment in school-based mental and behavioral health staff, for both preventive and emergency care, is not only essential but our responsibility. So are the arts, which we believe belong in every school, not just those that can afford them. They enrich learning across subjects and give voice to children who have not yet found another way to express what they are living through.

Every student living with disabilities deserves a fully funded, inclusive public education that meets their individual needs. We support expanded special education funding, stronger transition-to-adulthood services, increased special education staff, and improved access to mental health care, assistive technology, and early intervention programs.

Teachers and educators are essential and deserve our full respect and gratitude as they teach critical thinking, use age-appropriate health and wellness materials, teach historically accurate information, and create culturally and racially reflective classrooms. We support growing our technical school system, recruiting women and people of color into good-paying trades, and working toward tuition-free community colleges and trade schools for all.

We stand with Connecticut's educators, administrators, and school employees. We support increasing wages to keep up with the rising cost of living, and we promise to work alongside teachers, parents, and communities to keep strengthening public education in every corner of this state.

Economy

Economic Vitality

Connecticut Democrats believe all working people should earn enough to live with dignity, security, and hope for the future. Our economy must work for all of us, not just for the wealthiest among us. Rent, groceries, gas, and utilities were already a stretch. Now they're out of reach. Wages are slow to rise while the cost of a first home skyrockets. Connecticut Democrats are not interested in managing that reality. We are committed to changing it.

We are proud that Connecticut now has one of the highest minimum wages in the country at \$16.94 an hour, indexed to rise with inflation. But a wage floor isn't the same as a living wage, and too many Connecticut families are still one crisis away from losing everything. We will keep pushing on wages, on tax policy that strengthens the middle class and invests in small businesses and our veterans, and provides all in the state a chance at a better life in every corner of the state. We support small businesses where most employment is created, so they can keep paying workers fair wages and provide benefits.

Labor

The middle class was built by unions. The 40-hour workweek, overtime pay, healthcare, pensions, paid leave, workplace safety. None of that came from the goodness of employers.

Workers fought for it, together. Connecticut Democrats stand with them.

We will strengthen unions and enable organizing without fear of reprisal. We support Project Labor Agreements and prevailing wage standards as cornerstones for the success of all Connecticut workers. We support and are committed to creating and updating municipal Good Jobs Ordinances and prevailing wage standards that ensure Connecticut workers are paid and hired fairly on every public project. We will crack down on worker misclassification, the practice of calling employees "independent contractors" to strip them of benefits and protections, while the employers evade their payroll tax requirements, and we will extend full labor protections to gig workers, farm workers, and domestic workers who have been left out for too long.

We will invest in infrastructure and clean energy to create high-paying union jobs, enforce Buy American rules to retain manufacturing jobs, and protect pensions so retirees can age with the security they earned. Every worker deserves comprehensive health and dental insurance, a secure retirement, and guaranteed paid family and medical leave. A strong union presence coincides with a larger, more stable middle class. That is not politics. That is history — and Connecticut Democrats intend to keep making it.

A Fairer Tax Structure

Connecticut's state and local tax system disproportionately burdens working families. At the same time, the richest people in our state pay only a comparatively small percentage of their enormous.

We must ensure that we have a fair and progressive tax system that works for the 99%, not just the top 1%. To that end, we support creating a more equitable tax system by creating a new tax structure, including higher rates on those with incomes over \$1 million a year, as well as on capital gains and dividends. Additional measures include investing the revenue raised back into food assistance, healthcare, and affordable housing development; systematically shifting how we finance public education from local to state funding to reduce the burden of property taxes; and implementing a permanent, and fully refundable child tax credit.

We also believe taxpayers deserve transparency, accountability, and measurable results from public spending. Government has a responsibility to spend efficiently, eliminate waste, modernize outdated systems, and ensure every public dollar delivers real value to Connecticut residents.

AI

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies will reshape nearly every sector of society. Connecticut Democrats believe innovation should improve quality of life, strengthen public systems, expand economic opportunity, and support working people, not simply concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a few corporations and billionaires.

AI systems are built using enormous amounts of human-created knowledge, labor, creativity, language, public research, and shared digital activity. The value generated by these technologies is not created in isolation by technology companies alone, but through the collective contributions of society itself.

Connecticut Democrats believe the public deserves to share in the economic benefits generated by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. We support exploring models such as public technology dividends, innovation wealth funds, and other mechanisms that ensure the immense wealth created through AI development benefits working people and communities, not solely private investors and corporations.

Just as natural resources extracted from the earth generate value that can be returned to residents, the economic gains produced through the large-scale use of collectively generated human knowledge and publicly supported research should contribute to broad public prosperity.

We support responsible AI governance that protects privacy, civil rights, consumer protections, intellectual property rights, and labor standards while encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, research, and workforce development.

Connecticut should lead in the ethical use of AI in healthcare, education, transportation, energy management, accessibility services, and government operations. Public agencies should responsibly deploy technology to improve efficiency, reduce administrative delays, modernize outdated systems, eliminate waste, and deliver better services to residents.

Decisions affecting employment, housing, healthcare, education, legal status, lending, or constitutional rights should never be delegated solely to unaccountable algorithms without meaningful human oversight, transparency, and avenues for appeal.

We also recognize that AI-driven economic disruption may fundamentally reshape labor markets and workforce participation. Connecticut Democrats are committed to ensuring technological advancement strengthens economic dignity and shared prosperity rather than deepening inequality and economic insecurity.

Housing

We believe housing is a right and not a luxury. And those who experience disruptions in safe and dignified housing are our neighbors; persevering, day and night, against conditions that should not exist in one of the wealthiest states in the nation.

Connecticut Democrats' approach centers on substantially increasing supply; building, rehabilitating, preserving housing units across the state, and supporting financial incentives and programs for first-time home buyers. That means easing zoning restrictions, expanding tax credits for developers, converting vacant properties to residential use, investing in brownfield and commercial remediation, and advancing transit-oriented development. We support Just Cause eviction protections, as well as immediate measures to address affordability, including expanding access to rental assistance, establishing a renters' tax credit, support for first-time homebuyers, and the preservation of deed-restricted affordable housing.

Far too many of our seniors are facing financial crisis with no availability of affordable assistance living along with activities of daily living standards. An increase in homelessness is at an all-time high due to no or lack of development for our seniors and disabled neighbors. We must remember that the housing market is currently changing where seniors and disabled neighbors are losing

homes.

Policymakers must focus on the root causes of this crisis. We will limit the ability of venture capitalists and other monied interests that buy up housing stock and wield outsized power over rents and prices. We will fight to limit the ability of large institutional investors to monopolize our housing stock and price people out of the communities they have called home.

Health Care

The federal government has cut the subsidies that made coverage affordable for hundreds of thousands of our residents. People are already delaying surgeries, skipping treatment, and going into debt just to access basic care. That is a crisis, and Connecticut Democrats are fighting back.

We also recognize that racism is a public health crisis, one that produces measurable, documented disparities in who gets care, who gets believed, and who survives. A healthcare system that does not actively confront racial inequity is not a healthcare system for everyone.

Connecticut Democrats support the creation of a public healthcare option that allows residents and small businesses to buy into the health insurance options provided to State of Connecticut employees. We further support studying the feasibility of a universal single-payer healthcare system in Connecticut and will continue advocating for a national Medicare for All program that guarantees comprehensive healthcare coverage for every American.

Solutions lie in a payment system that is fair to all, complete in coverage, and inclusive of dental, vision, mental health, reproductive, and gender affirming care, not as add-ons, but as core components of what it means to be healthy. Individuals must be able to make their own choices about prevention, treatment, and well-being, supported by clear information, respect for their values, and a system that meets them where they are. We are done managing the crisis one patch at a time. Connecticut Democrats will fight for a system where the cost of getting sick doesn't cost you everything else.

Environment

Climate change is not a future threat. It is here. Connecticut experienced four heat waves in the summer of 2025. Our cities flood, our air worsens, our coastline erodes. We will not wait. Connecticut Democrats will lead. We will advocate for sustainable policies.

Revolution Wind, Connecticut's offshore wind project, was stopped twice by the Trump administration on fabricated national security grounds. Connecticut sued, a federal judge ruled the government failed to cite any legitimate reason, and the project came online. That fight is not over, and neither are we. We will strengthen the Renewable Portfolio Standard, expand solar, modernize the grid, and refuse to let utility companies rake in massive profits year over year at the expense of families' financial security. Connecticut has already invested nearly \$3 billion in clean energy and set a target of 65% greenhouse gas reduction below 2001 levels by 2040.

Environmental Justice

The burden of climate harm does not fall equally. Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and New Haven face compounding risks, extreme heat, chronic flooding, degraded air, on top of decades of disinvestment. We will direct resources to those communities first, and ensure the clean energy transition creates real jobs and real opportunity where it is needed most.

We will invest in coastal resilience, wetland restoration, and green infrastructure. We will continue acquiring open space, protecting watersheds, and hardening our infrastructure against the intensifying storms already headed our way.

Supporting Connecticut Farmers

Connecticut's farmers are living the consequences of climate change right now, new pests, shifting seasons, unpredictable weather, while navigating regulations that too often treat a small family farm like an industrial operation. We commit to working directly with farming communities: protecting agricultural land, investing in soil health and crop diversification, supporting urban farms and farms led by women and farmers of color, and preparing Connecticut agriculture for the climate reality ahead. Farmers deserve to work free from interference by large corporations and big agribusiness. That is why we will fight to protect the “right to repair” and the right of farmers to replant their own seeds each year. We will also push to boost Connecticut’s agricultural workforce and support the next generation of farmers.

Energy

We must work toward energy independence through alternative sources of energy, including the development and incentivizing the equitable location of wind, solar, and other green technologies and developments while focusing on preserving and protecting prime farmland soils. We will address rate increases and return of investment guarantee for utility companies with the intention of putting affordability for ratepayers first. We also encourage the development of true public utility authorities, whether by expanding the model deployed in communities around the state or by a state authority that coordinates those efforts.

Criminal Legal Reform

Connecticut Democrats support reform to the criminal-legal system that ensures and enforces fair and equitable treatment for all, especially our Black and Hispanic neighbors that have been overpoliced and over sentenced. We believe reform must incorporate every aspect of the criminal-legal system, including what we choose to criminalize, the practices and behavior of law enforcement professionals; charging, sentencing, and bail; treatment of those incarcerated; diversion and rehabilitation; and the full reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into our neighborhoods.

Over policing and over sentencing, predominantly impacting Black and Hispanic people, not only disrupts communities but it fractures families. Connecticut Democrats support reform to the criminal-legal system that ensures and enforces fair and equitable treatment for everyone and repairs the decades of harm caused by arresting and sentencing.

We are committed to ensuring children and young people are appropriately diverted away from the legal system toward care, treatment, and supportive services, and ensuring law enforcement officials are held to the highest standard of public trust.

We recognize the sacrifices that law enforcement, firefighters and other public safety personnel make to keep us safe. We support efforts to increase occupational mortality for public safety personnel and ensure that they have a good pay, healthcare and retirement.

In a state that has been deeply impacted by gun violence, we maintain that the Office of Firearm Injury Prevention continues its work in partnership with the very communities it supports.

There is no justice without compassion. And a compassionate approach prioritizes keeping families whole and offering paths to reentry. Connecticut Democrats believe that all people inherently deserve a second chance.

Racial Equity

Racism, in its many forms, must be identified, acknowledged, and rooted out wherever it is found. Whether in education, healthcare, housing, or hiring, Connecticut Democrats affirm that negative outcomes for people of color are the end results of racist policies and discriminatory practices, that these practices often constitute a public health crisis, and we are committed to permanently correcting the systems that produce them.

Those systems include the criminal-legal system, where over-policing and over-incarceration have caused historic and deep-seated destruction of families and communities. We are committed to the reform, the repair, and whenever necessary the dismantling of racist policies within it.

We recognize that anti-Black racism is deeply embedded in American institutions and has shaped many of the inequities that persist today, and we are committed to confronting anti-Blackness directly wherever it exists — in policy, institutions, and public life.

Racism has many faces: xenophobia against Hispanic, Middle Eastern, and Asian communities, antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant hatred, and forms we have yet to name. We condemn all of it — and we commit not just to standing against these attacks on our neighbors, but to standing for them, especially when doing so carries risk.

That commitment begins inside our own Party. Racism and disregard have no place in our Town Committees, our caucuses, or at our tables. We recognize that historically marginalized communities bring heavier histories and more direct connection to the effects of racism to this work, and we commit to working through our differences with deference to those most impacted.

Racial justice is a collective responsibility. Only by confronting racism in all its forms can we build a democracy that truly serves all people.

LGBTQIA+ Rights

Connecticut's LGBTQIA+ community reflects the full diversity of all who call our state home,

and deserves full equality, full safety, and full freedom to live openly. We recognize this community is not monolithic, yet spans every race, religion, ethnicity, and background, so our policies must reflect its full diversity, especially those most often left behind.

Across the country, rights are being stripped away, healthcare denied, identities restricted, books banned, people subjected to conversion therapy, people excluded from public life. Connecticut Democrats reject and shall fight against these efforts without reservation. We will not be passive while our neighbors are targeted.

That means defending access to affirming, evidence-based healthcare for every LGBTQIA+ person, including transgender and nonbinary individuals who face the most direct assault on their rights right now. It means keeping our schools safe and inclusive, so every student can learn as their full self. It means protecting workers from discrimination in every profession, and ensuring LGBTQIA+ people can serve, travel, and live without government interference in who they are.

LGBTQIA+ youth must be free to grow into their identities without fear. LGBTQIA+ elders must be able to age with dignity and care. When LGBTQIA+ people thrive, Connecticut thrives. That is not just a matter of rights. It is a measure of who we are.

Infrastructure and Transportation

The state's five-year transportation capital plan programs more than \$15 billion in improvements through 2030, including major investments in rail, bus rapid transit, bridges, and roadways. But the Trump administration has already shown it will use federal funding as a weapon. Connecticut Democrats will fight every attempt to politicize infrastructure money that Connecticut communities have earned and depend on.

Broadband access is infrastructure too. Affordable, high-speed internet must be available in every corner of Connecticut, not just be a benefit of living in a city. Access to the Internet is the baseline requirement for education, work, and full participation in civic life.

We built the roads and bridges that made Connecticut's economy possible. Now we need to build the transportation network that will carry us forward, whether that be on bikes, on foot, or on rail.

Immigration

Connecticut Democrats embrace all members of our community, including immigrants, refugees, asylees and workers who are entitled to equitable treatment, respect, and dignity across all settings—within their homes, workplaces, places of worship, the legal system, and throughout the state. We honor and support the valuable contributions made by immigrants and believe that undocumented immigrants be afforded meaningful and accessible pathways within the legal system to achieve permanent status.

We will not back down. The Connecticut House voted to expand the Trust Act, the Senate passed legislation making certain areas off-limits for immigration detention, creating a process for

residents to sue federal agents who violate their constitutional rights, and limiting the sharing of personal data like home addresses, workplaces, and court appointment times. We support all of it.

Congress must play its role. It must act now to fix the broken immigration system, clear the visa backlogs, protect DACA and TPS recipients, modernize asylum, and end for-profit detention. Until Washington does its job, Connecticut will keep doing ours — protecting our residents, upholding due process, and making clear that everyone in this state deserves to live without fear.

A modern immigration system balances humanity and our nation's long-term interests by creating a fair and efficient system that reflects both American values and economic realities.

Immigration is not a crisis to be feared but represents a defining American strength where immigrants have contributed to the economic growth, innovation and cultural diversity of our nation.

Disability

Connecticut Democrats believe that disability rights are civil rights, human rights, and economic rights. We are committed to building a state where disabled people are not merely accommodated, but fully included, empowered, and represented in every aspect of public life. Disability is a natural part of the human experience, and our policies must reflect dignity, interdependence, accessibility, and collective care.

We support strong enforcement and expansion of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and we will oppose every effort to weaken accessibility standards or exclude disabled people from education, employment, housing, transportation, healthcare, or civic participation. Accessibility must be proactive and universal, embedded into our schools, sidewalks, transit systems, voting systems, digital services, and emergency preparedness, not treated as an afterthought.

We also recognize that disabled veterans face unique barriers shaped by military service, healthcare inequities, and gaps in long-term support. No veteran should be left without the care, accommodations, and respect they deserve.

Connecticut Democrats affirm disability culture, identity, and language. Disabled people have the right to define themselves in their own words, whether as disabled, Deaf, autistic, chronically ill, neurodivergent, or by other identities rooted in community and lived experience. Visibility and language are essential to justice and representation, and stigma has no place here.

A just Connecticut is one where all people can access education, employment, healthcare, housing, and public life without barriers, and where disabled people are valued for their humanity, wisdom, and contributions to our communities.

Women’s Rights, Gender Justice, and Reproductive Justice

Connecticut Democrats are committed to full gender justice and equality for all people, grounded in an intersectional understanding of how race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status, and geography shape lived experience. We affirm that reproductive justice is essential to human dignity, the right to have children, to not have children, and to raise children in safe, healthy, and well-resourced communities.

Connecticut Democrats unequivocally believe and will defend that every person has the right to make their own decisions about their body, their family, and their future, supported by evidence-based health and science recommendations. That means ensuring access to high-quality, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including contraception, abortion, fertility and infertility care, gender-affirming care, maternal and postpartum care, miscarriage management, and STI prevention and treatment without stigma, coercion, or political interference. We will address the racial, economic, and disability-based disparities that produce unequal pregnancy and birth outcomes, especially for black women, and we will protect gender-affirming care as a core component of bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

Gender justice also requires economic justice, safety, and political power. We will fight to end gender-based violence and coercive control, support survivors of sexual assault and harassment with trauma-informed responses, and prevent exploitation and human trafficking through survivor-led, community-based strategies. We will fight for workplace equity, paid family and medical leave, fair scheduling, strong labor protections, and real pay equity that closes the gender and racial wage gap. We are committed to electing more women and gender-diverse people, particularly women of color, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities to public office at every level of government.

Defending Democracy

A thriving democracy depends on the full participation of its citizens. Connecticut Democrats believe that the right to vote and to participate meaningfully in civic life is fundamental. In an unprecedented era, when democratic norms are under sustained attack across the country, we affirm that expanding—not restricting—democratic participation is both a practical necessity and a moral imperative.

We have made real progress toward a more inclusive democracy by modernizing voter registration, restoring voting rights to people returning from incarceration, and expanding options for how and when residents can cast a ballot. Every eligible voter must be able to participate fully, securely, and confidently.

The right to vote freely and fairly, without intimidation, discrimination, or undue burden, must be advanced and protected. That includes ensuring that elections are administered transparently, professionally, and in ways that grow public trust.

Democracy does not begin and end on Election Day. Connecticut Democrats are committed to supporting voter education, community-based outreach, and sustained engagement — especially

in rural communities and communities that have been historically underrepresented or excluded from political power. A healthy democracy requires lifelong civic learning, multilingual access, clear and fair processes for running for office, disability access, and meaningful opportunities for participation at every level of government. We remain committed to electing more women and gender-diverse people, particularly women of color, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities to public office at every level of government.

At the national level, we Democrats, support restoration and strengthening of the federal Voting Rights Act and efforts to defend democratic institutions against erosion and abuse. At the state level, Democrats will continue to explore and evaluate democratic reforms that enhance fairness, representation, and voter choice, while maintaining election integrity and public confidence.

Connecticut Democrats believe every person deserves a voice, and that a healthy democracy depends on all voices being heard, especially those historically shut out. We will defend the rule of law, expand access to the ballot, and resist every attempt to concentrate power in the hands of the few. We are committed to making Connecticut a place where "liberty and justice for all" is not just part of a pledge, but part of everyday life.