

Loudoun County Democratic Committee

Statement of Principles

Adopted November 2005

We, the Loudoun County Democratic Committee, endorse the principles contained in the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States of America and the Party Plan and Statement Of Common Purpose of the Virginia State Democratic Party. We therefore adopt the following as our Statement of Principles:

We recognize that the capacity of government is limited and should be clearly defined. However, we regard democratic government as a force for good and a source of hope for all Americans. At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction: that Americans must be free and live in a fair society.

We believe it is the responsibility of government to help us achieve this fair society. We believe in the role of government to bring about:

- ▶ a society where freedom of speech and the right to publicly express opinions are supported and encouraged at all levels – even in the councils of local, state, and federal government;
- ▶ a society where the costs of building, enhancing, and maintaining our infrastructure are borne by all according to their ability to pay;
- ▶ a society where a range of housing options are available so that the people who work in Loudoun County can afford to live here;
- ▶ a society where people can afford to live in their homes without fear of being displaced by law or by the escalation of the financial value of their property;
- ▶ a society with an unshakable commitment to the elderly and the disabled that will enable them to lead lives of dignity;
- ▶ a society in which a growing economy provides work opportunities for all who are able and willing to work;
- ▶ a society where all workers are guaranteed the legal right to join unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively for decent wages and conditions of employment;
- ▶ a society where taxes are clearly based on ability to pay;
- ▶ a society with a strong national defense; where that defense is a common effort, where promoting human rights is a basic value of our foreign policy, and where we ensure our common global future by working to rid the planet of weapons of mass destruction.

- ▶ a society where the right of all people to equality under the law is unequivocally recognized;
- ▶ a society where the civil rights of all citizens are fully secured and where no one is denied access to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- ▶ a society where every individual has the same opportunities; where every individual is regarded for their actions, not their nature; and where our government moves aggressively to protect, by lawful means, the right of each individual to be treated equally with every other;
- ▶ a society where we recognize that the strengthening of the family, in all of its forms, and the protection of children are essential to the health of the nation;
- ▶ a society where medical decisions are made by the individual, their family, and their doctor;
- ▶ a society where the right to privacy is honored and protected;
- ▶ a society where the separation of church and state and the freedom of religious expression are both respected and upheld;
- ▶ a society where a sound education, proper nutrition, quality medical care, affordable housing, safe streets, and a healthy environment are possible for every citizen;
- ▶ a society where safeguarding our environment and conserving our natural heritage for our own and future generations is assured.

This is our purpose and our promise.