

# Yakima County Democrats



## Proposed 2010 Party Platform

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### Preamble

We come together to declare our vision as Democrats, mindful that the challenges of our times are profound. For the first time in generations our great middle class is shrinking, millions of Americans have lost their jobs, and millions of Americans are struggling with the ever-increasing burden of life's everyday demands. We approach these challenges with an optimism that comes from our great faith and our pride in America.

Today we pledge to return to the core moral principles of stewardship, service to others, personal responsibility, shared sacrifice and equal opportunity for all. The Democrats of Yakima County commit ourselves to the democratic values of justice, fairness and equal opportunity.

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1 **Agriculture**

2 Agriculture is the economic base of Yakima County. We recognize the role of farmers as  
3 “stewards of the land” and we support programs that ensure the availability of high-  
4 quality food, strengthen rural communities, preserve family farms, and maintain the  
5 viability of the land.

6 Because Yakima County is a major national producer of tree and vine fruit, row crops  
7 and livestock, it relies heavily on manual labor. The men and women providing this labor  
8 have worked in the US for years, put down roots and raised their families. In the interest  
9 of promoting their full integration into US society, we call on Congress to reform  
10 immigration policy.

11 An adequate supply of water is the lifeblood of our communities. We endorse additional  
12 water storage and conservation as a means to alleviate the burdens of water shortages to  
13 farmers, industry, recreation, and our environment. And, we call on our fellow citizens to  
14 recognize the appropriate usage and conservation of water as a limited resource.

15 We support:

- 16 • The family farmer and we urge federal and state legislation to maintain this  
17 American tradition by providing economic support for the survival, protection,  
18 and improvement of rural communities, including
  - 19 ○ Promote marketing support for Yakima Valley agricultural products.
- 20 • Funding for agricultural commodity programs that strongly support long-term  
21 economic viability of local agriculture and the availability of local high quality  
22 food.
- 23 • Conservation and environmental efforts to preserve agricultural land and natural  
24 resources such as soil, water, forests, wildlife habitat.
  - 25 ○ Organic farming and establishment of stronger organic farming standards.
  - 26 ○ Reducing pesticide, herbicide, and other persistent toxic chemical use.
  - 27 ○ Increased research in sustainable, non-toxic farming techniques through  
28 WSU and other Land Grant Colleges.
- 29 • Strongly advocating adequate governmental support for research and extension  
30 programs to develop, improve and protect crops and livestock and improve  
31 quality, marketability and safety of agricultural products.
- 32 • Requiring food chain inspection of all animals at risk of spongiform  
33 encephalopathy disease and other emerging disease threats.
- 34 • Promotion of fair marketing opportunity for Yakima cattle growers competing  
35 with foreign producers.
- 36 • Enforcement of antitrust laws to prevent agribusiness monopolies.
- 37 • Legislative limitations on genetic engineering of seeds and plants so we can more  
38 effectively preserve native plant diversity and protection of farmers from liability  
39 for accidental drift of proprietary crop pollen.
- 40 • Clear food labeling including full and complete disclosure of nation of origin,  
41 genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic status - the public’s  
42 right to know must supersede corporate secrecy.

1 **Corporate Power and Media Reform**

2 Corporations are important and vital entities, but government was created by and for the  
3 people, not for corporations.

4 We believe the free flow of information is fundamental to democracy. We believe the  
5 public owns the broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which should be managed so as to  
6 serve the public interest.

7 We support:

- 8 • Full enforcement of antitrust laws.
- 9 • International trade based on fair trade including living wages and environmental  
10 protection.
- 11 • Increasing export of manufactured goods and decreasing export of raw resources.
- 12 • Transparency in corporate accounting.
- 13 • Strengthening and enforcement of laws against corporate crime, with appropriate  
14 penalties.
- 15 • Internet neutrality as fundamental to preserving the value of the Internet to the  
16 public.
- 17 • First Amendment shield laws for journalists.
- 18 • Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast  
19 licensing.
- 20 • Media ownership regulations to avoid corporate domination of our airwaves.
- 21 • Minority and community media ownership.
- 22 • Adequate, stable funding free of political pressure for public radio and public  
23 television.
- 24 • Community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV.
- 25 • Rural access to a modern communications infrastructure.
- 26 •

27 We oppose:

- 28 • The Supreme Court decision that corporations are people;
- 29 • Undue influence by corporate lobbyists on our government through campaign  
30 financing.

31 **Economic Justice and Development**

32 We support economic policies and business practices that promote the creation of living  
33 wage jobs and sustainable economic growth. We deplore the growing gap between the  
34 rich and poor, the downward trend in real wages, soaring executive compensation and tax  
35 loopholes for the wealthy.

36  
37 We support:

- 38 • Long-term solvency of Social Security is essential and we therefore oppose  
39 privatizing Social Security.
- 40 • Social Security ensuring that benefits for people with disabilities and dependent  
41 survivors are maintained in a fair and universal manner.

- 1 • We believe that it is the government’s responsibility to take the necessary actions  
2 to ensure that all people have safe and affordable housing.
- 3 • The protection of both private and public pension plans, and the right for those  
4 persons enrolled in their respective pension plans to be included in the processes  
5 affecting their pensions.
- 6 • Multilateral trade agreements conditioned on environmental standards, human  
7 rights and workers rights, and transparent democratic processes.
- 8 • Expiration of the Bush Administration tax cuts, raising capital gains taxes,  
9 changing the alternative minimum tax, and elimination of special interest  
10 loopholes and deductions.
- 11 • Limitation of tax havens for large multi-national corporations to hide income  
12 overseas.
- 13 • Incentives for businesses to provide family wage jobs, adequate healthcare,  
14 pension benefits, and on-site daycare.
- 15 • Change the state of Washington’s B&O tax to further encourage small business  
16 growth.
- 17 • Continuation of federal estate taxes with an inflation adjustment so that the  
18 minimum value of the estate taxed is greater than \$3 million.
- 19 • Congressional adoption of legislation to eliminate the status of corporate  
20 personhood under the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Constitutional amendment.
- 21 • Corporate bankruptcy laws that prevent employer circumvention of obligations to  
22 previously held employee contracts.
- 23 • Programs that provide options for homeowners to refinance existing high-interest  
24 mortgages.
- 25 • Limitations on “bailing out” Hedge Funds, Investment Banks, and other investors  
26 in unstable financial products, with taxpayer funds or guarantees.
- 27 • Increased regulatory oversight of financial institutions.
- 28 • Separation of banks from insurance and investment firms.

29 **Education**

30 *“It is the paramount duty of the state to make*  
31 *ample provision for the education of all children.”*

32 The Washington State Constitution-1889

33 Since quality education strengthens our democracy and our ability to compete in the  
34 global economy we support a fully funded, excellent Pre K-12 and post-secondary public  
35 education system with well-qualified teachers and staff and state of the art facilities.

36 We support:

- 37 • Safe public schools free from bullying, harassment, and violence for students,  
38 staff, and community members. We believe that there should be no retribution for  
39 those reporting violence or harassment in schools.
- 40 • We encourage full inclusion in the school environment of all students regardless  
41 of sex, race, ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability.
- 42 • Access to high quality higher education and/or vocational training.

- 1 • Finding another method of funding educational capital projects because public
- 2 lands and forests can no longer sustain the funding requirements.
- 3 • Effective programs for teaching students for whom English is a second language.
- 4 • Educational employees’ salaries, retirement benefits, and healthcare benefits that
- 5 would attract and retain quality personnel.
- 6 • Identifying and implementing a stable funding source for all basic, gifted and
- 7 special education state and federal programs and mandates.
- 8 • Reduction of class sizes.
- 9 • School facilities that are adequately maintained and regularly certified as safe and
- 10 healthy by public health authorities.
- 11 • Full funding of Headstart, ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assisted
- 12 Programs), full day kindergarten, and assuring that early childhood education is
- 13 accessible to all.
- 14 • Fine Arts and Physical Education in the Basic Education Act of the State.
- 15 • Facilities and programs that advance vocational and technology education.
- 16 • Access to higher education for all, through financial aid and work-study
- 17 programs.
- 18 • Age-appropriate, medically correct, and research-based health education
- 19 concerning issues of sexuality and alcohol/drug abuse for K-12.
- 20 • Maintain public funding for our community college system and for our four-year
- 21 college and universities to provide the fully diversified, educated, and skilled
- 22 workforce.
- 23 • College loan adjustments for graduates who choose public service careers.
- 24

25 We oppose: Commercialism in public schools in the State of Washington.

- 26 • Federally unfunded or under-funded mandates for education such as “The No
- 27 Child Left Behind Act.”
- 28 • Organized prayer in public schools.
- 29 • The teaching of pseudo-sciences such as the teaching of intelligent design.
- 30 • Aggressive or deceptive military recruiting in public high schools.
- 31

32 **Energy and Environment**

33 Our goal is to create a sustainable society in which future generations are assured of

34 abundant renewable energy, pure water, clean air, and fertile soil to meet the needs of a

35 strong economy. We accept responsibility for our natural world and recognize the need to

36 develop, to implement policies and to encourage lifestyles consistent with long-term

37 sustainability and viability. We must respect the web of life of which we are a part and

38 preserve it for future generations.

39 We support:

- 40 • We support widespread research and use of energy efficiency, solar, wind,
- 41 biomass, geothermal, and other renewable natural sources of power.
- 42 • Production of renewable energy on farms including biodiesel, methane, solar,
- 43 ethanol and wind power.

- 1 • Increased incentives and enforceable standards for low-emission standards for
- 2 clean renewable energy sources.
- 3 • We support economic incentives for energy conservation and clean energy
- 4 systems, including severe financial penalties for excess carbon emissions.
- 5 • The elimination of tax breaks and subsidies for coal, oil and gas companies for
- 6 mining, extraction, and exploration costs for those resources.
- 7 • The immediate revision of the 1872 Mining Act to end exploration and extraction
- 8 in environmentally sensitive public lands and provide compensation to the public
- 9 for resources that they own.
- 10 • That our cities must fully support neighborhood planning and open space.
- 11 • Intelligent growth management, limiting urban sprawl and preserving farmland,
- 12 wildlife habitat and our remaining national resources.
- 13 • Recycling and reuse of waste in ways that do not further contaminate the
- 14 environment.
- 15 • An increase in federal funding for public transit projects. By balancing spending
- 16 on roads with public transportation, we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels,
- 17 and better reflect Yakima’s priorities for a clean environment, good health, and
- 18 enhanced quality of life.
- 19 • Clean water protections for fishing, swimming, and wildlife as well as efforts to
- 20 clean up our air and water and reduce toxic pollutant releases.
- 21 • Sound stewardship of our resources as the first goal of forestry management and
- 22 ecosystem management. To this end, restoration of fish habitat and forests should
- 23 be fully funded.
- 24 • Limiting nuclear power until environmentally safe long-term waste storage is
- 25 guaranteed.
- 26 • Distributed sources of energy in homes and businesses such as homeowner and
- 27 business owner owned and supplied solar and wind power.
- 28 • Cooperation with the international effort to reduce greenhouse gases and a
- 29 response to climate change that is proportionate to the magnitude of the crisis.
- 30 • Higher Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards including SUVs.
- 31 • Long-term policies that promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed
- 32 protection, restoration of wild salmon, and endangered species.
- 33 • Efforts to ensure water quality and fair water usage policies; conserving wetlands,
- 34 a vital element for clean water; and the Clean Water Act protections.
- 35 • Cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and protection of the Columbia
- 36 River in keeping with the principles adopted by Washington’s voters.
- 37 • Encouraging use of alternative fuel, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles through
- 38 infrastructure and targeted tax incentives.

39

40 We oppose:

- 41 • Use of Bonneville Power Administration revenue to retire federal debt.
- 42 • Development and oil exploration in any national wildlife refuge.
- 43 • The trading of energy and pollution credits that do not reduce carbon emissions,
- 44 other pollutants, or further abuse natural resources.
- 45 • Exemption of military bases from environmental regulation.
- 46 • Open-cage, polluting fin fish farms of carnivorous species in our marine waters.

- Any new nuclear power or nuclear research stations producing high-level nuclear waste until a national repository is established for safe disposal or monitoring of the waste. This does not include pool storage.

**Foreign Policy**

The U.S. must work cooperatively with other countries to promote a sustainable, non-violent world in which the human rights of all people are respected. Critical issues including international terrorism, criminal apprehension, environmental degradation and nuclear proliferation can be resolved best by cooperation with the world community. While national self-interest is a legitimate element of foreign policy, it must be tempered by respect for other cultures, economies, and national aspirations.

We support:

- Fully paid participation by the U.S. in the United Nations and other organizations that promote human rights.
- Adherence to international law, including the Geneva Conventions.
- Reduction of nuclear weapons by our government and all other nuclear states. We urge our government to honor and ratify openly negotiated treaties to reduce nuclear proliferation.
- Worldwide family planning programs.
- We support the Charter of the United Nations, the Land Mine Treaty, the Biological and Chemical Warfare Conventions, and other international treaties and conventions protecting civilian populations and addressing climate change.
- A new approach to the Iraq War by the US, including:
  - Full support for our troops, including sufficient protective equipment and full assistance and medical care upon their return from service.
  - Actions based on a policy that the sovereignty of Iraq belongs to the Iraqis.
  - The orderly and complete exit from Iraq of all U.S. military combat forces.
  - A rebuilding plan for the infrastructure destroyed since our invasion.
- Developing and implementing the orderly, complete and rapid exit strategy for all U. S. combat forces from Afghanistan.
- That the United States should commit to vigorous, serious, persistent and even-handed engagement toward a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, promoting negotiations that lead to a viable resolution and ensure security and a good quality of life for the Israeli and Palestinian people.
- That the United States foster long-term stability and open government in Pakistan and Afghanistan with a substantial contribution to education.
- That the United States continue to isolate and contain the nuclear threat from Iran and North Korea.
- US cooperation with all nations in the suppression/elimination of Al Qaeda operations worldwide. Strategies might include economic sanctions, intelligence sharing and military pursuit and capture of leaders including Osama Bin Laden. Additionally, we support Muslim nations in their efforts to prevent the radicalization of Islam.

1  
2 We oppose:

- 3 • Covert efforts to destabilize other national governments.
- 4 • The use of depleted uranium in conventional weapons.
- 5 • The use of the National Guard for any purpose other than domestic defense and  
6 response to natural disaster, and the National Guards shall be under the direction  
7 of their respective governors.
- 8 • The use of secrecy, psychological techniques and disinformation/manipulation to  
9 intentionally misinform U.S. citizens.
- 10 • U.S. tax money being used to fund, train or sponsor military or police forces to  
11 suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries. We call for the closing of the  
12 School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for  
13 Security Cooperation.
- 14 • Iranian development of a nuclear weapons program.

15  
16 **Government and Political Reform**

17 Our government derives its legitimacy solely from the democratic will of the people and  
18 must reflect our values as citizens. Our government must be fiscally sound; operate  
19 ethically; refrain from establishing or supporting religion; and be open, transparent, and  
20 accountable to the will of the people. Our confidence in our government and our political  
21 and election system can be restored only through constructive reform.

22 We support:

- 23 • Voting is a right and duty of citizenship, and free, open and verifiable elections  
24 are critical to our democratic process.
- 25 • As our democratically elected representatives, Congress has a solemn duty to  
26 provide oversight of the executive branch on behalf of the American people.
- 27 • Taxes must be levied fairly and spent wisely.
- 28 • A return to a balanced budget and possible surplus to pay down the national debt.
- 29 • All regulatory agencies should be fully funded.
- 30 • Contribution and spending limits as an integral part of campaign finance reforms.
- 31 • Re-open the public airwaves to all candidates free of charge. Laws requiring all  
32 broadcast license holders to provide adequate free airtime to political candidates  
33 must be a condition of their FCC license. We support the reinstatement of the  
34 Fairness Doctrine.
- 35 • Including information in the voter pamphlet on the caucus process including  
36 county and political party contact numbers to assist in participation.
- 37 • Public financing of all election campaigns and full disclosure of sources of  
38 campaign funds.
- 39 • Curtailment of the abuse of minority power in the U.S. Senate, specifically the  
40 overuse of the filibuster rule and the anonymous block on appointments.
- 41 • Uniform voter registration and eligibility requirements for all U.S. citizens.
- 42 • Enforcement of Sunshine laws and transparency in government meetings that  
43 discuss and make policy.

**Health Care**

Healthcare is a basic right, and our government must assure accessible and affordable health care for all.

We support:

- Establishment of a comprehensive national healthcare plan, similar to Medicare/Medicaid, and available to all, regardless of age or employment.
- Health care should be affordable for individuals and all employers and changes to the system should benefit those employers who provide quality affordable health care for their employees.
- Development of a state healthcare plan, assuring access to affordable, equitable healthcare for everyone, beginning with children, until a national plan is realized.
- State legislation requiring employers of 50 or more employees to either provide health care coverage or pay a fee to the Washington Health Care Authority.
- The right to access and confidentiality of medical records and genetic information.
- The right to sovereignty over our own bodies; we support family planning and women’s reproductive rights, regardless of age or ability to pay.
- A woman’s right to choose as protected by Roe vs. Wade and the Washington State Reproductive Freedom Act.
- Patient right to refuse any medical procedure or product.
- Comprehensive health care coverage including prescription drugs, preventive care, dental care, vision care, physical therapy and medical technology including long-term care, home care and hospice.
- Parity for mental and physical healthcare, including treatment and education for drug, alcohol, and tobacco problems.
- Encouragement of personal healthful behaviors through incentives and health education.
- The rights of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities to direct their own lives in housing, education and all other life choices, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- The right for medically assisted death with dignity, with suitable safeguards for terminally ill patients.
- There should be no retribution against patients, families, and loved ones who complain about mistreatment, harassment, or bullying by healthcare institutions and facilities.
- Public health policy based on sound scientific guidelines, following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, and organized plans for an effective response to major epidemics.
- Funding and support for medical research, including stem cell research, based on scientific merit.
- Passage of legislation that will truly benefit Americans in controlling the escalating costs of prescription drugs.

We oppose:

- 1 • Denial of legal medical care or dispensing of prescriptions based on personal or  
2 religious beliefs.

3 **Human Rights, Civil Rights and Human Services**

4 The strength of our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in the U.S.  
5 Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the subsequent amendments to the Constitution.

6 We support:

- 7 • Affirmative action, and laws designed to ensure that prejudice does not prevent  
8 qualified persons from obtaining education, employment, promotion, housing,  
9 insurance or any other social good.
- 10 • Civil marriage as a legal union of consenting adults, not restricted by sexual  
11 orientation or gender identity.
- 12 • Repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act.
- 13 • Separation of religion and state.
- 14 • The individual right to privacy, and that government or business respect and not  
15 violate that right.
- 16 • Repeal of the Military Commissions Act.
- 17 • Immediate repeal of the repressive, unconstitutional USA Patriot Act and. Until  
18 the Patriot Act is repealed, we urge all governmental entities to resist  
19 implementation.

20 We oppose:

- 21 • Discrimination of any kind, and believe that those who face discrimination must  
22 be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such  
23 injustice.
- 24 • Officially organized prayer in public schools and the granting of public money to  
25 religious charities or schools that require a profession of faith or act of worship as  
26 a condition of participation.
- 27 • Torture of prisoners for any reason in any location by any government or private  
28 agency.
- 29 • The practice of US rendition to a third country.

30

31 **Immigration**

32 Immigrants have historically strengthened America and continue to do so. We applaud  
33 cultural pluralism and believe that all people, regardless of their country of origin or their  
34 legal status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people  
35 have a right to equal treatment under the law. Immigrants to the United States should be  
36 helped in a systematic manner to know how and be able to live productive lives in our  
37 society, ensuring a future flow of legal workers.

38 We support:

- 39 • Comprehensive reform of immigration policy, providing all immigrants, including  
40 undocumented, a clear path to earn citizenship or legal status with full labor and  
41 civil rights.

- 1 • Due process to be provided in all proceedings throughout the immigration system.
- 2 • Fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our
- 3 communities, affording immigrants and their children equal access to education,
- 4 social services, and employment opportunities free of exploitation.
- 5 • Programs offering immigrants instruction in English.
- 6 • Making the process of confirming immigration status readily available to
- 7 employers.
- 8 • Enforcement of the laws that penalize employers who knowingly employ
- 9 undocumented immigrants.
- 10 • Safe and adequate housing, medical care, education and sanitary facilities for
- 11 migrant workers.
- 12 • Clearing the immigration backlog.
- 13 • A sound program to insure a future flow of legal workers.
- 14 • Sensible enforcement policies that enhance our nation’s security and safety.
- 15 •

16 We oppose:

- 17 • Policies that deny civil and/or human rights or educational opportunities for
- 18 immigrants and their children;
- 19 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws,
- 20 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border
- 21 militia groups in the United States;
- 22 • Deportation or detention of any person without regard for the needs of their
- 23 dependents;
- 24 • The Nativist Movement and its discrimination against immigrants.
- 25 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the
- 26 United States.
- 27

28 **Indian Tribes and Sovereignty**

29 Indian tribes share a common history with the United States. American Indian Tribal  
30 Governments make up a part of our national identity and community. We recognize them  
31 as self-determining, self-governing, and separate governments. Local, state, and federal  
32 governments must respect the decisions of the Native American Nations and tribal  
33 governments, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose  
34 attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures.

35 We support:

- 36 • Treaties or tribal agreements, to be upheld by any party.
- 37 • Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs.
- 38 • Preservation and protection of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance.
- 39 • Provision of help to improve the social, economic, and health status of American
- 40 Indian people and tribes on a level equivalent to that of other Americans.
- 41 • Education of the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of
- 42 Indian tribes.

- 1 • Respectful and civil relations between Indian tribes and local communities, the  
2 state and the nation.

3 **Labor**

4 A strong economy is based upon jobs that provide safe working conditions, a fair and  
5 living wage and health and retirement benefits. These benefits are obtained and ensured  
6 by workers’ actions protected by their right to organize unions for collective bargaining.

7 We support:

- 8 • The right of individuals or groups legally band together for the purposes of  
9 collective action or bargaining.
- 10 • A livable wage that increases with inflation and productivity, including affordable  
11 healthcare benefits and retirement benefits transportable between employers.
- 12 • Equal pay and equal benefits for equal work.
- 13 • Workers’ right to work in a safe, hazard-free workplace.
- 14 • On public buildings and publicly financed projects:
  - 15 ○ Enforcing the Davis-Bacon and Prevailing Wage laws.
  - 16 ○ Requiring prevailing wages to be protected on all publicly financed work.
  - 17 ○ Requiring 15% set-asides for use of Apprentices on Public Works  
18 Projects. Apprentice set-asides should be included in all contracts  
19 involving publicly funded and public financed work, to maintain ongoing  
20 education and training for young people and others entering the  
21 workforce.
  - 22 ○ Making reforms in the bidding process including “Responsible Bidder”  
23 language in all public and public financed work, including expansion to  
24 include contractor responsibilities to the community on issues of fair  
25 wages, health insurance, retirement, and training.
- 26 • The rights of workers who are locked out to extended unemployment benefits and  
27 retraining opportunities.
- 28 • A workplace atmosphere free from discrimination based upon sex, disability,  
29 religion, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, race, national origin, union activities,  
30 or political preference.
- 31 • Protection from retaliation and access to courts for workers who “blow the  
32 whistle.”
- 33 • Amendment of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to allow automatic  
34 recognition of a union, based on signatures of a majority of those represented  
35 (commonly know as Card Check) as a basis of determination of workers’ intent to  
36 organize.

37  
38 We oppose:

- 39 • Exploitation of migrant, temporary and contract workers.
- 40 • Taxing workers at a higher rate than the tax rate for capital gains.
- 41 • Corporations under funding their pension liabilities.
- 42 • Foreign trade agreements that put the might of a corporation above the rights of  
43 workers.
- 44 • Tip-credit minimum wage.

- 1 • Efforts to eliminate restrictions on the working hours of teenagers.
- 2 • The privatization or out-sourcing of public services.
- 3 • Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes.
- 4 • Outsourcing of government jobs and privatization of public services, supplanting
- 5 public employees with low-wage, low benefit contract employees, or prison labor.
- 6
- 7

8 **Law and Justice**

9 We recognize that civil order is necessary to the survival of a free and democratic state.  
10 Civil order is served when Justice treats all people equally. We recognize that in the  
11 pursuit of civil order, we cannot abandon the legal principles upon which a free and  
12 democratic society relies. We affirm liberty and justice for everyone residing in the U.S.  
13 according to the Constitution and believe that criminal justice and human rights are  
14 linked.

15 We note that the war on drugs has been a dismal failure, and we ask for a new approach  
16 based on treatment and education, as opposed to incarceration. Drug treatment and  
17 community-based aftercare, including clean and sober housing, should be available to  
18 every offender who needs it. In the matter of drug enforcement, asset seizures should be  
19 based on one’s conviction and not on arrest or assumption of guilt.

20 As a nation we must invest in children and work actively to eliminate poverty in order to  
21 help prevent future crime. We strongly believe criminal justice emphasis should include  
22 preventative and rehabilitative measures.

23 We support:

- 24 • The abolishment of the death penalty in favor of life without parole.
- 25 • Safety locks on handguns, prohibition of importation and ownership of full
- 26 automatic weapons and strengthening of laws holding adults responsible for
- 27 safeguarding guns in the home.
- 28 • Universal gun registration and licensing, mandatory safety training for gun
- 29 owners, and background checks on all gun sales including at gun shows with a
- 30 minimum waiting period.
- 31 • Adequate punishments, including appropriate fines and jail time for white-collar
- 32 crime. Restitution must be a precondition for any plea of leniency.
- 33 • Security measures consistent with preservation of civil liberties at airports, border
- 34 crossings, train and bus stations to protect the public and the United States from
- 35 terrorist activities.
- 36 • Adequate state funding for indigent defendants in all criminal cases.
- 37 • DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty in criminal prosecutions.
- 38 • Elimination of mandatory sentencing guidelines and “three-strikes” sentencing.
- 39 • The U.S. Attorney General appointing an independent Special Counsel to
- 40 investigate and prosecute any government officer responsible for having ordered
- 41 or participated in violations of law.

- 1 • Impeachment and prosecution of any member of the Executive Branch who has  
2 ordered violations of law.
- 3 • Legislation to prohibit predatory practices in payday lending.
- 4 • The preservation of the right to a civil trial by jury.

5  
6

7 We oppose:

- 8 • Racial profiling by law enforcement and in sentencing practices.
- 9 • The use of prison labor on any contract bid for governmental work in the State of  
10 Washington.
- 11 • Harassment, intimidation, and domestic or sexual violence, and support strong  
12 legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce these ills.

### 13 **Military**

14 We pledge to honor and support our troops and our veterans who act in the service of our  
15 country. Yakima citizens have always answered their country’s call to duty and we are  
16 proud of our military contributions to the nation.

17 We support:

- 18 • Equal GI Bill privileges for all service men and women including National Guard  
19 members who were activated for combat duty.
- 20 • Equal treatment for all service members including abolishing the “don’t ask, don’t  
21 tell” policy and passing legislation to ensure that sexual orientation does not affect  
22 equal treatment of service men and women.
- 23 • Restoration of full, no-cost treatment at local military medical facilities for all  
24 veterans, as they were promised when they joined.
- 25 • Fully funded VA mental health treatment, including treatment for Post Traumatic  
26 Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries.
- 27 • A full review by an independent medical and vocational rehabilitation panel of all  
28 military partial disability ratings since the start of the Iraq war and occupation.
- 29 • Increased instruction by the military of all American personnel in their rights and  
30 responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions, and enforcement of these  
31 responsibilities to the highest levels of command.
- 32 • Elimination of excessive, unnecessary and redundant programs and weapons,  
33 such as Star Wars and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Shield, from the military budget  
34 and investing the savings in more pressing domestic or military needs.

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36 We oppose:

- 37 • The federal use of the National Guard for any purposes other than defense  
38 enforcement of a court order or response to natural disaster.
- 39 • Any religious, racial, sexual, and gender-based harassment, and we demand that  
40 offenders be disciplined.
- 41 • The imposition of hardships on military and National Guard families by policy  
42 that unreasonably extends deployments, straining marriages, separating parents

- 1 and children, and contributing to unprecedented numbers of suicides among
- 2 military personnel.
- 3 • The militarization of space.

4 **Transportation**

5 We believe that an efficient, flexible, and far-sighted transportation system is vital to  
6 healthy communities, a strong agricultural industry in Yakima County, the broader local  
7 economy, and a healthy environment.

8 We support:

- 9 • Investments in public infrastructure that
  - 10 ○ Broaden transportation choices and reduce dependence on the automobile.
  - 11 ○ Increase funding of rural community transportation services, such as those
  - 12 provided by “People for People”.
  - 13 ○ Provide rail options for agriculture and manufacturing shipments.
- 14 • Policies that make travel as safe as possible for all modes of transportation,
- 15 motorized and non-motorized.
- 16 • The development and use of alternative energy sources for vehicles, including
- 17 additional charging stations for electric vehicles.
- 18 • Accessible transportation for all, including persons with disabilities.
- 19 Increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles.
- 20 • Land use planning that works to decrease the need to drive.