

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Drafted by [UNITED PROGRESSIVES OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY](#)

amended from the [Justice Democrats platform](#)

- **WE FULLY SUPPORT AND ENDORSE THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC RIGHTS:**
 - The right to a useful and remunerative occupation at a living wage;
 - The right to [earn enough](#) to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation;
 - The right of every person to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from [unfair competition](#) and/or domination by [monopolies](#) at home or abroad;
 - The [right of every family to a decent home](#);
 - The [right to comprehensive medical care](#) and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
 - The right to protection from the economic insecurities of [old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment](#);
 - The [right to a quality education](#).
 - The right of workers to organize and bargain collectively, have direct input and involvement in their work, including employee ownership and share in the fruits of their labor.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

- **PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PUT AN END TO POLITICAL CORRUPTION AND BRING ABOUT ELECTION REFORM.**
 - Super PACs should be banned, private donations to politicians and campaigns should be banned, and a clean public financing system should be implemented to end the takeover of our government by corporations and billionaires. Americans deserve free and fair elections — free from the corruption of big money donors. The Supreme Court has effectively legalized bribery. It's time for an Article 5 convention to take our Democracy back from the brink of Oligarchy. Prior to passing this amendment, all United Progressive Democrats should reject billionaire and corporate donations when running for office to show the American people we don't just talk the talk, we walk the walk. We should implement Ranked Choice voting to eliminate the spoiler effect and to ensure elections are decided by a majority and not just by plurality. All provisions of the Voting Rights Act should be reinstated with amendments that enable a rank choice voting system, and gerrymandering for partisan gain should be eliminated. We envision election reforms that also include: Open primaries, automatic voter registration, the elimination of superdelegates and the electoral college, elections should be treated as a holiday to

<http://www.unitedprogressives.today/>

maximize voter turnout, and everyone should be given time off to go vote. Voting systems should be secure and open sourced, transparent, accountable and tamperproof. We are opposed to purging of eligible voters and creating unfair barriers to voting for all people.

- **RE-REGULATE WALL STREET AND HOLD WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE.**
 - Despite engaging in systemic fraud and causing a subprime mortgage meltdown and the great recession, too few people from Wall Street are in prison for their crimes. It's time to prosecute the criminals, bring back Glass-Steagall, and re-regulate Wall Street to prevent another crash. Prison is not just for the poor and the middle class anymore. We will have cops on Wall Street, not just Main Street.
- **END BILLIONAIRE AND CORPORATE TAX DODGING, FIX THE SYSTEM TO BENEFIT MIDDLE-CLASS AND POOR PEOPLE.**
 - Corporations dodge \$450 billion a year in taxes by using offshore tax havens. We should end this injustice, as well as chain the capital gains tax to the income tax, increase the estate tax, and implement the Buffet Rule so that no millionaire CEO pays less in taxes than his or her secretary. The current tax system perpetuates and exacerbates inequality between the classes. Our tax dollars should not be spent to subsidize the industries of war or those that are destructive to the environment. It's time for a tax system that benefits the middle-class and the poor, and makes the top 1% and multinational corporations pay their fair share.
- **DEFEND FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION.**
 - We support the right to express unpopular opinions without fear of censorship. We support free speech on college campuses. The marketplace of ideas should be embraced. A vibrant debate is healthy for democracy, and we should cherish our first amendment. We also support net neutrality for a free and open internet.
- **OPPOSE BIGOTRY.**
 - We must speak out against racism, hate-speech, sexism, xenophobia, and all forms of bigotry. Non-discrimination protections that currently apply to race, religion, and gender should be expanded to include the LGBTQ community and the atheist community. Making all Americans equal is not asking for special privileges, it's asking for the rule of law — justice and equality for all as outlined in the United States Constitution.
- **ENSURE THAT NO PERSON LIVE IN POVERTY.**
 - We should make the minimum wage a living wage and tie it to inflation. This is about justice and basic human decency. We support strong unions, collective bargaining, and worker co-ops. We oppose so-called "Right to Work" laws that undermine workers. No human being should live in poverty. The highest earner at a company should receive no more than 15 times the lowest earner. The advances in technology, and the automation of labor, require a universal basic income.
- **ENSURE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE AS A RIGHT.**
 - The United States should catch up to every other modern nation and implement a single-payer, medicare-for-all system. There's no reason we can't be #1 in the world

instead of #37. It's time to end the destruction of American healthcare by rapacious, price gouging, for-profit, private health insurance middlemen, and greedy pharmaceuticals.

- **ENSURE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION AS A RIGHT.**
 - We should strive to have the best universal education system in the world which includes both higher education and trade schools. Educating the citizenry is fundamental to the health of our people and democracy. We believe that the pursuit of education should not leave a person in financial debt. A modern educational system will include entrepreneurship, job placement, apprenticeships and fellowships designed to advance the individual and the society.
- **END UNNECESSARY WARS AND IMPERIALISTIC NATION BUILDING.**
 - The United States maintains hundreds of military bases worldwide at a costing Americans Billions of Dollars, this is money that can be spent at home creating jobs, rebuilding infrastructure, and investing in the future of the people. The disastrous war in Iraq cost trillions, the war in Afghanistan has no end in sight, and we're currently bombing many different countries. We spend more on our military than the next 8 countries combined. Despite countless lives lost and destroyed, terrorism has only gotten worse. It's time to end the war profiteering. Unilateral U.S. military force should only be used as a last resort to defend the nation. The current budget should be focused on defending us and protecting human rights, instead of waging imperialist wars. A department of Human Rights and Non-violent solutions must be established at a cabinet level position.
- **END THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS.**
 - The goal is legalization, taxation, and regulation. Prohibition only makes drug cartels more powerful, increases crime, and makes drugs more dangerous due to lack of enforced safety standards. A free society should allow individuals to make their own choices about their bodies while not harming others. While most users are recreational and moderate, rehabilitation and treatment should be provided for people struggling with addiction as part of an Universal Healthcare model. Additionally, those serving time for non-violent drug offenses should be pardoned.
- **MODERNIZE AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE.**
 - Our infrastructure gets a grade of D from the Society of Civil Engineers. The government should invest trillions in modernizing our crumbling roads, bridges, schools, levees, airports etc. We should invest in research and development for emerging technologies that would provide energy efficient, safe and effective transportation. There's no reason why we can't be a global leader in cutting edge infrastructure.
- **CREATE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY REVOLUTION.**
 - Scientists are sounding the alarm on climate change which is resulting in a global crisis. We need an immediate massive green revolution, completely moving away from fossil fuels while developing and investing in new technologies, and collaborating with the modern educational and vocational system. This will be a giant boon to both the private and public sector. We can and we must be #1 in sustainable energy production in the

world.

- **WE SUPPORT FAIR TRADE NOT FREE TRADE.**
 - Block bad trade deals like the TPP and oppose outsourcing that will further damage the middle-class. As a result of NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR with China and the WTO, Americans have lost millions of decent paying jobs. It's time to end the race to the bottom and renegotiate these rigged deals that only benefit elites. We should not sacrifice our sovereignty to corporate tribunals, the only people who are allowed to make laws for the United States should be the American people, not multinational corporations.
- **END CONSTITUTIONAL OVERREACHES.**
 - Ban the NSA from bulk data-collection and warrantless spying. Shut down Guantanamo Bay and all extrajudicial prisons. Prosecute torturers and those who violated the Geneva Conventions, Nuremberg Tribunal, International law and US law. Return habeas corpus and due process. Pardon whistleblowers like Edward Snowden. We shouldn't be leading from behind on human rights, we must be the home of liberty. We should practice the values we preach.
- **END ALL WAR PROFITEERING.**
 - End the practice of using a Military Industrial Complex to profit off the selling of arms. Ban arming human rights violators, monarchies and dictatorship.
- **DEFEND AND PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS.**
 - We support the Paycheck Fairness Act and strive to promote women's equality in all aspects of society including intersectionality. We oppose any restrictive cuts to Planned Parenthood and women's health clinics all across the country. We will vigorously oppose all efforts to dismantle reproductive rights.
- **ENSURE PAID VACATION TIME, SICK TIME, FAMILY LEAVE, CHILDCARE.**
 - The United States is one of just three countries in the world that doesn't offer paid maternity leave and childcare. We are the only industrialized nation that doesn't offer paid vacation time. This should be changed immediately. A minimum of 6 weeks should be a basic right of all workers.
- **STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE SAFETY NET PROGRAMS**
 - Protect and expand Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We pledge to support the Safety Net that reduced elderly poverty rate from 35% to 10%. Gutting these vital programs is not an option.
- **IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM.**
 - We won't give an inch in our opposition to Trump's outrageous proposals. Ideas like a 'total and complete' shutdown of Muslim immigration and deporting all undocumented immigrants are anathema to America. We will fight for comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. America is a proud nation of immigrants.
- **ENACT POLICE REFORM.**
 - We believe in the core idea of policing — to serve and protect the community. Police are a vital part of American society and that is why it's so important to reform the system to

make it serve all Americans. For-profit policing and for-profit prisons should be abolished. Police training should be retooled to emphasize de escalation tactics, and body cameras should be mandatory on all officers. Furthermore, a balanced civilian and peer oversight boards should be created, Stop & frisk and broken windows policing should be eliminated. On top of being discriminatory and ineffective, these methods are also unconstitutional and should be ended. Special Independent Prosecutors must also be appointed to hold police accountable.

- **END HOMELESSNESS.**
 - More than 600,000 Americans are homeless on any given night. This community is a diverse population in need of targeted services. Studies show homeless persons cost communities far more than providing housing and services. Addressing this crisis with a “housing-first” policy is both morally and fiscally responsible. In addition, we should remove obstacles of re-entry into job markets.
- **ENACT COMMON-SENSE FIREARM REGULATION.**
 - We believe that owning a firearm is a great responsibility that should require common-sense regulation that protects the community and owners. 92% of Americans want expanded background checks. We agree with the majority of the American people and support the responsible ownership of firearms. This should include the requirement of ongoing firearm training and competence assessment. People on the terrorist watch list should not be able to buy firearms. The time to act is now to address this public health crisis and protect our communities.
- **ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.**
 - The State should not have the power to terminate life.
- **THIS COLLECTION OF IDEAS INSPIRE THE UNITED PROGRESSIVE CLUB.**
 - Opinion polls in the United States demonstrate that these policy positions are overwhelmingly popular and throughout the industrialized world these ideas are considered moderate. Our movement is by and for working people. If the Democrats embrace this platform Americans will rally to support and elect a new generation of Democratic leaders. We assert that these principles of the UNITED PROGRESSIVE CLUB will serve to realign the Democratic Party with the needs of The People.