

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [Demo-Public.org](https://demo-public.org)

DEMO-PUBLIC

A civic movement for country before party

FOUNDING MANIFESTO

Founding Philosophy and Governing Principles

A concise statement of who we are, what we believe, and the governing principles we advocate.

Government That Makes Sense.

Country Before Party. People Before Politics. Solutions Before Ideology.

Civic Movement Edition • October 15, 2026

Demo-Public is developing as a civic movement focused on education, dialogue, and shared principles. Forming a political party is a possible future step requiring a separate organizational decision and applicable legal compliance. The governing proposals in this Manifesto express aims, not current governmental authority.

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PREAMBLE

America does not belong to Democrats.

America does not belong to Republicans.

America belongs to the American people.

The United States is a democratic republic: a representative system in which political authority originates with the people and is exercised through elected institutions operating under a Constitution that limits governmental power and protects individual liberty.

Demo-Public takes its name from that American tradition.

“Demo” reflects democratic self-government—the principle that legitimate political authority begins with the people.

“Public” reflects the republic, the public interest, representative government, constitutional limits, and our obligation to preserve the common good.

Together, Demo-Public represents a political philosophy rooted in the democratic and republican principles upon which American self-government depends.

The name also carries a second meaning. It represents a coalition capable of welcoming Americans who have historically identified as Democrats, Republicans, independents, conservatives, liberals, moderates, libertarians, or with no political party at all.

We are not attempting to merge the Democratic and Republican parties.

We are building something independent of both.

For too long, our political system has forced Americans to choose between two increasingly rigid political camps—and to accept an entire collection of positions simply because they carry either a Democratic or Republican label.

We reject that premise.

We reject the idea that supporting capitalism means ignoring working families.

We reject the idea that supporting law enforcement means ignoring misconduct.

We reject the idea that securing our borders requires abandoning compassion.

We reject the idea that protecting individual liberty requires abandoning personal responsibility.

We reject the idea that protecting the environment requires weakening the American economy.

We reject the idea that supporting a strong military requires supporting endless war.

We reject the idea that caring for Americans in need requires accepting unlimited government.

We reject the idea that fiscal responsibility requires abandoning necessary public investment.

And above all, we reject the belief that Americans must dislike, distrust, or demonize one another simply because we disagree politically.

We believe there is another way.

We are Demo-Public.

We are building an American coalition.

I. WHY DEMO-PUBLIC?

Demo-Public is a modern political identity inspired by America's democratic-republic tradition: government derives its authority from the people, while constitutional institutions, individual rights, the rule of law, and representative government restrain the use of that authority.

The movement begins from a simple observation: millions of Americans do not fit comfortably inside either major party. They may believe in personal responsibility and fiscal discipline while also supporting equal rights, environmental stewardship, a meaningful social safety net, reproductive liberty within reasonable limits, and government action when markets or institutions genuinely fail.

Americans should not have to choose an entire ideological package simply to participate in politics.

A Democratic Republic Requires More Than Two Political Boxes

The United States is neither a pure democracy nor a system in which citizens surrender authority to permanent rulers. It is a constitutional democratic republic: the people choose representatives, constitutional rights limit majority power, institutions divide authority, and the rule of law applies to government itself.

The name Demo-Public reflects that inheritance. It is not a merger of the Democratic and Republican parties. It is a reminder that American self-government depends upon both democratic participation and republican constitutional restraint.

Solutions Before Ideology

Demo-Publicism does not begin by asking whether a proposal is liberal or conservative. It asks whether the proposal is constitutional, practical, financially responsible, fair, evidence-based, and likely to improve the lives of Americans.

Sometimes the best answer will resemble a traditionally conservative policy. Sometimes it will resemble a traditionally progressive policy. Sometimes it will combine elements of both, and sometimes it will come from outside the existing partisan debate entirely.

The political center is not automatically correct. The best workable solution is the objective.

A Coalition for Americans Who Think for Themselves

Demo-Public welcomes Americans who can disagree respectfully while sharing a commitment to constitutional government, individual liberty, personal responsibility, equal citizenship, economic opportunity, public accountability, national sovereignty, and peaceful democratic government.

We seek voters who are willing to question their own side, acknowledge inconvenient facts, reject political personality cults, and support good ideas regardless of their partisan origin.

Country Before Party. Constitution Before Politician. Solutions Before Ideology.

II. BUILDING AN AMERICAN COALITION

Demo-Public seeks to build a durable coalition of citizens who may come from different political traditions but share enough common principles to work together toward responsible government.

The coalition is not designed to erase legitimate differences. It is designed to prevent those differences from making cooperation impossible.

A Coalition Across Traditional Political Lines

A Demo-Public coalition can include Democrats, Republicans, independents, moderates, libertarian-minded voters, pragmatic progressives, constitutional conservatives, entrepreneurs, workers, teachers, veterans, parents, retirees, young voters, and Americans who have never felt represented by a political party.

Participation should be based on shared civic principles rather than cultural conformity.

A National Movement with Room for Regional Difference

America is too large and diverse for every participant in every state to hold identical positions on every issue. National principles should be clear, but reasonable regional and community differences should be respected.

The coalition should therefore be broad enough to represent America while firm enough to defend its constitutional core.

One coalition. Many perspectives. Shared constitutional principles.

Governing Beyond 51 Percent

A civic coalition should seek durable public support rather than narrow victories that are immediately reversed when power changes hands. Whenever possible, major reforms should be designed to earn broad confidence across ideological and geographic lines.

Build majorities that can govern—not factions that can only win elections.

Building an American Coalition. Solutions Before Ideology.

III. WHAT WE BELIEVE

Demo-Publicism is not centrism for the sake of occupying the political middle. It is a governing philosophy based on constitutional liberty, personal responsibility, competitive markets, effective public institutions, equal citizenship, fiscal stewardship, and practical problem-solving.

Our Foundational Beliefs

We believe individual rights precede political convenience; government must respect constitutional limits; free enterprise is the strongest engine of broad prosperity when competition is real; work, entrepreneurship, ownership, and responsibility should be rewarded; and government has legitimate responsibilities that it must perform competently.

We believe equal protection under law is non-negotiable. We believe a sovereign nation must control its borders. We believe safe communities and due process are compatible. We believe America can protect the environment while expanding abundant and affordable energy. We believe national defense must remain strong, accountable, and subordinate to American constitutional authority.

We believe Social Security and Medicare are promises that must be preserved; education should expand opportunity; healthcare should combine choice, competition, a public option, and

protection from catastrophic financial ruin; and fiscal policy must account honestly for both spending and taxation.

Rights and Responsibilities Belong Together

Freedom without responsibility can become disorder. Government without freedom can become coercion. A healthy republic requires both individual liberty and citizens willing to accept responsibility for how they exercise it.

Evidence Over Tribal Loyalty

No party, politician, institution, corporation, union, media organization, or ideology should be treated as automatically correct. Policies should be judged by evidence, constitutional principles, costs, tradeoffs, and measurable results.

We reserve the right to change our minds when the facts change.

The Demo-Public Standard

Our policies may evolve as circumstances, technology, economics, and evidence change. Our constitutional commitments should not.

Liberty. Responsibility. Opportunity. Accountability. Unity without conformity.

Solutions Before Ideology.

IV. FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

Liberty Is the Foundation of the American Republic

Demo-Public believes individual liberty is not a privilege granted by government. It is a fundamental principle upon which the United States was founded.

Government exists to protect the rights of the people—not to become the source from which those rights supposedly originate.

If an individual's actions do not unjustly harm another person, violate another person's rights, or threaten legitimate public safety, government should require a compelling reason before restricting that individual's liberty.

Americans should generally be free to determine how they live, what they believe, what they say, how they worship, what careers they pursue, what businesses they create, how they raise their families within the law, and what lawful personal choices they make.

Freedom should be the rule. Government restriction should require justification.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

Freedom of speech is indispensable to a free society. The First Amendment does not exist merely to protect popular speech. Its greatest importance is protecting speech that governments, institutions, political majorities, and other citizens may dislike.

Demo-Public will vigorously defend freedom of speech, peaceful expression, political disagreement, freedom of the press, peaceful assembly, and the right to petition government. We reject government censorship based merely upon political ideology.

We also reject attempts by government officials to accomplish indirectly through private institutions what the Constitution prevents government from doing directly. At the same time, freedom of speech does not eliminate legal responsibility for genuine threats, fraud, defamation under applicable law, or other historically recognized categories of unlawful conduct.

The answer to bad ideas should usually be better ideas—not government censorship.

Freedom of Religion—and Freedom From Government Religion

Americans must remain free to practice their faith openly and peacefully. People of every faith, and Americans who practice no religion, possess the same fundamental freedom of conscience.

Government should neither suppress religion nor establish one. Religious Americans should not be forced from public life because of their beliefs. Likewise, Americans should not be compelled by government to follow religious beliefs they do not share.

Freedom of religion also requires freedom of conscience.

Government protects the right to believe. It does not determine what Americans must believe.

Privacy and Personal Autonomy

Freedom means little if government can unnecessarily intrude into every aspect of private life. Demo-Public supports strong protections against unreasonable government surveillance, searches, seizures, and collection of personal information.

Modern technology makes these protections increasingly important. Government access to Americans' communications, location information, financial information, digital records, and other sensitive personal data should be governed by clear laws, appropriate warrants and judicial oversight where constitutionally required, and meaningful accountability.

Technology should not become a loophole around the Fourth Amendment.

Americans should not have fewer privacy rights simply because their lives have become digital.

Due Process and Equal Protection

Government possesses extraordinary power to investigate, prosecute, imprison, tax, regulate, and in certain circumstances use force. That power must therefore be constrained by law.

Every American deserves due process and equal protection regardless of wealth, race, sex, religion, political affiliation, social status, or personal connections. Government should never punish people merely because they are unpopular or presume guilt because doing so is politically convenient.

Rights matter most when protecting someone we disagree with.

If constitutional protections apply only to people we like, they are not constitutional protections at all.

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

Demo-Public recognizes the individual right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment. That right must be respected.

As explained more fully in our Constitutional Rights and Public Safety platform, protecting the Second Amendment does not prevent society from enforcing reasonable and constitutionally

permissible laws designed to keep firearms away from demonstrably dangerous individuals and punish those who use weapons to commit crimes.

Protect the right. Protect the citizen. Preserve due process.

Economic Freedom

Liberty also has an economic dimension. Americans should generally be free to work, create businesses, own property, invest, innovate, enter lawful professions, negotiate contracts, and pursue prosperity.

Government should protect competition rather than politically connected competitors. Regulations should serve legitimate public purposes rather than unnecessarily preventing ordinary Americans from entering professions or creating businesses.

Opportunity should not require political connections.

Economic freedom does not include the right to commit fraud, exploit workers unlawfully, pollute another person's property without consequence, manipulate markets, create anticompetitive cartels, or purchase government influence. A free market requires rules protecting the freedom of everyone participating in it.

Property Rights

Private property is an important component of individual liberty. Government should respect lawful ownership of homes, businesses, land, possessions, and other property.

When government legitimately takes private property for public use, constitutional requirements for due process and just compensation must be respected. Eminent domain should serve genuine public purposes—not simply transfer property from politically weaker citizens to better-connected private interests.

Private property should not become political property.

Freedom of Association

Americans should generally be free to associate peacefully with others—or decline to associate—with appropriate protections under constitutional and civil-rights law.

People should be free to create civic organizations, religious institutions, businesses, political movements, advocacy organizations, unions, charities, and community groups. A healthy republic depends upon institutions that exist between the individual and the government.

Not every social problem requires a federal program. Families, neighborhoods, religious institutions, charities, businesses, nonprofits, local organizations, and voluntary associations are essential components of American civil society.

Freedom Requires Tolerance of Disagreement

A free country necessarily contains people who disagree with one another. Political, religious, cultural, and ideological disagreement should not automatically justify censorship, retaliation, or treating fellow Americans as enemies.

I strongly disagree with you—and I still defend your right to say it.

Demo-Public rejects political double standards in which constitutional freedoms are defended when they benefit one side and disregarded when exercised by the opposition.

Freedom Is Not Freedom From Consequences

Individual liberty does not eliminate personal responsibility. You have freedom of speech—but others have the freedom to disagree with you. You have economic freedom—but remain responsible for contracts and debts you voluntarily undertake. You have property rights—but cannot use your property to unlawfully harm your neighbors. You have the right to own a firearm—but bear enormous responsibility for its lawful and responsible use.

Personal autonomy likewise does not erase responsibilities created toward children, families, employees, communities, and other people.

Freedom means making your own choices. Responsibility means accepting the consequences of those choices.

Government should not attempt to protect competent adults from every poor decision they might make. But neither should individuals automatically expect society to absorb every foreseeable consequence of their voluntary actions.

Compassion With Responsibility

The Demo-Public Conservative Social Framework

Freedom and responsibility must be accompanied by compassion. Americans should not be abandoned when illness, disability, economic hardship, family crisis, or circumstances beyond their control prevent them from providing fully for themselves. A prosperous nation has both the capacity and the moral responsibility to protect its people from destitution.

But compassion must do more than maintain hardship. Whenever reasonably possible, it should help people recover, rebuild, and move toward greater independence. Government assistance should protect human dignity, reward work, strengthen families, expand opportunity, and provide a pathway forward—not create barriers that make advancement more difficult or dependency more permanent.

We therefore reject the false choice between a government that tells struggling Americans to fend entirely for themselves and an unlimited government that attempts to assume responsibilities properly belonging to individuals, families, communities, businesses, and civic institutions. Government should be strong where protection is necessary, limited where it is not, and accountable everywhere.

This is compassion with responsibility: a hand up when possible, a safety net when necessary, and a permanent commitment to dignity, work, opportunity, and responsible self-government.

Government Has Responsibilities Too

Responsibility cannot apply only to citizens. If government restricts liberty, it should explain why. If government spends taxpayer money, it should account for it. If government collects personal information, it should protect it. If government accuses someone of wrongdoing, it must provide due process. If government exercises emergency powers, those powers should be limited, reviewable, and temporary.

When government makes a mistake, citizens deserve meaningful mechanisms for accountability.

A government demanding responsibility from its citizens must demonstrate responsibility itself.

Emergency Powers Must Have Limits

Wars, terrorist attacks, pandemics, natural disasters, and other emergencies sometimes require extraordinary governmental action. But temporary emergencies must never quietly create permanent governmental powers.

Emergency authority should be clearly defined, limited in duration, subject to legislative and judicial oversight, and periodically renewed when continued extraordinary authority is genuinely necessary.

A crisis may justify temporary powers. It should never automatically justify permanent ones.

Civic Responsibility and the Duty of Self-Government

Demo-Public believes freedom is not self-sustaining. A democratic republic cannot function properly if citizens surrender all responsibility for public affairs to politicians, political parties, media organizations, corporations, government agencies, or institutions.

Self-government requires citizens who are willing to govern themselves—and pay attention to those governing in their name.

Americans have a responsibility to remain reasonably informed about what is happening in their communities, schools, cities, counties, states, federal government, public institutions, and civic organizations.

That does not mean every citizen must become a political expert. It means citizens should make a good-faith effort to understand the decisions being made in their name and with their tax dollars.

We should know who represents us. We should understand major laws and policies being proposed. We should pay attention to how public money is spent. We should ask questions when something does not make sense, demand evidence for extraordinary claims, resist allowing political parties or media personalities to do our thinking for us, and hold officials accountable regardless of whether we voted for them.

Democracy is not something citizens watch. It is something citizens do.

Local Government Matters

National politics receives enormous attention, but many government decisions affecting daily life are made much closer to home: property taxes, schools, policing, housing and zoning, roads, utilities, permitting, parks, emergency services, local budgets, and development.

These decisions are often made by city councils, county commissions, school boards, local authorities, and state governments. Citizens should know and scrutinize the institutions exercising authority closest to them.

Pay attention to Washington—but do not ignore City Hall.

Institutions Require Public Oversight

Government is not the only institution capable of accumulating power. Corporations, universities, financial institutions, media organizations, technology companies, unions, nonprofits, professional organizations, and other institutions can significantly influence American society.

Citizens should develop the habit of asking who controls an institution, who funds it, what incentives influence its decisions, what information may be missing, who benefits from an outcome, and what mechanisms exist for accountability.

This does not mean assuming every institution is corrupt. It means recognizing that healthy institutions require transparency, scrutiny, competition, and accountability.

Trust should be earned—and accountability should be normal.

Citizenship Requires More Than Voting

Voting is essential, but citizenship does not begin and end on Election Day.

Responsible citizenship can include following public meetings, communicating with representatives, serving on civic boards, participating in neighborhood organizations, attending school-board or community meetings, serving on juries, volunteering, helping neighbors, supporting local institutions, peacefully petitioning government, and participating in thoughtful public debate.

Not everyone will participate in the same way. But when responsible citizens withdraw from civic life, organized interests naturally occupy more of the available political space.

When responsible citizens disengage, organized interests gain more power.

The answer is not to silence lawful organizations. The answer is for the people themselves to become more engaged.

Information Is a Civic Responsibility

The modern information environment makes citizenship more difficult. Americans are surrounded by political advertising, edited videos, viral claims, algorithms, influencers, partisan media, artificial intelligence, misinformation, and emotionally charged content designed to capture attention.

Before sharing important political information, citizens should make a reasonable effort to determine whether it is accurate. We should seek original sources where practical, distinguish reporting from commentary, recognize confirmation bias, consider credible information that challenges our existing views, and resist assuming a claim must be true merely because it confirms what we already believe.

An informed citizen is harder to manipulate.

Hold Your Own Side Accountable

Perhaps the most important civic responsibility is refusing to excuse misconduct simply because it comes from one's own political side.

If corruption is wrong when Republicans do it, it is wrong when Democrats do it. If abuse of power is wrong when Democrats do it, it is wrong when Republicans do it. And if a future Demo-Public

administration violates the principles established in this manifesto, Demo-Public citizens should be among the first to demand accountability.

The strongest test of principle is whether we apply it to ourselves.

Citizenship Across Generations

Civic responsibility must also be taught. Children should learn not merely the names of government institutions, but how those institutions actually work.

Students should understand the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, elections, local government, taxation, individual rights, jury service, public budgeting, peaceful political participation, media literacy, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

A free society cannot assume every generation will automatically understand why its institutions matter.

Every generation must learn democracy again.

The Demo-Public Civic Principle

Demo-Public believes political power ultimately belongs to the American people. But ownership creates responsibility.

If we want accountable government, we must watch it. If we want honest elections, we must participate in them. If we want responsible spending, we must examine where the money goes. If we want better schools, we must pay attention to our schools. If we want safer communities, we must participate in our communities. If we want trustworthy institutions, we must demand transparency. If we want better political leaders, we must become better-informed voters.

And if we want the Republic to endure, citizens cannot simply assume someone else will protect it for them.

The Republic Works Only When the People Work It.

Stay Informed. Stay Engaged. Ask Questions. Participate. Hold Power Accountable.

Citizenship Is Not a Spectator Sport.

Freedom Requires Participation.

Country Before Party. People Before Politics. Solutions Before Ideology.

The Demo-Public Freedom Principle

Demo-Public believes government should be powerful enough to protect our rights—but restrained enough not to become the greatest threat to them.

We believe Americans should be free to speak; free to worship—or not worship; free to disagree; free to defend themselves within the law; free to own property; free to create businesses; free to pursue opportunity; free from unreasonable government surveillance; free from arbitrary government punishment; and free to make lawful personal decisions that others may not approve of.

And equally important: responsible for how we exercise those freedoms.

We do not want a government that controls every aspect of American life. Nor do we want a society in which freedom becomes an excuse for ignoring responsibility toward others.

Maximum Liberty. Minimum Necessary Government. Maximum Personal Responsibility.

Your Rights End Where Another Person's Rights Begin.

Defend Freedom. Demand Responsibility. Limit Government. Protect the Constitution.

Solutions Before Ideology.

V. CAPITALISM, WORK AND OPPORTUNITY

Demo-Public believes free enterprise, entrepreneurship, investment, innovation, private property, and competitive markets have created extraordinary prosperity and opportunity.

But capitalism works best when markets remain genuinely competitive, workers can advance, entrepreneurs can enter markets, consumers have meaningful choices, and government does not use political power to protect favored corporations or industries.

We support capitalism—not corporate privilege.

Capitalism Must Remain Competitive

Government should protect competition rather than protect politically connected competitors.

Established corporations should not be insulated from new competitors through political connections, unnecessary licensing barriers, regulatory capture, selective subsidies, preferential tax treatment, or rules written primarily for the benefit of incumbents.

Being large or successful should not itself be punished. But market power should not become political power, and political power should not be used to prevent legitimate competition.

Government should protect competition—not competitors.

Reward Work

Work should remain one of the strongest pathways toward independence, dignity, advancement, and economic security.

Someone willing to work full-time should have a realistic opportunity to build a stable life and improve his or her circumstances.

Public policy should increase the economic value of work through productivity, skills, education, apprenticeships, competitive labor markets, affordable necessities, and opportunities for advancement.

Government should never make dependency more attractive than opportunity—but work must provide a meaningful pathway toward independence.

Build an Ownership Economy

The objective of economic policy should not merely be creating more jobs. It should also be expanding the number of Americans who own productive assets and participate directly in the country's prosperity.

Americans should have greater opportunities to own homes, businesses, investments, retirement accounts, intellectual property, and other assets capable of building long-term and intergenerational wealth.

A paycheck can provide income. Ownership can create independence.

America should be a nation of workers, entrepreneurs, investors, and owners.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are essential to competition, innovation, employment, and community prosperity.

Starting a lawful business should not require enormous capital, political connections, or an army of attorneys and compliance consultants.

Government should regularly examine unnecessary occupational licensing, permitting delays, complicated tax requirements, duplicative regulation, and other barriers that disproportionately burden small businesses while larger corporations can more easily absorb them.

Regulation should protect legitimate public interests without becoming a barrier designed to protect existing businesses from new competition.

End Corporate Welfare

Economic responsibility must apply to corporations as well as individuals.

Businesses should ordinarily succeed or fail according to their ability to serve customers, innovate, manage risk, and compete—not according to their ability to obtain government favors.

Government assistance may sometimes be justified during genuine national emergencies or when a clearly defined strategic national interest requires action. But routine subsidies, bailouts, tax privileges, or special protections designed primarily to benefit politically connected companies should face strict scrutiny.

Businesses should not privatize profits while routinely socializing predictable losses.

Protect Workers Without Destroying Employers

Workers and employers are not natural enemies.

Workers deserve safe workplaces, lawful compensation, protection from illegal discrimination and exploitation, and the freedom to organize lawfully.

Businesses also require the flexibility to hire, innovate, compete, automate, expand, invest, and respond to changing economic conditions.

Successful businesses need productive employees, and employees need successful businesses capable of providing jobs, wages, advancement, and opportunity.

A healthy economy should reward both productive work and productive enterprise.

Competition, Not Monopoly

Demo-Public supports strong and fair enforcement of antitrust and competition laws when companies illegally collude, suppress competition, abuse dominant market positions, or use anticompetitive practices to prevent legitimate competitors from entering markets.

Government should not punish companies merely for becoming successful by serving customers well.

But neither should government tolerate private monopolistic power that eliminates meaningful competition and then uses that power to exploit consumers, workers, suppliers, or emerging competitors.

Competition should determine winners whenever competition is reasonably possible.

Capitalism Without Cronyism

Crony capitalism is not genuine free enterprise.

When businesses gain advantage because they can purchase political access, influence regulation, secure exclusive government treatment, or obtain protections unavailable to ordinary competitors, the marketplace becomes distorted.

Demo-Public's economic philosophy therefore works together with our political-integrity reforms: businesses should compete for customers in the marketplace rather than compete for politicians in Washington.

Economic power should be earned in the marketplace—not purchased through government.

Work, Wages and Shared Prosperity

Demo-Public believes profitable companies are essential to a strong economy. Businesses must be able to earn profits, reward investors, accumulate capital, expand, innovate, survive downturns, and compensate entrepreneurs for taking risk.

Profit itself is not exploitation. Without profitable businesses there are ultimately fewer jobs, less investment, weaker retirement portfolios, less innovation, and less economic opportunity.

But capitalism also depends upon workers. When employees become more productive and help companies create substantially greater value, they should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the prosperity they helped produce.

A successful economy should reward capital, entrepreneurship, and work.

Wages Should Reflect a Growing Economy

Demo-Public does not believe government should establish a uniform relationship between corporate profits and employee wages. Every business is different. Some industries require enormous capital investment, some operate on thin margins, some experience cyclical profits, and some must retain substantial earnings for research, expansion, equipment, debt reduction, or future downturns.

Government should therefore be extremely cautious about attempting to dictate how private businesses allocate earnings.

But the broader principle remains important: when an economy becomes more productive, working Americans should benefit from that productivity.

When an economy becomes more productive, working Americans should benefit from that productivity.

If productivity and profitability consistently rise while workers increasingly struggle to afford housing, healthcare, education, childcare, transportation, and retirement, policymakers should examine why. Potential causes may include labor-market concentration, weak competition for

workers, excessive housing and healthcare costs, declining bargaining power, monopoly power, automation, tax distortions, or other structural factors.

Competitive Labor Markets

Just as businesses need competition to protect consumers, workers benefit from competition among employers.

When a small number of employers dominate a regional or specialized labor market, employees may have significantly less bargaining power. Labor-market competition should therefore be considered part of a serious competition and antitrust policy.

Companies should compete not only for customers. They should compete for workers.

A truly free labor market requires freedom and competition on both sides.

Profit Sharing and Employee Ownership

Demo-Public supports encouraging voluntary mechanisms that allow workers to participate more directly in company success, including profit-sharing, employee stock ownership, performance bonuses, gain-sharing, enhanced retirement contributions, equity participation, and other forms of shared value creation.

Rather than addressing inequality only through taxation and redistribution after wealth has been created, public policy should also encourage broader participation in wealth creation itself.

The strongest worker is not merely an employee. It is an employee with an opportunity to become an owner.

Executive Compensation and Corporate Governance

Government should not ordinarily determine what private companies may pay executives. But shareholders, boards, employees, and the public should have transparent information about the relationship between executive compensation, company performance, median worker compensation, layoffs, pension obligations, long-term investment, and other material corporate decisions.

A leader who creates extraordinary long-term value may legitimately earn extraordinary compensation. But compensation disconnected from performance, or rewarded despite repeated failure, should face meaningful scrutiny from boards and shareholders.

Reward success. Do not institutionalize rewards for failure.

Stock Buybacks and Long-Term Investment

Stock repurchases are not inherently improper. They can be a legitimate way to return excess capital to shareholders.

But companies should be transparent about whether capital allocation supports long-term competitiveness, including investment in workers, equipment, research, pensions, technology, resilience, and productive capacity.

A healthy market should be able to distinguish long-term value creation from financial engineering designed primarily to improve short-term metrics.

A Living Standard Without Wage Micromanagement

Demo-Public does not believe sustainable middle-class prosperity can be created simply by government setting one national wage formula.

Durable wage growth requires stronger productivity, better education and skills, competitive labor markets, affordable energy, lower healthcare costs, greater housing supply, strong infrastructure, technology adoption, domestic investment, entrepreneurship, and wider employee ownership.

Government may establish legitimate minimum labor standards, but long-term prosperity ultimately requires workers to become more productive, more mobile, and more capable of negotiating for the value they create.

Higher wages should come from stronger workers, stronger businesses, stronger competition, and a stronger economy.

Workers and Shareholders Are Often the Same People

Political debate often treats workers and investors as completely separate groups. In reality, millions of American workers own corporate equity through 401(k)s, IRAs, pension funds, mutual funds, and retirement accounts.

Policies that deliberately destroy corporate profitability can therefore damage workers' retirement security just as policies that ignore worker compensation can weaken families and communities.

Capital and labor should participate in the success they create together.

The Demo-Public Shared Prosperity Test

When evaluating economic policy, we should ask: Is the economy becoming more productive? Are businesses able to invest and grow? Are workers' real wages improving? Can working families afford housing, healthcare, education, and retirement? Are labor markets genuinely competitive? Are employees sharing in productivity gains? Are more Americans becoming owners? Are corporate profits being generated through innovation and efficiency—or through monopoly power, political privilege, or suppressed competition?

Is economic growth improving the lives of the people producing it?

The Demo-Public Shared Prosperity Principle

We reject the idea that corporate profits are inherently wrong. We also reject the idea that workers should simply accept economic stagnation while the companies they help build prosper.

Successful businesses create jobs, investment, innovation, tax revenue, and wealth. Productive workers create much of the value upon which those businesses depend. Both matter. Both should have opportunities to prosper.

The objective of Demo-Public economic policy is not to divide the economy between winners and losers. It is to create an economy where success produces more participants in prosperity.

Profitable Companies. Prosperous Workers. Competitive Markets. Broader Ownership.

Reward Investment. Reward Innovation. Reward Work.

Growth Should Build Wealth—not Merely Concentrate It.

Capitalism Without Cronyism. Prosperity Without Exploitation.

Solutions Before Ideology.

Financial Responsibility and Financial Literacy

Americans should be encouraged to save, invest, own property, establish businesses, prepare for retirement, and build intergenerational wealth.

Financial literacy should be treated as an essential life skill. Young Americans should enter adulthood understanding credit, interest, mortgages, taxes, insurance, investing, retirement accounts, entrepreneurship, budgeting, debt, and compound growth.

Government cannot guarantee prosperity, but education can give citizens better tools to create it.

Economic Mobility Is the Measure

Economic growth matters. But the health of an economic system should also be measured by whether ordinary Americans can move upward within it.

Can someone born poor become middle class? Can someone middle class become wealthy? Can an employee become an owner? Can a lawful immigrant arriving with little build a business? Can someone without a four-year college degree earn a prosperous living? Can young Americans realistically purchase homes, raise families, save, invest, and build a better future?

When economic mobility becomes increasingly difficult, government should examine whether barriers to competition, excessive costs, poor education, distorted markets, unnecessary regulation, monopoly power, or other structural problems are preventing opportunity.

The American Dream must remain a ladder—not merely a slogan.

The Demo-Public Economic Principle

We believe in capitalism because we believe in opportunity.

We believe businesses should be allowed to succeed—and allowed to fail.

We believe workers should benefit from a growing economy. We believe entrepreneurs should be rewarded for taking risks. We believe consumers deserve genuine competition.

We believe government should establish fair rules without attempting to control every economic decision.

We believe corporations should compete in the marketplace rather than purchase advantages in Washington.

We believe Americans should have opportunities not merely to work, but to own, invest, create, and build wealth.

And we believe the ultimate objective of economic policy should be neither maximizing government nor maximizing corporate power.

It should be maximizing opportunity for the American people.

Free Enterprise. Fair Competition. Reward Work. Build Ownership.

Capitalism Without Cronyism.

Opportunity Without Dependency.

Prosperity Through Competition.

VI. A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS

Government Is a Tool—not an Ideology

Demo-Public rejects the false choice between believing government should solve every problem and believing government itself is always the problem.

Government is a tool created by the people to perform legitimate public responsibilities that individuals, markets, communities, or states cannot always accomplish effectively on their own.

There are responsibilities that require strong government: defending the nation, protecting constitutional rights, maintaining courts and the rule of law, protecting public safety, enforcing contracts, maintaining critical infrastructure, responding to national emergencies, protecting fair competition, and administering programs Americans have established through their democratic institutions.

But government should not automatically intervene simply because a problem exists.

The question should not be whether government can do something. The question should be whether government should do it—and, if so, at what level and by what means.

Demo-Public therefore rejects the traditional political argument of Big Government versus Small Government as incomplete.

Our objective is Better Government.

Government should be strong where strength is necessary, limited where intervention is unnecessary, and accountable everywhere.

Measure Results—not Intentions

Good intentions do not automatically produce good government. A program designed to address an important problem should still be evaluated according to whether it actually solves or improves that problem.

Demo-Public believes government programs should establish measurable objectives whenever reasonably possible.

We should ask: Did the program accomplish what it promised? Did conditions improve? How much did it cost? Could the same result have been achieved more efficiently? Did unintended consequences create new problems? Does the program remain necessary?

Government should measure success by outcomes—not by how much money was spent.

Programs that work should be strengthened. Programs that can work better should be improved. Programs that duplicate other programs should be consolidated where appropriate. Programs that consistently fail should be fundamentally reformed or eliminated.

Government Should Be Easy to Navigate

Americans should not need attorneys, lobbyists, consultants, or extraordinary patience simply to interact with their own government.

Applications should be understandable. Forms should be simplified. Requirements should be clearly explained. Citizens should be able to determine which agency is responsible for a particular service.

Government websites and digital services should function reliably. Agencies should communicate with one another when legally appropriate rather than repeatedly requiring citizens to provide the same information.

Complexity should never become a substitute for competence.

Government should be designed around serving citizens—not around preserving bureaucracy.

Modernize Government

Much of the federal government operates through administrative structures and technology created for another era. A twenty-first-century country requires twenty-first-century government.

Demo-Public supports modernization of federal information systems, procurement systems, permitting, records management, cybersecurity, payment systems, public-service portals, and administrative processes.

Technology should be used to reduce wait times, identify waste and fraud, improve government services, increase transparency, and reduce unnecessary administrative costs.

A smarter government must not become a more intrusive government.

Privacy, constitutional protections, cybersecurity, due process, and appropriate human oversight must accompany technological modernization.

Artificial Intelligence in Government

Artificial intelligence and automation can potentially improve government dramatically. They can help detect fraud, process routine applications, identify duplicate spending, analyze infrastructure needs, improve emergency response, and reduce administrative workloads.

But government use of AI also creates serious questions involving privacy, bias, transparency, accountability, and due process.

Demo-Public believes consequential government decisions affecting an individual's liberty, benefits, legal rights, or access to essential services should not be delegated blindly to an algorithm.

Americans should have the ability to challenge significant automated government decisions and receive meaningful human review where appropriate.

Technology should assist government judgment—not eliminate government accountability.

Simplify Bureaucracy

Every regulation, form, reporting requirement, license, approval process, and administrative procedure may have been created for a reason. But over decades, layers of requirements accumulate.

Government should periodically review administrative processes and ask whether they remain necessary.

Rules that protect public safety, constitutional rights, consumers, workers, competition, property, financial stability, or the environment can serve legitimate purposes. But obsolete, duplicative, contradictory, or unnecessarily complicated requirements should be revised or eliminated.

The purpose of regulation should be solving problems—not creating paperwork.

Regulate with Purpose

Demo-Public rejects both regulatory extremes. Government should not assume that every economic activity requires additional regulation. Nor should government assume markets will always regulate themselves sufficiently.

Regulation is justified when there is a legitimate public need that cannot reasonably be addressed through competition, transparency, existing law, or other less burdensome approaches.

Whenever practical, major regulations should clearly identify the problem being addressed, the expected public benefit, the expected economic cost, reasonable alternatives considered, and how success will eventually be measured.

Regulation should protect the public without unnecessarily suppressing innovation, competition, entrepreneurship, or individual liberty.

End Regulatory Capture

Government agencies exist to serve the public—not the industries they regulate.

Large corporations should not be able to shape regulations primarily to disadvantage smaller competitors. Industry expertise can be valuable when developing technically complex rules, but regulated industries should not effectively control their regulators.

This principle directly supports our broader commitment to ending corporate political influence and crony capitalism.

Government should write rules for the public interest—not for the most powerful participant in the room.

Eliminate Duplication

Federal government has accumulated thousands of programs, offices, boards, commissions, initiatives, grants, and administrative structures over generations. Some perform essential functions. Others overlap.

Government should systematically identify duplicative responsibilities across agencies and consolidate them when doing so improves service and reduces cost without sacrificing legitimate functions.

Americans should not pay multiple agencies to solve the same problem simply because Washington has never reorganized itself.

Government should evolve when the country evolves.

Respect Federalism

Not every American problem requires a Washington solution.

The Constitution established a federal system for a reason. Federal government has responsibilities. States have responsibilities. Local governments have responsibilities. Communities, families, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals have responsibilities.

Whenever appropriate, decisions should be made at the lowest level capable of addressing the problem effectively while respecting constitutional rights and legitimate national interests.

National problems require national solutions. Local problems often deserve local solutions.

This approach allows communities to innovate, experiment, and develop policies suited to their circumstances while preserving national constitutional protections.

Empower Competent Public Servants

Millions of Americans working in government are dedicated professionals performing important public responsibilities. They should have competent leadership, modern tools, appropriate training, and clear expectations.

Government should reward excellence and innovation. Employees who identify waste, corruption, fraud, abuse, or serious misconduct should have appropriate whistleblower protections.

At the same time, public employment should not create immunity from accountability. Persistent incompetence, corruption, serious misconduct, or refusal to perform legitimate responsibilities should have consequences consistent with appropriate due-process protections.

Public servants deserve respect. Public service requires accountability.

Government Should Provide Customer Service

Americans interacting with government should be treated as citizens being served—not inconveniences being processed.

Whether someone is applying for Social Security, seeking veterans' benefits, obtaining a passport, resolving a tax issue, applying for a permit, accessing Medicare, or interacting with another public agency, reasonable standards for service should exist.

Agencies should measure wait times, processing times, error rates, appeals, citizen satisfaction, and other appropriate performance indicators.

Citizens should not have to fight their government simply to receive services their government already promised to provide.

Transparency by Default

Government belongs to the people. Americans should therefore have reasonable access to information about how decisions are made, how taxpayer money is spent, who receives government contracts, how programs perform, and which officials are responsible for major decisions.

National-security information, legitimate law-enforcement information, personal information, and other genuinely sensitive material will sometimes require confidentiality. But secrecy should require justification.

Transparency should be the default. Secrecy should be the exception.

Government accountability is impossible when citizens cannot determine what government is doing.

Government Contracts Must Serve Taxpayers

Federal procurement represents enormous amounts of taxpayer money. Government contracts should be awarded through fair and competitive processes whenever reasonably possible.

Contractors should be evaluated according to price, capability, performance, security, reliability, and value to taxpayers—not political connections. Contract performance should be monitored. Repeated cost overruns and failures should have consequences.

A government contract is not a political reward. It is an obligation to the taxpayer.

Emergency Government Must Remain Temporary

Wars, terrorist attacks, pandemics, natural disasters, financial crises, and other emergencies sometimes require government to exercise extraordinary authority.

But temporary emergencies must not quietly create permanent government powers. Emergency authorities should have clearly defined purposes, appropriate oversight, reasonable expiration provisions, and periodic review.

If extraordinary authority remains necessary, elected representatives should be required to justify its continuation.

Emergency powers should expire when the emergency does.

Protect Citizens from Government Abuse

Effective government must never be confused with unlimited government.

Government has enormous power to investigate, regulate, tax, prosecute, surveil, seize property, and deprive individuals of liberty. That power requires constitutional limits.

Due process, warrants where constitutionally required, judicial review, equal protection, freedom of speech, property rights, privacy protections, and other constitutional safeguards are not obstacles to effective government. They are what make legitimate government possible.

Efficiency can never become an excuse for violating constitutional rights.

Accountability Starts at the Top

Government accountability should apply most strongly to those with the greatest authority: presidents, members of Congress, cabinet officials, agency leaders, judges, and senior public officials.

No office should create immunity from legitimate oversight. The higher the authority, the greater the responsibility to explain decisions, disclose conflicts where required, obey the law, protect taxpayer resources, and accept accountability.

Public office is a public trust—not a personal entitlement.

Innovation Through the States

America's federal system provides an extraordinary opportunity for policy experimentation.

States should be encouraged, within constitutional limits, to test new approaches to education, transportation, healthcare delivery, energy, workforce development, housing, technology, and other public challenges.

Successful approaches can then be studied and potentially adopted elsewhere. Unsuccessful experiments can be corrected without necessarily imposing their consequences on the entire country.

Fifty states can also be fifty laboratories of American innovation.

Government Should Know When to Get Out of the Way

Sometimes government's most effective action is restraint.

Entrepreneurs, families, communities, charities, researchers, workers, businesses, and local organizations solve countless problems without federal direction. Government should recognize when civil society and private initiative are already producing effective solutions.

Government should empower Americans—not unnecessarily replace them.

A strong society requires more than a strong government. It requires strong families, communities, institutions, businesses, civic organizations, and citizens.

The Demo-Public Government Test

Before creating or expanding a federal program, regulation, agency, or authority, we should ask: Is there a legitimate public problem requiring action? Is government actually the appropriate institution to address it? Is the federal government the appropriate level of government? What measurable outcome are we trying to achieve? What will it cost? Could an existing program perform the same function? Could states, communities, nonprofits, individuals, or competitive markets address the problem more effectively? What unintended consequences could result? How will constitutional rights and privacy be protected? How will the program be evaluated? Who will be accountable if it fails? And when should it end?

Government should be able to answer those questions before asking Americans for more money, authority, or liberty.

The Demo-Public Principle

We do not believe government should attempt to solve every problem.

We do not believe government is inherently the problem.

We believe government has legitimate responsibilities—and when government accepts those responsibilities, it has an obligation to perform them competently.

We want government strong where strength is necessary; limited where government is unnecessary; efficient where taxpayers are paying; transparent where decisions are being made; accountable when mistakes occur; modern enough to serve a twenty-first-century nation; and restrained enough to remember that government exists to serve the people—not the other way around.

We will not measure government by how much it spends.

We will measure it by what it accomplishes.

Not Bigger Government. Not Smaller Government. Better Government.
Effective Where Necessary. Limited Where Possible. Accountable Everywhere.
Solutions Before Ideology.

VII. EQUAL RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Every American deserves equal protection under the law and equal dignity as a citizen. Government should neither grant special legal privilege nor impose unequal legal burdens because of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, or other characteristics protected by constitutional and civil-rights law.

Equal Citizenship

Demo-Public rejects both discrimination and the idea that Americans should be permanently divided into competing demographic political blocs. Our history matters and injustice should be addressed honestly, but citizenship must ultimately unite rather than subdivide us.

Equal rights mean equal rights—for everyone.

Enforce Civil-Rights Protections

Government should enforce laws against unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, education, voting, public accommodations, and other areas covered by law. Enforcement should be fair, evidence-based, and consistent with due process.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal rights do not guarantee identical outcomes. Government should remove unlawful barriers, provide fair access to public institutions, and expand opportunity while recognizing that individuals will make different choices and experience different outcomes.

Policies intended to remedy disadvantage should be judged by whether they actually expand opportunity, reduce barriers, and preserve equal treatment under law.

Human Dignity in Political Debate

No American should be reduced to a stereotype because of race, religion, sex, political affiliation, geography, income, occupation, or background. Political disagreement does not erase human dignity.

Protect Americans with Disabilities

Equal citizenship includes reasonable access to public life for Americans with disabilities. Government should enforce legitimate accessibility protections while encouraging employment, independence, innovation, and full participation.

Equal Protection. Equal Dignity. Equal Citizenship.

Solutions Before Ideology.

VIII. POLITICAL INTEGRITY AND THE PUBLIC TRUST

Government Belongs to the People

Government exists to serve the American people.

It must never become an institution in which corporations, wealthy individuals, unions, lobbyists, political organizations, government contractors, foreign interests, or other powerful organizations can purchase greater influence simply because they possess greater financial resources.

Demo-Public recognizes the constitutional right of Americans to petition their government. Businesses, workers, labor organizations, nonprofits, civic associations, community organizations, and individual Americans must remain free to communicate with elected representatives and public agencies.

But the right to petition government is not the right to purchase government.

We therefore seek to dismantle the system of paid political influence and privileged access while protecting constitutional rights and ensuring that government can still hear legitimate expertise from every part of American society.

ACCESS CANNOT BE FOR SALE. POLICY CANNOT BE FOR SALE. GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FOR SALE.

1. End the Purchase of Political Access

No corporation, union, organization, political donor, lobbying firm, wealthy individual, or special-interest group should receive preferential governmental access because of money spent on lobbying, campaigns, fundraising, political organizations, or relationships with public officials.

Meetings with elected officials should never effectively become something that can be purchased through campaign contributions or lobbying expenditures. Political contributions must never create an expectation of legislative, regulatory, contractual, or governmental favors.

Political influence should come from the strength of an argument—not the size of a check.

2. Reform the Professional Lobbying Industry

Organizations will retain their constitutional ability to communicate with government. However, paid lobbying should operate under strict transparency and ethical standards designed to prevent money from becoming a substitute for democratic representation.

Americans should be able to easily determine who is lobbying government, whom they represent, which legislation or regulation they seek to influence, which government offices they contacted, how much they are spending, and what financial interests could benefit from the requested government action.

Lobbying disclosure should be searchable, understandable, timely, and accessible to ordinary citizens—not buried inside complicated government databases.

If someone is being paid to influence your government, you should be able to know who, why, and for whom.

3. End the Revolving Door

Public service should not become an audition for a lucrative lobbying career.

Senior members of Congress, congressional staff, regulators, Cabinet officials, senior executive-branch personnel, and other high-ranking government officials should face substantially stronger restrictions against immediately becoming paid representatives of industries or organizations over which they recently exercised governmental authority.

Likewise, individuals entering government directly from industries they will regulate should be subject to strong conflict-of-interest and recusal requirements.

Public office is a public trust—not a lobbying internship.

4. End Secretly Written Legislation

When corporations, lobbying organizations, unions, nonprofits, industry associations, advocacy organizations, or other outside interests materially draft language that appears in legislation or federal regulations, that involvement should be disclosed.

Major legislation should include a transparent public record identifying significant outside organizations that supplied legislative language or materially participated in drafting provisions.

If a special interest helped write the law, the public deserves to know.

5. Ban Individual Stock Trading by Members of Congress

Public officials should never be placed in a position where their governmental responsibilities and personal investment portfolios may conflict.

Members of Congress, their spouses, and senior officials with significant access to confidential governmental information should be prohibited from actively trading individual stocks and comparable securities while serving in covered positions.

Reasonable mechanisms should allow diversified investments such as broad-market funds, qualifying blind trusts, Treasury securities, and other investments structured to minimize conflicts of interest.

Public service should create responsibility, not investment opportunities.

6. Campaign Finance Transparency

Americans have a right to know who is financing significant efforts to influence their elections and government.

Demo-Public supports substantially stronger and more timely disclosure of significant political spending while respecting constitutional protections for political expression and association.

We will seek transparency regarding major sources of political funding across the political spectrum, including corporations, unions, political committees, qualifying nonprofit political activity, wealthy individuals, industry organizations, and advocacy groups.

No partisan exceptions.

7. Government Contract Transparency

Companies receiving significant federal contracts should not be able to secretly use political influence to obtain additional government business.

Major government contracts should be awarded through competitive, transparent processes whenever practicable. Political donations or lobbying relationships involving government contractors must never influence procurement decisions.

Taxpayer contracts belong to taxpayers—not political insiders.

8. Stop Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Federal grants, contracts, subsidies, and taxpayer assistance should not become circular financing mechanisms through which recipients use taxpayer resources to lobby government for additional taxpayer resources.

Appropriate safeguards should separate federally funded activities from lobbying expenditures. Organizations remain free to advocate for their interests using lawful private resources.

9. Foreign Influence Transparency

Foreign governments and foreign-controlled interests should never exercise hidden influence over American policymaking.

Demo-Public supports rigorous enforcement and modernization of foreign-influence transparency laws. Americans should know when someone attempting to influence their government is acting on behalf of a foreign government, foreign political party, or other covered foreign principal.

American policy must serve American interests.

10. Equal Access to Government

Reducing special-interest power cannot mean preventing government from hearing outside expertise. It means broadening who gets heard.

Congress and federal agencies should develop better mechanisms allowing ordinary citizens, small businesses, workers, entrepreneurs, local governments, community organizations, academic experts, consumer organizations, and other affected stakeholders to participate meaningfully in policymaking.

A small-business owner who cannot afford a Washington lobbying firm should still have a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

Government should listen beyond K Street.

11. Stronger Public Corruption Enforcement

Political corruption should be investigated and prosecuted without regard to political affiliation. Bribery, kickbacks, pay-to-play arrangements, fraud, undisclosed conflicts of interest, abuse of public office, improper contracting, and other forms of public corruption should face meaningful consequences.

The same standards must apply whether the official involved is a Democrat, Republican, independent, or Demo-Public.

No politician above the law. No party above accountability.

The American Political Integrity Act

Demo-Public will seek to bring these reforms together through a comprehensive national initiative: THE AMERICAN POLITICAL INTEGRITY ACT.

Its purpose would not be to silence Americans, businesses, workers, or organizations. Its purpose would be to separate money from privileged governmental access.

The Act would pursue lobbying transparency and reform; restrictions on purchased political access; strong revolving-door restrictions; congressional stock-trading restrictions; campaign-finance transparency; government-contract transparency; disclosure of outside involvement in drafting legislation; foreign-influence transparency; conflict-of-interest reform; stronger public-corruption enforcement; meaningful public access to government; and equal application of these principles regardless of political affiliation.

The Demo-Public Principle

We are not anti-business. We are not anti-union. We are not anti-government. We are not anti-advocacy. And we are not attempting to prevent Americans from petitioning their elected representatives.

We are against the purchase of political power.

Businesses should compete by producing better products and services—not by purchasing better government connections. Unions should advocate for workers—not purchase political favors. Organizations should persuade government through ideas and evidence—not financial leverage. Politicians should represent constituents—not financial patrons.

There will always be interests attempting to influence government. The responsibility of a democratic republic is to ensure that wealth does not determine whose voice matters most.

Money should buy a seat in the marketplace—not a privileged seat in government.

Government belongs equally to the factory worker and the CEO; to the small-business owner and the multinational corporation; to the teacher and the billionaire; to the farmer and the financial institution; and to the citizen who gives nothing to a political campaign and the citizen who contributes.

One citizen should never need a lobbyist to have a voice in their own government.

ACCESS CANNOT BE FOR SALE. POLICY CANNOT BE FOR SALE. GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FOR SALE.

IX. POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE 80% PRINCIPLE

Demo-Public rejects the idea that Americans must agree on virtually every issue in order to work together in a civic movement.

If we agree on roughly 80% of the principles necessary to move America forward, we should be capable of respectfully disagreeing about the remaining 20% while continuing to work together.

The 80% is a philosophy, not a mathematical membership test. Common ground should matter more than ideological purity. The constitutional core—rule of law, legitimate elections, peaceful transfer of power, equal citizenship, individual liberty, due process, and rejection of political violence—is not part of the negotiable 20%.

Country Before Party

Good policy does not become bad because the other side proposed it, and bad policy does not become good because our side proposed it. Our loyalty is first to the Constitution, the Republic, and the American people.

Independent Thinking

Participants should examine evidence, challenge assumptions, listen to opposing arguments, and change their minds when better information becomes available. Intellectual honesty is more important than ideological consistency.

No Purity Tests or Personality Cults

The movement should permit reasonable disagreement among participants. No politician is the movement, no politician is bigger than the movement, and no movement is bigger than the country.

Representation and Compromise

Representatives should have reasonable independence to serve their communities. Compromise on methods is often necessary; surrender of constitutional principles is not.

Independence From the Two-Party System

Demo-Public does not mean automatically splitting the difference between Democrats and Republicans. Sometimes either party will be right, both will be partly right, both will be wrong, or the best answer will come from elsewhere.

The political center is not automatically the correct answer. The best solution is.

Agree on the 80%. Respectfully Debate the 20%.

Country Before Party. Constitution Before Politician.

Solutions Before Ideology.

X. NO POLITICIAN ABOVE PRINCIPLE

The Demo-Public movement will never be built around one politician. Leaders are temporary stewards of public trust; principles and constitutional institutions must outlast them.

Standards Must Apply to Our Own Side

A political movement loses credibility when conduct it condemns in opponents becomes acceptable when committed by allies. Public officials who identify with Demo-Public principles should be judged by the same standards of honesty, legality, ethics, competence, and constitutional conduct applied to everyone else.

If it is wrong when they do it, it is wrong when we do it.

No Personal Loyalty Oaths

Candidates and public officials owe fidelity to the Constitution and their lawful duties—not personal loyalty to a party leader, donor, president, governor, or political faction.

Accountability Is Not Betrayal

Criticizing a leader from one's own party can be an act of loyalty to the party's principles and to the country. Internal dissent should not automatically be treated as disloyalty.

Character and Competence Matter

Policy agreement alone is not enough. Public officials should demonstrate judgment, respect for law, basic honesty, capacity to govern, and willingness to accept constitutional limits.

The Peaceful Transfer of Power

No candidate is entitled to office. Elections must be administered lawfully, disputes resolved through established legal processes, and legitimate outcomes respected.

Principles before personalities. Constitution before politician. Country before party.

Solutions Before Ideology.

XI. THE DEMO-PUBLIC TEST

Before supporting major public policy, Demo-Public will ask questions designed to test substance rather than partisan appeal.

The Constitutional Test

Is the proposal constitutional? Does it respect individual rights, due process, federalism, separation of powers, and the rule of law?

The Necessity Test

Is there a real problem requiring action? Is government the appropriate institution to address it, and is the federal government the appropriate level?

The Evidence Test

What evidence supports the proposal? What evidence cuts against it? What assumptions are uncertain? What would cause us to reconsider?

The Fiscal Test

What will it cost? How will it be financed? What obligations are shifted to future taxpayers? Are there less expensive ways to achieve the same objective?

The Liberty Test

What freedoms, privacy interests, property rights, or personal choices will be affected? Is any restriction necessary and proportionate?

The Competition Test

Does the policy expand genuine competition or protect incumbent corporations, unions, agencies, industries, or other politically connected interests?

The Implementation Test

Who will administer the policy? Can the responsible institution actually perform the task? What are the incentives, likely loopholes, enforcement challenges, and unintended consequences?

The Accountability Test

How will success be measured? Who is accountable if it fails? Is there a review date, sunset mechanism, audit, or other method for correcting mistakes?

The 80% Test

What do Americans already agree upon? Can the policy preserve fundamental principles while building a broader and more durable coalition?

If a policy cannot survive serious questions, it should not survive merely because our side proposed it.

Constitutional. Practical. Accountable. Sustainable. Effective.

Solutions Before Ideology.

XII. OUR PROMISE

We will not promise Americans that government can solve every problem. We will not tell Americans that every problem is caused by the opposing political party. We will not deliberately divide Americans because anger produces votes.

We will not demand loyalty to politicians. We will not pretend difficult problems have simple answers merely because simple answers make better political slogans.

We Promise Intellectual Honesty

We will tell Americans when choices involve tradeoffs. We will distinguish facts from predictions and principles from preferences. When evidence changes, we will be willing to change policy.

We Promise Equal Standards

We will judge our own leaders by the standards we apply to opponents. Corruption, abuse of power, dishonesty, and constitutional misconduct do not become acceptable because the offender is associated with our movement.

We Promise Responsible Government

We will advocate for protecting legitimate public programs while demanding that they work. We will advocate for policies that respect taxpayers, protect constitutional rights, confront debt honestly, defend the country, preserve democratic institutions, and seek measurable results.

We Promise to Protect the American Experiment

The United States is an unfinished project in self-government. Every generation inherits both its achievements and its unresolved problems. Our obligation is neither to romanticize the past nor reject it, but to preserve what works, correct what fails, and leave a stronger republic to those who follow.

We Promise to Keep the Coalition Open

Americans will not be required to agree with us on everything. We ask instead for good faith, constitutional commitment, respect for fellow citizens, willingness to reason from evidence, and a belief that common ground is still possible.

We will disagree without becoming enemies.

We will advocate for government that serves Americans without demanding ideological conformity.

We will put country before party and the Constitution before politicians.

**Freedom with Responsibility. Capitalism with Competition. Government with Accountability.
Unity without Conformity.**

Solutions Before Ideology.