

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

DEMO-PUBLIC

A civic movement for country before party

NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Policy Platform

A detailed policy agenda applying Demo-Public principles to the major challenges facing the United States.

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. This platform presents policy proposals for public consideration and advocacy, not claims of current governmental authority. Forming a political party is a possible future step requiring a separate organizational decision and applicable legal compliance.

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FOUNDATIONAL POLICY STANDARD

Demo-Public approaches public policy from a simple premise: the best answer is not automatically the most liberal, the most conservative, or the precise midpoint between them. The best answer is the one that most effectively protects constitutional liberty, expands opportunity, preserves national strength, respects fiscal reality, and produces measurable results.

Solutions Before Ideology.

The National Platform is therefore more detailed and adaptable than the Founding Manifesto. Specific policy mechanisms may change as technology, economics, evidence, and national circumstances change. The constitutional principles and governing standards behind them should remain stable.

GOVERNMENT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Demo-Public believes that America must remain a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Political authority originates with the people, is temporarily entrusted to public officials, and must always be exercised for the public good within constitutional limits.

Government does not belong to political parties, powerful donors, corporations, lobbyists, career politicians, government agencies, or any permanent political class. It belongs equally to every American citizen.

The Governing Principle

Every public institution should be designed and evaluated around a basic question: Does it serve the American people fairly, effectively, transparently, and constitutionally? Institutional convenience, partisan advantage, and private influence must never take priority over the public interest.

What This Requires From Government

Government should make public participation meaningful by providing understandable legislation, transparent budgets, accessible meetings and records, reasonable opportunities for public comment, responsive constituent services, and clear explanations of major decisions made in the people's name.

Public officials must disclose conflicts of interest, account for the use of public money, explain the measurable purpose of major policies, and remain subject to lawful oversight, elections, audits, ethics rules, and constitutional checks and balances.

Equal Citizenship Means Equal Political Dignity

No American should require wealth, political connections, a professional lobbyist, or a large campaign contribution to have a meaningful voice in government. Expertise should be heard, lawful advocacy should be protected, and every citizen's constitutional rights and political dignity should be respected equally.

What This Requires From Citizens

Self-government cannot be delegated entirely to elected officials. Citizens share responsibility for remaining informed, verifying consequential claims, voting, participating peacefully, monitoring public institutions, and holding every political side - including their own - to the same standards.

Government belongs to the people. The Republic works only when the people work it.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

Demo-Public believes no governing platform can succeed through laws and elected officials alone. A democratic republic depends upon citizens who remain informed, participate in civic life, scrutinize public institutions, and hold power accountable at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

The Republic Works Only When the People Work It.

An Informed and Engaged Citizenry

Americans should make a reasonable effort to know who represents them, understand major decisions being made in their name, follow how public money is spent, and participate in elections and community affairs.

Citizenship does not require constant political activity or expertise. It requires enough attention and participation to prevent public authority from becoming the exclusive domain of professional political organizations, concentrated interests, and the relatively small number of people who always show up.

Citizenship Is Not a Spectator Sport.

Local, State and Federal Accountability

Citizens should pay attention not only to Washington but also to school boards, city councils, county commissions, state legislatures, courts, public authorities, and other institutions whose decisions directly affect daily life.

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

Civic Information Discipline

Responsible citizenship in the digital age requires verifying consequential claims before spreading them, distinguishing evidence from commentary, consulting original sources where practical, recognizing manipulation and confirmation bias, and remaining willing to revise one's views when facts change.

An informed citizen is harder to manipulate.

Accountability Without Partisanship

Citizens should apply the same ethical and constitutional standards to officials they support as to officials they oppose. Political loyalty must never become an excuse for corruption, dishonesty, abuse of power, or disregard for constitutional limits.

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

Civic Education

Schools should prepare students for citizenship by teaching the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, elections, local government, taxation, individual rights, jury service, public budgeting, peaceful participation, media literacy, and the responsibilities that accompany freedom.

Every generation must learn democracy again.

The Demo-Public Civic Standard

Demo-Public advocates government action to make participation easier through transparency, understandable public information, accessible meetings and records, auditable elections, and clear lines of accountability. Citizens, in return, should use those tools diligently.

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

Freedom Requires Participation.

PART I — ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY

1. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: GOVERNMENT MUST LIVE WITHIN REALITY

Demo-Public believes responsible government requires responsible stewardship of the people's money.

Government has legitimate responsibilities, and fulfilling those responsibilities requires public resources. National defense, infrastructure, Social Security and Medicare, public safety, courts, education, scientific research, disaster response, and other essential functions cannot be provided without funding.

Fiscal responsibility therefore does not simply mean spending less.

It means spending wisely, taxing fairly, investing intelligently, eliminating waste, encouraging economic growth, and refusing to make promises government has no credible plan to finance.

Government does not have its own money. It manages the people's money.

Every dollar government spends ultimately comes from the American people—either through taxation today, borrowing that must be repaid tomorrow, or other economic consequences. That reality should guide every major fiscal decision.

The National Debt Is a Generational Responsibility

There are legitimate circumstances in which government borrowing is necessary. Wars, severe recessions, national emergencies, major disasters, and certain long-term investments may justify temporary deficits.

But permanent structural deficits should not become America's normal method of government. When one generation continually spends more than it is willing to finance, that obligation does not disappear. It is transferred to another generation.

Today's political promises should not become tomorrow's children's debt.

Demo-Public supports a credible long-term strategy for stabilizing the national debt relative to the size of the economy without imposing sudden austerity measures that unnecessarily damage economic growth or vulnerable Americans.

Fiscal reform should be gradual, predictable, transparent, economically realistic, and bipartisan whenever possible.

Balance the Budget Across the Economic Cycle

The federal government should work toward structural budget balance during normal economic conditions.

That does not mean government can never operate at a deficit. During recessions, wars, pandemics, natural disasters, or genuine national emergencies, temporary deficit spending may be appropriate.

But emergency borrowing should remain the exception rather than becoming the permanent baseline. During periods of strong economic growth, government should reduce deficits and rebuild America's fiscal capacity so the country is financially prepared when the next crisis arrives.

Borrow when genuinely necessary. Restore balance when conditions normalize.

Every Major Program Needs a Funding Plan

Politicians should not be permitted to announce expensive programs while pretending their costs do not exist.

Major new spending proposals should clearly identify what the program is intended to accomplish, how much it is expected to cost, how it will be financed, what measurable results taxpayers should expect, and what happens if the program fails to achieve those objectives.

The same standard must apply to tax policy. Major tax reductions should acknowledge their expected fiscal effects rather than relying upon politically convenient assumptions that every tax cut will automatically pay for itself.

Spending without funding is irresponsible. Tax cuts without arithmetic are irresponsible too.

Fiscal responsibility cannot depend upon which political party proposes the policy.

Protect Social Security and Medicare Through Responsible Stewardship

Fiscal responsibility must never become an excuse for abandoning commitments Americans spent their working lives paying into.

Demo-Public considers Social Security and Medicare promises that must be preserved and protected. But protecting these programs also requires confronting their long-term financial challenges.

Ignoring those challenges is not protecting Social Security or Medicare. It is postponing difficult decisions until the eventual choices become more painful.

The guarantee is non-negotiable. The responsible financing of that guarantee must be addressed.

Any necessary reforms should protect current retirees and Americans approaching retirement while ensuring younger generations can reasonably expect these programs to exist when they need them.

Audit Government Spending

Every major federal department and agency should be capable of demonstrating where taxpayer money goes.

Government financial systems should be modernized so expenditures can be accurately tracked. Agencies that repeatedly fail financial audits should be required to establish corrective-action plans with measurable deadlines and meaningful congressional oversight.

The Department of Defense should be held to these same principles while protecting legitimately classified national-security information.

If government cannot account for taxpayer money, government should not simply demand more of it.

Attack Waste, Fraud and Improper Payments

Government should aggressively identify and reduce fraudulent payments, duplicate programs, obsolete programs, procurement abuse, unnecessary contracts, administrative inefficiency, improper payments, and poorly managed projects.

Modern technology can help government identify fraud and duplication while appropriate safeguards protect Americans' privacy and due-process rights.

But eliminating waste alone will not solve America's entire fiscal problem.

Waste should be eliminated because taxpayers deserve it—not because politicians should pretend waste alone explains the national debt.

Serious fiscal policy requires confronting the larger structural issues as well.

Measure Outcomes, Not Just Spending

Washington too often measures commitment by the amount of money government spends. Demo-Public asks a different question:

What did Americans receive for the money?

Government programs should establish measurable objectives wherever reasonably possible. If spending increases but outcomes do not improve, government should determine why.

Programs that work should be preserved and improved. Programs that consistently fail should be reformed, consolidated, transferred where appropriate, or eliminated.

The objective is not cheaper government at any cost. It is better government at the best reasonable cost.

Reward Government Efficiency

Federal agencies should not be encouraged to waste remaining funds near the end of a fiscal year simply because unused money could reduce future budgets.

Government should reward efficiency rather than punish it. When agencies achieve their objectives below budget, legitimate savings should be returned to taxpayers, applied toward reducing deficits and debt, or transparently redirected toward higher national priorities.

Government should reward saving money—not reward spending it simply because it is available.

Periodically Review Federal Programs

Government programs should not automatically exist forever merely because Congress once created them.

Major programs should periodically be reviewed to determine whether the original need still exists, whether measurable results are being achieved, whether another agency performs the same function, whether the program could operate more efficiently, whether state or local government would be more appropriate, and whether the program continues serving a legitimate national purpose.

Programs that remain necessary and effective should continue. Programs that do not should be reformed or ended.

Responsible Taxation

Taxes are necessary to finance legitimate government. But government must remember that taxation represents resources earned by individuals and businesses.

The tax system should therefore be understandable, competitive, reasonably predictable, and capable of financing necessary government while minimizing unnecessary harm to work, investment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

The tax code should not become a collection of privileges available primarily to industries or individuals with enough political influence to obtain special treatment.

Americans in similar economic circumstances should generally play by similar rules.

We should simplify the tax system where practical, scrutinize special-interest provisions, reduce politically connected tax favoritism, and enforce tax laws consistently.

Economic Growth Is Part of Fiscal Responsibility

America cannot simply cut its way to prosperity. Nor can America tax its way to unlimited government.

Economic growth must therefore be an essential component of responsible fiscal policy. A larger and more productive economy creates stronger businesses, higher wages, greater investment, more employment, and a broader tax base.

Policies that encourage entrepreneurship, technological innovation, infrastructure, workforce development, domestic investment, energy abundance, housing construction, manufacturing, and productivity should therefore be viewed as part of America's long-term fiscal strategy.

The strongest fiscal foundation is a growing productive economy.

Invest Rather Than Simply Spend

Not all government expenditures have equal economic value. There is a meaningful difference between borrowing indefinitely to finance recurring expenses and investing in infrastructure or capabilities that may benefit Americans for decades.

Infrastructure, scientific research, modernization, cybersecurity, and other strategic investments can produce significant long-term benefits.

But government should not simply label spending an 'investment' to avoid scrutiny. Every major investment should still be evaluated according to its cost, expected benefit, risks, alternatives, and measurable results.

Investment requires evidence—not merely a government label.

Emergency Spending Must Eventually End

Temporary government programs have a tendency to become permanent.

Emergency spending enacted during wars, recessions, pandemics, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances should therefore include expiration provisions whenever practical.

If policymakers later believe an emergency program should become permanent, they should justify and finance it through the normal legislative process.

An emergency should not become a permanent excuse for higher spending.

Give Americans a National Receipt

Federal finances should be understandable to ordinary citizens—not only economists, accountants, and budget specialists.

The federal government should provide Americans with a clear annual financial summary explaining in understandable terms where federal revenue came from, where federal money was spent, the annual deficit or surplus, the national debt, major long-term government obligations, and significant financial risks facing future taxpayers.

Americans receive statements from banks, investment accounts, mortgages, and businesses. They should be able to understand the financial condition of their government as well.

Transparency creates accountability.

No Political Party Gets a Fiscal Exemption

Fiscal responsibility must apply equally to everyone.

Republicans cannot claim fiscal responsibility while supporting major unfunded tax reductions or spending increases. Democrats cannot claim fiscal responsibility while creating expensive new programs without sustainable financing. And Demo-Public must hold itself to exactly the same standard.

There is no conservative way or liberal way to make arithmetic disappear.

A policy either has a credible financial foundation or it does not.

The Demo-Public Fiscal Test

Before supporting major federal spending, taxation, or borrowing, Demo-Public should ask: Is it necessary? Is it an appropriate responsibility of the federal government? What will it cost? How will we pay for it? What measurable result should taxpayers expect? Could we accomplish the objective more efficiently? Does another government program already perform this function? Will it strengthen America's long-term productive capacity? What obligations are we transferring to future generations? How will Americans know whether it worked?

If government cannot adequately answer those questions, taxpayers have every reason to be skeptical.

The Demo-Public Fiscal Principle

We advocate funding the legitimate responsibilities of government.

We advocate protecting Social Security and Medicare, maintaining a strong national defense, and investing in America's infrastructure, people, innovation, and future where the evidence justifies doing so.

But every expenditure must ultimately answer to the people paying for it.

We advocate action against waste and fraud, meaningful audits, and reform of programs that consistently fail. We will challenge corporate subsidies and political favoritism.

We advocate confronting structural deficits rather than simply passing them to another administration, pursuing a tax system capable of financing legitimate government without unnecessarily suppressing economic opportunity, and policies that grow the economy.

And we will stop pretending that future generations should endlessly pay for political promises made today.

Government does not have its own money. It manages the people's money.

Every Dollar Deserves a Purpose.

Every Program Deserves Accountability.

Every Generation Deserves a Future It Can Afford.

Spend Wisely. Tax Fairly. Grow Strongly. Borrow Responsibly.

Solutions Before Ideology.

2. SOUND MONEY AND MONETARY FREEDOM

The power to create, regulate, and influence the value of America's money is among the greatest powers in our economic system. Monetary policy affects savings, wages, mortgages, investment, employment, government borrowing, and the purchasing power of every household.

Demo-Public believes monetary institutions must serve the long-term stability of the American people rather than short-term political interests or privileged financial institutions.

Sound Money Protects Working Americans

Persistent inflation functions like a hidden erosion of wages and savings. Americans who cannot easily hedge against inflation often bear the greatest burden.

A dollar earned and saved should not be casually devalued by irresponsible policy.

Reform the Central Banking System

Demo-Public supports a serious national review of the Federal Reserve and the broader central-banking framework, with the long-term objective of replacing excessive discretionary monetary power with a more transparent, rules-based, accountable system that protects price stability, financial resilience, and democratic oversight.

Any transition away from the existing central-banking model must be deliberate and technically credible. Abrupt abolition without a replacement framework could disrupt credit markets,

payments, bank liquidity, Treasury financing, and household savings. Reform must therefore specify how currency issuance, lender-of-last-resort functions, payments, bank supervision, and crisis liquidity would operate.

Congress Cannot Outsource Responsibility

Monetary reform cannot compensate for irresponsible fiscal policy. Congress and presidents must accept responsibility for structural deficits, debt accumulation, and laws that place unsustainable pressure on the financial system.

Transparency and Accountability

Major monetary decisions, emergency lending programs, asset purchases, and institutional conflicts should be subject to meaningful disclosure and oversight consistent with financial stability and legitimate market sensitivity.

No financial institution should assume that political influence guarantees rescue from reckless risk-taking. Emergency intervention, when genuinely necessary to protect the broader system, should protect the public rather than reward executives or investors for avoidable misconduct.

Monetary Freedom and Innovation

Americans should be able to use lawful forms of payment, savings, and financial technology subject to reasonable protections against fraud, money laundering, theft, and systemic risk. Government should not suppress innovation merely to preserve an incumbent financial structure.

Sound Money. Transparent Rules. No Privileged Bailouts. Responsible Transition.

Solutions Before Ideology.

3. HOUSING, HOMEOWNERSHIP AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Stable, attainable housing is foundational to family formation, economic mobility, community stability, and wealth creation. Demo-Public believes the American Dream should include a realistic path from renting to ownership for people who work, save, and act responsibly.

The American Dream should include a realistic path from renting to ownership.

Build More Housing

America cannot solve a housing shortage without building housing. States and localities should modernize zoning, permitting, density, parking, and land-use rules where they unnecessarily prevent reasonable housing supply while preserving legitimate community planning, infrastructure, safety, and environmental protections.

Federal incentives should reward jurisdictions that measurably reduce unnecessary barriers without imposing one national zoning code.

Starter Homes and First-Time Buyers

Policy should encourage construction and financing of smaller starter homes, townhomes, condominiums, manufactured and modular housing, accessory dwelling units, and other ownership options appropriate to local markets.

First-time-buyer assistance should expand access without simply bidding up prices; supply and affordability must rise together.

Protect Existing Homeowners

Property taxes, insurance costs, disaster risk, maintenance, and utility costs can make ownership unaffordable even after a mortgage is secured. Housing policy must address resilience, insurance-market stability, energy efficiency where cost-effective, and transparent taxation.

Institutional Ownership and Competition

Large investors should not automatically be prohibited from owning homes, but policymakers should scrutinize concentrated institutional ownership where credible evidence shows it is materially reducing local competition, manipulating rents, or crowding out owner-occupants. Antitrust principles should apply to housing markets too.

Homelessness and Housing Instability

Homelessness has multiple causes and requires different responses: housing supply, short-term financial crisis assistance, mental-health and addiction treatment, domestic-violence services, veteran support, and public-safety enforcement when laws are violated. One solution cannot fit every circumstance.

The Demo-Public Housing Principle

Government should expand supply, remove unnecessary barriers, protect property rights, encourage ownership, and target assistance where markets or circumstances genuinely fail — without turning housing into either an ideological government monopoly or an unregulated shelter for anticompetitive conduct.

Build More. Own More. Protect Property. Keep the American Dream Within Reach.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE AND REBUILDING AMERICA

Modern infrastructure is economic policy, national-security policy, and quality-of-life policy. America should build and maintain the physical systems that allow people, goods, information, energy, and water to move reliably.

Build What America Needs. Maintain What America Built. Stop Taking Decades to Approve It.

Maintain Before Failure

Federal infrastructure policy should place greater emphasis on maintenance, asset condition, and lifecycle cost. Deferred maintenance is often more expensive than timely repair.

Transportation and Freight

Roads, bridges, ports, airports, freight rail, and transit systems that demonstrate sufficient public value should be modernized to reduce congestion, strengthen commerce, and improve national resilience.

Water Infrastructure

Safe drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater systems, dams, reservoirs, and flood-control infrastructure are core public responsibilities. Water security should be planned regionally and with long-term drought, growth, and resilience needs in mind.

Broadband and Digital Infrastructure

High-speed connectivity is increasingly essential for education, healthcare, commerce, agriculture, and public safety. Public policy should encourage competitive broadband deployment and target persistent unserved areas without permanently subsidizing monopoly providers.

Permitting Reform

Major projects should receive rigorous but timely environmental, engineering, and public review. Agencies should coordinate reviews, publish timelines, resolve duplicative requirements, and make final decisions within reasonable periods.

Buy American Strategically

Taxpayer-funded infrastructure should support American production where quality, capacity, national security, and reasonable cost justify it, while avoiding rigid rules that unnecessarily delay projects or create protected monopolies.

Infrastructure Is an Investment Only When It Is Built Well, Maintained Well, and Actually Used.

5. AMERICAN MANUFACTURING, TRADE AND STRATEGIC SUPPLY CHAINS

America should remain open to trade and global competition while refusing to become strategically dependent on hostile or unreliable governments for goods essential to national security and economic continuity.

Free Trade Where Possible. Fair Trade Always. Strategic Independence Where Necessary.

Rebuild Strategic Capacity

Semiconductors, critical minerals, essential medicines, defense components, grid equipment, energy technologies, communications systems, and other truly strategic sectors should have resilient domestic or trusted-allied supply chains.

Trade Is a Tool, Not an Ideology

Trade expands markets and lowers costs when rules are fair. Blanket protectionism can raise prices and weaken competition. Blanket free-trade assumptions can also ignore national-security risk and foreign coercion.

Target Unfair Practices

The United States should respond proportionately to dumping, coercive state subsidies, intellectual-property theft, forced technology transfer, sanctions evasion, and other demonstrably unfair practices.

Tariffs Require a Test

Tariffs may sometimes be appropriate, but they should identify a specific objective, expected cost to American consumers and producers, measurable success criteria, and an exit strategy. They should not become permanent taxes without evaluation.

Workforce and Productivity

Manufacturing policy must include skilled trades, engineering, apprenticeships, automation, energy reliability, logistics, and productivity rather than simply subsidizing factories.

Compete Through Strength

The long-term answer to global competition is a more productive America: affordable energy, strong infrastructure, excellent workers, capital formation, innovation, rule of law, and predictable policy.

6. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL AMERICA

A nation that cannot reliably feed itself cannot be fully independent. Farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers, processors, distributors, and rural communities are essential to American security and prosperity.

Protect the Farmer. Preserve Competition. Secure America's Food Supply.

Competitive Agricultural Markets

Antitrust and market-transparency rules should address anticompetitive concentration in seeds, inputs, processing, meatpacking, distribution, and other sectors where excessive market power can disadvantage independent producers.

Farm Risk and Crop Insurance

Well-designed crop insurance and disaster programs can protect producers from catastrophic events without guaranteeing profits or removing normal business risk.

Water and Soil Stewardship

Agricultural policy should support practical conservation, soil health, water efficiency, watershed protection, and technology that improves production while respecting private property and local conditions.

Rural Infrastructure

Rural communities need reliable roads, bridges, broadband, healthcare access, schools, power, and water systems to remain economically viable.

Farm Succession and Ownership

Policy should help family farms remain economically viable across generations and scrutinize foreign state-linked acquisition of strategically important agricultural land, especially near sensitive infrastructure.

Energy as an Additional Farm Opportunity

Farmers and landowners should be free to pursue agrivoltaics, distributed generation, bioenergy, storage, and other energy opportunities where voluntarily chosen, economically viable, and compatible with responsible land use.

Agricultural Labor

Legal seasonal and agricultural worker programs should be efficient enough to meet genuine labor needs while protecting lawful wages, worker safety, and domestic labor standards.

A Nation That Can Feed Itself Is a Nation Better Able to Defend Itself.

7. POVERTY, ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND THE SAFETY NET

Compassion With Responsibility

The Demo-Public Conservative Social Framework

Security When Necessary. A Ladder Whenever Possible.

A prosperous and compassionate society should protect people from destitution while helping every person capable of greater independence move toward it.

Demo-Public rejects the false choice between abandoning Americans during genuine hardship and creating systems that encourage permanent government dependency. We believe government should provide a dependable foundation of security and opportunity while individuals, families, communities, businesses, and civic institutions retain primary responsibility for building stable and productive lives.

A responsible safety net protects human dignity, addresses legitimate need, rewards work, strengthens families, respects taxpayers, and provides a pathway toward independence whenever independence is reasonably possible.

Protect Those Who Cannot Reasonably Provide for Themselves

People with severe disabilities, vulnerable children, frail seniors, veterans in need, and others facing circumstances beyond their reasonable control deserve a humane, dependable, and accessible safety net.

The strength of a nation is demonstrated in part by how it treats people who genuinely cannot protect or provide for themselves. Assistance for these Americans should not be accompanied by unnecessary stigma or unreasonable administrative barriers.

Help Families Recover From Temporary Hardship

Job loss, illness, family crisis, natural disaster, caregiving responsibilities, or economic downturn can temporarily overwhelm responsible individuals and households.

Public assistance should help stabilize families during these periods while supporting their return to employment, financial security, and independence whenever circumstances permit. Needing temporary help should never be treated as a moral failure.

Make Work and Advancement Worthwhile

Government programs should never leave someone financially worse off for accepting a job, working additional hours, earning a raise, or pursuing a promotion.

Where practical, benefits should phase out gradually and predictably as household income increases. Eligibility rules should reward upward mobility instead of creating benefit cliffs that discourage work and trap families between poverty and independence.

Work should always provide a meaningful path forward.

Connect Assistance With Opportunity

Able adults receiving long-term public assistance should have access to employment services, education, vocational training, childcare support where necessary, transportation solutions, rehabilitation services, and coordinated case management.

When circumstances reasonably permit, continued long-term assistance may include an expectation that recipients work, pursue education or training, actively seek employment, care for dependents, participate in rehabilitation, or contribute through appropriate community service.

Reasonable exceptions must be maintained for disability, serious illness, advanced age, caregiving responsibilities, temporary crisis, and other legitimate barriers to participation.

Strengthen Families and Communities

Government should support families and communities without attempting to replace them.

Families, local organizations, faith-based institutions, charities, nonprofits, employers, and community networks frequently understand local needs better than distant bureaucracies. Public programs should cooperate with these institutions while ensuring that vulnerable Americans are not abandoned when private or local resources are insufficient.

Federal policy should establish essential protections and responsible standards while allowing states and communities reasonable flexibility to address local conditions.

Prevent Dependency Before It Begins

The most effective social policy is often the policy that prevents people from falling into long-term hardship.

Affordable education and job training, access to essential healthcare, reliable transportation, childcare, safe housing, financial literacy, recovery services, and opportunities for small-business ownership can help Americans achieve stability before emergency assistance becomes a permanent necessity.

Government should focus not only on managing poverty, but on removing reasonable barriers to economic mobility.

Measure Results, Not Enrollment

The success of a social program should not be judged primarily by how much money it spends or how many people it enrolls.

Programs should measure whether participants gain employment, income, skills, stable housing, improved health, family stability, and lasting independence. Programs that consistently fail to produce meaningful results should be reformed, consolidated, transferred closer to the communities they serve, or ended.

Public compassion must be accompanied by public accountability.

Protect Taxpayers and Program Integrity

Fraud, abuse, duplication, excessive administration, and improper payments weaken public confidence and divert resources away from people who genuinely need assistance.

Government agencies must use clear eligibility standards, effective oversight, transparent reporting, secure verification systems, and regular independent evaluations. Administrative requirements should protect program integrity without making legitimate assistance unnecessarily difficult to obtain.

Accountability applies equally to recipients, government agencies, contractors, and elected officials.

Preserve Earned Protections

Social Security and Medicare are commitments made to Americans who contributed throughout their working lives. They should not be treated as ordinary public-assistance programs or used to stigmatize retired Americans.

These programs must be preserved for current and future generations through responsible, transparent, and financially sustainable reforms consistent with the platform's separate Social Security and Medicare commitments.

Require Fiscal Sustainability

Every permanent social commitment should include a credible and transparent method of funding it.

Compassion without financial discipline eventually threatens the very programs vulnerable Americans depend upon. Policymakers must identify costs, measure results, eliminate waste, and avoid promises that cannot be maintained over time.

Government is responsible for protecting both people in need and the taxpayers whose work makes public assistance possible.

Govern With Dignity, Compassion and Responsibility

Americans facing hardship should be treated with dignity. Americans capable of moving toward independence should be given the tools, opportunity, and reasonable expectation to do so. Taxpayers should be able to trust that their contributions are being used effectively and honestly.

The Demo-Public position is neither abandonment nor unlimited dependency. It is compassion joined with responsibility, opportunity joined with accountability, and security joined with a pathway forward.

A hand up when possible. A safety net when necessary. A permanent commitment to dignity, work, and responsibility.

Compassion Must Protect People. Opportunity Must Help Them Rise.

PART II — RIGHTS, FAMILIES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

POLICY FRAMEWORK: 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.

8. STRONG FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

Strong families and strong communities are among the most important foundations of a healthy society. Government cannot manufacture loving families, trusted neighborhoods, civic responsibility, or belonging—but public policy can either strengthen or unnecessarily weaken the conditions in which they flourish.

Families Come with Responsibilities

Parents and guardians carry the primary responsibility for raising children, providing care, setting expectations, teaching values, and preparing young people for adulthood. Government should respect that role while protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and serious harm.

Mothers and fathers both matter, and both should be expected to accept responsibility for the children they create. Family policy should encourage committed parenting without stigmatizing children or families whose circumstances differ.

Make Family Formation More Attainable

Housing costs, childcare, healthcare, education, transportation, and unstable employment can make marriage and raising children increasingly difficult. Economic policy should therefore consider whether ordinary working families can realistically build stable lives.

The answer is not simply another government program. It includes abundant housing, strong wages, flexible childcare options, competitive healthcare, safe communities, quality schools, and economic opportunity.

Civil Society Matters

Churches, charities, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, sports organizations, volunteer associations, local businesses, and civic institutions often solve problems with trust and local knowledge that distant government cannot reproduce.

A strong society requires institutions between the individual and the state.

Support Caregivers and Older Americans

Families caring for children, aging parents, disabled relatives, or veterans perform work of enormous social value. Public policy should avoid unnecessary barriers that make responsible caregiving harder and should coordinate essential services more effectively.

Community Safety and Belonging

Healthy communities require safe public spaces, functioning schools, accessible recreation, local commerce, civic participation, and confidence that laws will be enforced fairly.

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Strong America.

Solutions Before Ideology.

Children, Foster Care and Adoption

Children have no control over the circumstances into which they are born. Public policy should protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, and severe deprivation while respecting the primary role of families whenever children can be kept safely with them.

Foster care should prioritize safety, stability, kinship placements where appropriate, timely permanency decisions, and support for foster families. Young people aging out of care should receive practical transition support involving housing, education, employment, healthcare, and financial literacy.

Adoption should remain rigorous enough to protect children and biological parents while eliminating unnecessary delays and bureaucratic barriers for qualified families.

Every Child Deserves Protection, Opportunity, and a Genuine Chance to Succeed.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Constitution belongs to every American.

Demo-Public will defend freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, due process, privacy, peaceful assembly, and the other individual liberties protected by the Constitution.

We also affirm the individual right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment. That right must not disappear simply because firearms are controversial or because political leadership changes.

At the same time, recognizing a constitutional right does not require government to ignore its responsibility to protect the public.

The Demo-Public position is therefore both pro-Second Amendment and pro-public safety.

We reject the false choice that Americans must choose between protecting constitutional gun ownership and protecting their families and communities from preventable gun violence. We can—and should—do both.

Protect the Rights of Law-Abiding Gun Owners

Americans who lawfully purchase, possess, collect, hunt with, train with, or use firearms for legitimate self-defense should not be treated as criminals merely for exercising a constitutional right.

Gun laws should focus primarily on dangerous conduct and demonstrably dangerous individuals, rather than unnecessarily burdening responsible citizens. Government should not use regulation as an indirect mechanism to eliminate a constitutional right that it could not constitutionally abolish directly.

Effective Background Checks

Demo-Public supports effective background checks for commercial firearm sales and supports closing reasonable loopholes that allow prohibited individuals to deliberately circumvent those protections.

Implementation should be practical and include appropriate protections for legitimate temporary transfers, inheritance, and other reasonable circumstances. Background-check systems should be adequately funded and updated so that legally disqualifying information is actually available when a firearm purchase is reviewed.

Keep Firearms Away From Dangerous Individuals

Individuals convicted of serious violent crimes and other persons legally determined through appropriate due process to present a serious danger to themselves or others should not have unrestricted access to firearms.

We support carefully constructed extreme-risk protection laws when they contain strong due-process protections, including credible evidence, judicial review, clearly defined standards,

meaningful opportunities to challenge an order, penalties for knowingly false accusations, limited duration, and procedures for restoring firearm rights when the legal justification no longer exists.

Public safety must never become an excuse to eliminate due process.

Enforce the Laws We Already Have

Before continually creating new restrictions on responsible firearm owners, government should effectively enforce existing laws against illegal firearm trafficking, straw purchasing, firearms used during violent crimes, possession by legally prohibited violent offenders, and organized criminal distribution of illegal weapons.

A law that exists on paper but is rarely enforced does little to protect anyone.

Responsible Gun Ownership

Rights carry responsibilities.

Demo-Public should promote responsible firearm ownership through firearms education, voluntary safety training, secure-storage education, and wider public understanding of firearm safety.

We should encourage responsible storage—particularly in homes where children or unauthorized individuals may gain access—while respecting constitutional protections and legitimate defensive needs.

Mental Health, Schools and Early Intervention

Gun violence cannot be addressed solely through gun legislation. Suicide, domestic violence, gang activity, organized crime, school violence, behavioral crises, and ordinary criminal violence have different causes and require different solutions.

We support improved access to mental-health services, credible-threat assessment, intervention programs, school-security planning, domestic-violence prevention, community violence intervention where evidence demonstrates effectiveness, and better coordination when authorities receive credible warnings of imminent violence.

Government should intervene against credible threats, not unpopular opinions.

Evidence Before Ideology

Firearm policy should be evaluated using reliable evidence. If a proposed law meaningfully reduces violence while respecting constitutional rights and due process, we should consider it. If a restriction primarily burdens law-abiding citizens while producing little measurable improvement in public safety, we should reconsider it.

And if an existing law does not work, political pride should not prevent us from changing it.

That is what Solutions Before Ideology means.

The Demo-Public Principle

Government carries the burden of respecting the Constitution. Government also carries the responsibility of protecting its citizens. Neither responsibility eliminates the other.

We will not demonize millions of responsible gun owners because criminals misuse firearms. We will not ignore preventable violence simply because addressing it is politically difficult.

We advocate protecting the constitutional rights of responsible Americans, enforcing laws against those who use firearms to harm others, using due process when restricting an individual's rights, and investing in prevention, mental health, responsible ownership, and effective law enforcement. We will judge firearm policies by constitutional legitimacy and measurable results rather than partisan ideology.

Protect the Right. Protect the Citizen. Preserve Due Process.

Rights and Responsibility. Liberty and Safety.

10. REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, HUMAN LIFE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A Demo-Public Statement on Abortion

Demo-Public recognizes abortion as one of the most difficult moral, personal, medical, and constitutional questions facing our country.

We recognize that Americans of good faith can hold deeply different beliefs about when developing human life should receive legal protection and how those protections should be balanced against the liberty and bodily autonomy of a pregnant woman.

We reject the political extremes that demand Americans choose between believing that a woman has no meaningful reproductive autonomy and believing that developing human life has no legitimate moral significance.

We recognize the liberty and dignity of the woman.

We recognize the value and increasing moral significance of developing human life.

Responsible public policy must attempt to respect both.

Protect Reproductive Liberty

Demo-Public does not support an absolute government prohibition on abortion beginning at conception.

During the earlier stages of pregnancy, a woman should retain meaningful freedom to make deeply personal reproductive decisions in consultation with her medical professionals, family, faith, conscience, and others she chooses to involve.

Government should exercise humility before inserting itself into such intimate decisions.

But reproductive liberty exists within a society that also has legitimate interests in protecting human life. As pregnancy progresses and fetal development advances, we believe the government's legitimate interest in protecting developing human life becomes stronger.

Our position recognizes greater reproductive freedom earlier in pregnancy and increasingly stronger protections for developing life later in pregnancy.

Reasonable Limits Later in Pregnancy

Demo-Public supports reasonable restrictions on elective abortion later in pregnancy, particularly after fetal viability, while preserving clear and workable exceptions for serious medical circumstances.

No law should prevent physicians from providing necessary care when a pregnancy threatens the life or serious health of the mother.

Doctors acting reasonably and in good faith during genuine medical emergencies should not be forced to delay necessary treatment because they fear prosecution for exercising legitimate medical judgment.

No woman should have to be dying before her doctor is permitted to protect her life or prevent serious harm.

We also support appropriate exceptions in cases of rape and incest. Victims of sexual violence deserve compassion and should not be forced by government into a single outcome following circumstances they did not choose.

Medical Decisions Require Medical Judgment

Elected officials have a legitimate responsibility to establish laws. They should not attempt to practice medicine.

When serious pregnancy complications arise, medical decisions should principally involve the patient and qualified healthcare professionals operating within reasonable legal and professional standards.

Legislation should establish clear boundaries so physicians understand the law and patients understand their rights. Ambiguous laws that cause doctors to delay medically necessary treatment serve neither the protection of life nor the protection of women.

Freedom of Conscience

Demo-Public recognizes that abortion raises profound questions of conscience.

Medical professionals with sincere moral or religious objections should not ordinarily be compelled to personally perform elective abortions, provided appropriate protections exist for emergency care and patients' lawful access to medical services.

At the same time, one person's religious convictions should not automatically become another American's legal obligations.

Freedom of conscience must protect Americans on both sides of this issue.

Make Abortion Less Necessary

Demo-Public believes America's abortion debate has focused too heavily on what happens after an unintended pregnancy occurs and not enough on preventing the circumstances that create the crisis in the first place.

Regardless of whether someone identifies as pro-life, pro-choice, or somewhere between those positions, there should be considerable common ground around reducing unintended pregnancies and making abortion less necessary.

That means improving access to responsible family planning and contraception; better reproductive and health education; strengthening prenatal and maternal healthcare; encouraging responsible fatherhood; enforcing child-support responsibilities; improving adoption; helping women facing serious financial hardship during pregnancy; and addressing childcare and other economic pressures that can make a woman believe abortion is her only realistic choice.

A woman who wants to carry her child to term should never feel economically forced into an abortion she does not want.

Responsibility Does Not End at Birth

Those who argue that unborn human life deserves protection must also recognize that protecting life creates responsibilities after a child is born.

Children need healthcare, food, safe homes, education, responsible parents, and protection from circumstances they did not create.

If we say human life has value before birth, our concern for that life cannot end at birth.

Likewise, supporting reproductive freedom should mean more than defending the legal ability to obtain an abortion. It should mean creating circumstances in which women have genuine choices rather than choices dictated by poverty, fear, abuse, lack of healthcare, or abandonment.

Fathers Have Responsibilities Too

Pregnancy should not be treated exclusively as a woman's responsibility when two people created the pregnancy.

Men have moral and legal responsibilities toward the children they father. Demo-Public supports strong and fair enforcement of paternal responsibility and child-support obligations.

A political culture that speaks constantly about women's reproductive responsibility while ignoring men's responsibility is incomplete.

Adoption as a Meaningful Alternative

Adoption should become a more realistic option for women who do not wish to terminate a pregnancy but are unable or unwilling to raise a child.

America should work to make responsible adoption more efficient and affordable while maintaining rigorous safeguards protecting children and biological parents.

Pregnant women considering adoption should receive accurate information, appropriate support, and protection against coercion. Qualified families willing to provide loving homes should not face unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.

Prevention Before Prohibition

Demo-Public believes success should not be measured solely by how many abortions government prohibits.

We should also ask: How many unintended pregnancies did we prevent? How many women received adequate prenatal care? How many mothers who wanted their children were able to keep them? How many fathers accepted responsibility? How many children found loving adoptive families? How many maternal and infant deaths did we prevent?

How did our policies improve human life?

That is a better measure of success than partisan victory.

The Demo-Public Principle

We will not pretend abortion is morally insignificant. We will not pretend a woman's liberty is insignificant.

We will not demonize Americans who sincerely believe abortion ends a human life, and we will not demonize Americans who sincerely believe government should not control a woman's most intimate medical decisions.

We will recognize reproductive liberty earlier in pregnancy and an increasing societal interest in protecting developing human life as pregnancy advances.

We will support reasonable later-term restrictions with meaningful protections for the life and serious health of the mother and appropriate exceptions for rape and incest.

We will respect legitimate medical judgment, protect freedom of conscience, promote responsible fatherhood, improve adoption, support mothers who want to choose life, and work to reduce unintended pregnancies.

Fewer unintended pregnancies. Fewer abortions. Healthier mothers. Healthier children. Stronger families.

Our objective should not be to declare one political side victorious. Our objective should be to create a society in which liberty is respected, human life is valued, personal responsibility is expected, and fewer Americans ever have to confront this painful decision.

Protect Liberty. Respect Life. Support Mothers. Expect Responsibility.

Compassion Before Condemnation. Prevention Before Prohibition.

Solutions Before Ideology.

11. HEALTHCARE: CHOICE, COMPETITION AND A PUBLIC OPTION

Healthcare should be judged by outcomes—not political ideology.

Every American should have reasonable access to quality healthcare without facing financial devastation because they become sick or injured.

Demo-Public rejects the false choice that America must choose between an entirely government-run healthcare system and a healthcare system controlled exclusively by private insurers.

We believe Americans should have another choice.

We support exploring the creation of a voluntary government-administered public health insurance option that would operate alongside—not automatically replace—private health insurance.

Americans could choose among private insurance, employer-sponsored insurance, qualifying existing public programs, or the public option for which they are eligible.

The choice should belong to the individual—not the government and not the insurance company.

A Public Option—Not Mandatory Government Healthcare

Participation in the public option should be voluntary.

Americans satisfied with private or employer-sponsored insurance should be free to keep it. Private insurers should remain free to compete for customers. Employers should remain able to provide private health benefits. Individuals should have meaningful alternatives when private coverage is unaffordable or inadequate.

The objective should not be to eliminate private insurance.

The objective should be to make every insurer—public or private—compete for the American patient.

Competition Must Apply to Government Too

Creating a public option does not mean giving government a blank check.

A public plan should operate under transparent accounting and clearly disclose its premiums, benefits, administrative expenses, taxpayer subsidies, reimbursement structure, and financial performance.

Its results should be measured against private alternatives.

If the public option provides better value, Americans should be allowed to choose it. If private insurers provide better value, Americans should be allowed to choose them. And if either system performs poorly, it should be expected to improve.

Competition should discipline both corporations and government.

Protect Patients With Preexisting Conditions

Americans should not become effectively uninsurable simply because they become sick.

Healthcare markets should include reasonable protections for people with preexisting medical conditions while developing financing mechanisms that distribute the extraordinary costs associated with serious illness without making ordinary coverage unaffordable.

Prescription-Drug and Hospital Pricing Reform

Healthcare reform must address the cost of healthcare itself—not merely determine who pays the bill.

We support greater transparency and competition involving prescription drugs, hospital pricing, insurance networks, medical procedures, pharmacy-benefit management, administrative expenses, and other major healthcare costs.

Patients should be able to understand the likely cost of nonemergency medical care before receiving it whenever reasonably possible.

Preserve Medicare and Medicaid

A new public option should not automatically eliminate Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' healthcare, or other existing public programs.

Those programs should be evaluated and improved according to their respective purposes.

A voluntary public option could instead become another component of a broader competitive healthcare marketplace.

Encourage Innovation

America should continue encouraging medical research, pharmaceutical innovation, biotechnology, telemedicine, artificial intelligence, improved preventive medicine, and new healthcare-delivery models.

Cost control should not destroy the incentives that produce lifesaving innovation.

But innovation cannot become an excuse for monopoly pricing, anticompetitive behavior, or lack of transparency.

The Demo-Public Healthcare Test

Instead of beginning with whether a proposal is government healthcare or private healthcare, we should ask:

Does it provide quality care?

Can Americans afford it?

Does it preserve meaningful choice?

Does it encourage competition?

Does it protect patients?

Is its financing transparent and sustainable?

Does it produce better measurable outcomes?

If the answer is yes, we should be willing to consider it regardless of which political party originally proposed the idea.

The Demo-Public Principle

Healthcare illustrates exactly why Demo-Public exists.

One side should not automatically reject a public healthcare option simply because government is involved. The other side should not automatically reject private healthcare simply because businesses are involved.

Let both compete.

Let private insurers demonstrate that they can provide better coverage and service. Let a public option demonstrate whether it can provide affordable and efficient coverage. Give Americans transparent information about both.

Let Americans Choose.

Public When It Works. Private When It Works. Both When Competition Works Better.

Better Healthcare. More Choice. Sustainable Costs.

Solutions Before Ideology.

12. SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE: A PROMISE AMERICA MUST KEEP

Earned Benefits Are Not Political Bargaining Chips

Social Security and Medicare are not ordinary government programs. For generations, American workers have paid into these systems throughout their working lives with the understanding that

Social Security would provide a foundation of retirement security and Medicare would help ensure access to healthcare as they grow older.

Demo-Public considers that commitment a national promise that must be honored.

Social Security and Medicare must be preserved, protected, and strengthened for current retirees and future generations.

Americans who worked, contributed, planned their retirements, and organized their lives around these programs should never have to wonder whether Washington will suddenly change the rules after decades of contributions.

Protect Current Retirees

Demo-Public opposes policies that would arbitrarily reduce promised Social Security or Medicare benefits for Americans already retired or approaching retirement. These Americans made financial decisions based upon commitments made by their government.

Government must keep its word.

Social Security benefits should continue to provide meaningful protection against poverty and financial insecurity in retirement. Medicare should continue providing America's seniors with dependable access to healthcare.

Protect Social Security for Future Generations

Preserving Social Security does not mean ignoring its long-term financial challenges. Refusing to address those challenges would ultimately endanger the very program we are promising to protect.

Demo-Public supports a bipartisan, long-term solution that strengthens Social Security's finances while protecting the fundamental retirement guarantee.

Any reform should follow several principles: no sudden changes for retirees or Americans near retirement; protection of lower- and middle-income retirees from poverty; preservation of Social Security as a guaranteed foundation of retirement security; gradual and transparent implementation of any necessary long-term adjustments; and shared responsibility rather than placing the burden primarily on working families.

Reform should preserve Social Security—not dismantle it.

Medicare Is a Commitment to America's Seniors

Healthcare becomes increasingly important as Americans age. Medicare represents more than another federal expenditure; it provides millions of older Americans with healthcare security at the point in their lives when obtaining affordable private coverage would otherwise be especially difficult.

Demo-Public will defend Medicare while aggressively pursuing reforms that make the program financially sustainable and improve the quality and efficiency of care.

That includes addressing excessive administrative costs, fraud, improper payments, unnecessary bureaucracy, prescription-drug costs, anticompetitive practices, and healthcare pricing that provides poor value to patients and taxpayers.

Protecting Medicare requires protecting both the patient and the program itself.

Reform the Cost of Healthcare—not Simply the Benefits

When Medicare faces financial pressure, Washington too often debates what benefits should be reduced or how much more taxpayers should pay. Demo-Public believes government must also confront a more fundamental question:

Why does American healthcare cost so much?

Medicare reform should aggressively examine prescription-drug pricing, hospital consolidation, billing complexity, administrative overhead, fraud, medical monopolies, lack of price transparency, and other structural factors driving healthcare costs.

Before asking seniors to sacrifice benefits, government should demonstrate that it has aggressively addressed waste and excessive costs throughout the healthcare system.

Seniors should not become the first place Washington looks when government needs to balance its books.

Protect Americans Who Depend on These Programs

Social Security is not only a retirement program. It also provides important protections for qualifying disabled Americans and surviving spouses and children.

Demo-Public believes a compassionate society should protect people who have worked and contributed but experience circumstances that leave them unable to provide for themselves through no reasonable fault of their own.

No Privatization That Jeopardizes the Guarantee

Americans should be encouraged to build private retirement savings, own investments, participate in employer retirement plans, and accumulate wealth. But private savings should supplement Social Security—not eliminate its fundamental guarantee.

Demo-Public opposes replacing Social Security with a system that subjects Americans' basic retirement security entirely to stock-market performance.

Markets are powerful tools for building wealth. They should not determine whether an 80-year-old American can pay for groceries.

Social Security Is a Foundation—not a Complete Retirement Plan

Protecting Social Security does not mean government should become responsible for every American's entire retirement. We should simultaneously encourage personal savings, pensions, 401(k)s, IRAs, investment, homeownership, financial literacy, and other forms of long-term wealth creation.

A guaranteed foundation combined with individual opportunity.

Social Security provides the foundation. Personal savings and investment create additional independence and prosperity.

Stop Using These Programs as Political Weapons

Social Security and Medicare are too important to become recurring instruments of partisan fear. Politicians should not frighten seniors every election while refusing to address legitimate long-term financial problems themselves.

Demo-Public will support serious bipartisan negotiations designed to protect these programs for generations. Major reforms should be transparent, the numbers should be public, the tradeoffs should be explained honestly, and Americans should be given sufficient time to understand proposed changes.

No surprise cuts. No political games. No pretending the financial challenges do not exist.

The Demo-Public Generational Promise

A country should be judged partly by whether one generation keeps its commitments to another. Today's retirees helped build the economy, communities, infrastructure, businesses, institutions, and country inherited by younger Americans. Today's workers are now financing commitments made to those generations, and tomorrow's workers deserve confidence that the system will also exist for them.

Long-term thinking.

We must protect today's retirees while making responsible decisions that prevent today's promises from becoming tomorrow's financial crisis. These objectives are not contradictory. They are the essence of responsible government.

The Demo-Public Principle

We advocate protecting Social Security and Medicare and honoring the benefits Americans have earned.

We advocate protecting current retirees and those approaching retirement from sudden changes and addressing the programs' long-term financial challenges rather than pretending they do not exist.

We advocate addressing healthcare costs, waste, fraud, and inefficiency before asking seniors to sacrifice. We will encourage Americans to build personal wealth and retirement savings in addition to Social Security.

And we will pursue bipartisan reforms when necessary to ensure these programs remain available not merely for the next election—but for the next generation.

A Promise Earned. A Promise Kept.

Protect Social Security. Protect Medicare. Protect America's Seniors.

Preserve the Guarantee. Strengthen the Future.

Solutions Before Ideology.

13. EDUCATION: EXCELLENCE, OPPORTUNITY AND GREAT TEACHERS

Education should prepare young Americans to think—not tell them what to think.

A strong education system is one of the most important investments a nation can make in its economic prosperity, national security, technological leadership, and future generations.

Students should graduate with strong foundations in reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, civics, technology, financial literacy, and critical thinking.

College should remain one pathway to success—not the only pathway.

Vocational education, apprenticeships, skilled trades, entrepreneurship, and technical careers deserve equal respect.

But none of these objectives can be achieved without excellent educators.

Great Schools Require Great Teachers

Teachers are among the professionals most directly responsible for preparing the next generation of Americans.

We cannot expect to consistently attract talented people into teaching, retain experienced educators, demand high professional standards, and address teacher shortages while failing to make teaching a financially competitive career.

Better education requires better educators—and attracting and retaining better educators requires competitive compensation.

Demo-Public therefore supports increasing teacher compensation where salaries have failed to remain competitive with comparable professions, while recognizing that public education is primarily administered at the state and local levels.

Federal policy should encourage and support states and communities that develop sustainable strategies for improving educator compensation without imposing a one-size-fits-all national salary system.

Pay Teachers Like Professionals—and Treat Them Like Professionals

Increasing compensation should be part of a broader commitment to elevating teaching as a profession.

Teachers should have opportunities to earn greater compensation based upon factors such as experience, advanced qualifications, demonstrated classroom excellence, mentoring and leadership, teaching in high-need communities, and working in subjects experiencing serious teacher shortages.

Exceptional teachers should have meaningful opportunities to advance professionally without having to leave the classroom to earn substantially more money.

Our best teachers should not have to become administrators simply to earn professional-level compensation.

Higher Pay Must Accompany Higher Standards

Supporting teachers does not mean abandoning accountability.

If society is going to invest substantially more in the teaching profession, Americans should reasonably expect high professional standards in return.

Teachers should be evaluated fairly and meaningfully—not merely through standardized test scores, but through multiple measures of professional effectiveness.

Excellent educators should be recognized and rewarded. Teachers who need improvement should receive meaningful support and professional development. When serious, persistent underperformance continues despite reasonable assistance and due process, school systems must retain the ability to make personnel changes.

Better Pay. Higher Standards. Greater Respect. Greater Accountability.

Let Teachers Teach

Compensation alone will not solve teacher shortages or improve education.

Teachers frequently face excessive administrative paperwork, classroom behavioral problems, inadequate support, constantly changing mandates, and requirements that consume time without improving student learning.

We should reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and give educators greater ability to concentrate on what they were trained to do:

Teach.

Teachers should have administrative support when dealing with serious classroom disruptions, while students must be treated fairly and appropriately.

A small number of persistently disruptive situations should not be permitted to undermine the education of an entire classroom.

Recruit the Next Generation of Great Teachers

America should make teaching attractive to talented young people again.

We should explore targeted approaches such as scholarships, teacher preparation partnerships, apprenticeships, loan assistance tied to meaningful public service, and incentives for educators willing to teach in high-need schools or shortage areas such as mathematics, science, special education, and career and technical education.

These programs should be evaluated according to whether they actually improve recruitment and retention—not simply according to how much money they spend.

Parents, Teachers and Students Are Partners

Parents should have meaningful involvement in their children's education.

Teachers deserve professional respect and reasonable authority in their classrooms.

Students deserve safe schools, excellent instruction, and high expectations.

School administrators must be accountable for creating environments in which teachers can teach and students can learn.

These groups should not be treated as political adversaries. They are partners in the same mission.

The Demo-Public Principle

Education policy should not begin with the question: “What does the teachers union want?” Nor should it begin with: “How do we weaken teachers unions?”

It should begin with:

What produces excellent teachers and better outcomes for students?

Sometimes that will mean spending more. Sometimes it will mean reforming how money is spent. Sometimes it will mean increasing salaries. Sometimes it will mean demanding greater accountability. Frequently it will require doing several of these things simultaneously.

We should be willing to invest substantially in teachers when that investment is connected to building a stronger educational system.

Education spending should not simply support institutions. It should develop people.

And among the most important people in that system are the men and women standing in America's classrooms every day.

Great Students Need Great Teachers.

Great Teachers Deserve Great Pay.

Excellence. Accountability. Opportunity.

Solutions Before Ideology.

Civic Education and Democratic Literacy

Education should prepare students not only for employment and higher education, but also for responsible citizenship. Students should understand how local, state, and federal government actually works; how laws and budgets are made; how to evaluate sources and political claims; how to participate peacefully; and why constitutional rights require civic responsibility.

A republic cannot remain healthy if each generation inherits its freedoms without learning how to maintain them.

14. MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION AND HOMELESSNESS

Mental illness, addiction, homelessness, poverty, and crime overlap in some cases but are not the same problem. Effective policy must distinguish them rather than forcing every crisis through either the criminal-justice system or a single social program.

Compassion Without Abandonment. Accountability Without Cruelty.

Earlier Access to Care

America should improve access to outpatient mental-health care, crisis stabilization, addiction treatment, recovery services, and evidence-based prevention before problems escalate into emergencies.

Serious Mental Illness

People with severe mental illness who repeatedly cycle through streets, emergency rooms, and jails may require more intensive treatment. States should maintain adequate treatment capacity, including inpatient care when clinically necessary and legally justified.

Due Process for Involuntary Intervention

Involuntary treatment or commitment is an extraordinary power and must require clear legal standards, professional evaluation, judicial review, the least restrictive appropriate setting, and meaningful opportunities to challenge continued confinement.

Addiction and Recovery

Addiction should be treated as a health condition when treatment is appropriate, while trafficking, theft, violence, and other crimes committed in connection with addiction remain subject to law.

Recovery policy should measure sustained recovery, employment, housing stability, and reduced overdose.

Homelessness Requires Different Tools

People temporarily priced out of housing may need rapid rehousing or short-term assistance. People experiencing severe mental illness or addiction may need treatment. Victims of domestic violence need safety. Chronic encampments creating genuine health or safety hazards cannot simply be ignored.

Public Space Belongs to the Public

Compassion for people in crisis is compatible with maintaining safe sidewalks, parks, transit, schools, and commercial districts. Communities should combine outreach and treatment capacity with fair enforcement of laws protecting public spaces.

15. TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The United States has a unique constitutional, legal, and treaty relationship with federally recognized Tribal Nations. Demo-Public believes those obligations should be treated seriously, transparently, and consistently.

Respect Tribal Sovereignty

Federal policy should respect lawful tribal self-government and government-to-government consultation where required, while recognizing the constitutional authority of the United States and applicable law.

Honor Treaty and Trust Obligations

Treaty promises and trust responsibilities should not be treated as optional political favors. Where obligations exist, government should administer them competently and accountably.

Economic Opportunity and Infrastructure

Tribal communities should have opportunities to build businesses, energy projects, housing, broadband, water systems, healthcare capacity, and other infrastructure according to local priorities and lawful governance.

Public Safety and Justice

Jurisdictional complexity should not leave victims without protection or allow serious crimes to fall through gaps between federal, state, local, and tribal authorities.

Preserve Culture Through Freedom

Native languages, cultural institutions, traditions, and religious practices should be protected through the same principle that protects all Americans: freedom of conscience, association, and community self-determination within constitutional law.

PART III — ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL RESILIENCE

16. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: COMPETITION, INNOVATION AND ENERGY FREEDOM

America should become the world's leading energy power while protecting the natural resources and communities on which our prosperity depends.

Demo-Public rejects the false choice between economic prosperity and environmental responsibility. We also reject the idea that America's energy future should be controlled by entrenched monopolies, political favoritism, or a single preferred technology.

We support an all-of-the-above American energy strategy that encourages reliability, affordability, competition, innovation, resilience, environmental responsibility, and national security.

Energy Freedom, Competition and the End of Unnecessary Monopolies

America's energy system should serve the American people—not protect entrenched business models from competition.

Regulated utilities have played an essential role in building and maintaining the infrastructure that powers our country. In some areas—particularly transmission and local electricity distribution—a regulated monopoly structure may remain economically necessary because duplicating entire networks of poles, wires, substations, and other infrastructure would be inefficient.

But a legitimate need for coordinated infrastructure must never become an excuse for unnecessary monopoly control over energy itself.

No company should be protected from competition simply because that is how the system has always operated.

Demo-Public supports modernizing America's energy markets to encourage competition, innovation, consumer choice, distributed generation, energy independence, and lower long-term costs while preserving grid reliability and public safety.

Separate the Grid From the Energy Marketplace

Owning or operating essential electrical infrastructure should not automatically give a utility unrestricted control over who may generate, store, sell, or purchase electricity.

Where economically and technically feasible, Americans should have greater freedom to obtain energy from competing sources while utilities continue to receive fair compensation for maintaining the infrastructure required to deliver it.

The electrical grid should increasingly function as a platform connecting energy producers and consumers, rather than merely as a mechanism protecting a single provider from competition.

Give Consumers More Energy Choice

Homeowners, businesses, farms, manufacturers, communities, and other property owners should have reasonable opportunities to generate their own electricity, install solar and other distributed-

energy resources, install battery storage, participate in microgrids, purchase electricity from competitive suppliers where practical, sell excess electricity under fair and transparent rules, and participate in emerging energy markets and technologies.

Utilities should not be permitted to impose unreasonable barriers whose primary purpose is protecting existing revenue rather than maintaining legitimate grid reliability, safety, or cost fairness.

The consumer should not exist to serve the utility. The utility exists to serve the consumer.

Fair Grid Access

Energy competition cannot work if the owner of essential infrastructure can unfairly prevent competitors from accessing it.

Utilities and transmission operators controlling essential infrastructure should provide qualifying energy producers with fair, transparent, and nondiscriminatory access under reasonable technical and safety standards.

Interconnection processes should be predictable and transparent. Fees should reflect legitimate costs. Applications should be processed within reasonable timeframes. Utilities should clearly explain technical denials rather than using unnecessary bureaucracy to discourage competing generation.

Modernize the Utility Business Model

Utilities must remain financially capable of maintaining reliable electrical infrastructure. Energy reform should therefore not simply destroy the traditional utility model without replacing the functions utilities perform.

Instead, we should modernize it.

Utilities can increasingly be compensated for maintaining resilient transmission and distribution networks, integrating distributed resources, strengthening cybersecurity, improving grid reliability, facilitating energy markets, and modernizing infrastructure.

Utilities should be rewarded for operating the best grid—not for preventing alternatives to it.

Encourage Distributed Energy and Microgrids

A more decentralized energy system can strengthen American resilience.

Solar generation, battery storage, microgrids, distributed generation, demand management, nuclear power, natural gas, geothermal energy, hydroelectric power, and emerging technologies can complement one another.

Hospitals, military installations, emergency facilities, businesses, neighborhoods, farms, data centers, and critical infrastructure should have reasonable opportunities to develop resilient energy systems capable of continuing to operate during broader grid disruptions.

Distributed generation should not automatically be viewed as a threat to utilities. It should be viewed as another component of a modern American energy system.

Protect Consumers From Both Private and Government Monopoly Power

Demo-Public's opposition to monopoly power is not limited to private corporations.

A government-owned energy provider can become inefficient or unaccountable just as a private monopoly can.

Therefore, public and private energy providers should both be judged according to reliability, affordability, transparency, environmental performance, customer service, infrastructure investment, and measurable results.

Competition should discipline corporations. Accountability should discipline government.

Energy Innovation Without Ideological Restrictions

We reject the idea that America's energy future must belong exclusively to fossil fuels or exclusively to renewable energy.

America should use the resources and technologies that provide reliable, affordable, increasingly clean, and strategically secure energy. That includes solar and battery storage, nuclear power, natural gas, geothermal, hydroelectric power, advanced grid technologies, distributed generation and microgrids, along with emerging technologies that prove economically and technically viable.

Energy technologies should compete based upon performance rather than political favoritism.

Government should establish reasonable safety and environmental standards, invest where legitimate national interests justify it, support basic research and infrastructure, and then allow American innovation to compete.

Environmental Responsibility

Greater energy competition does not mean eliminating environmental protections.

Energy producers must remain responsible for legitimate environmental impacts.

Environmental regulation should be based on measurable risks, sound science, and realistic cost-benefit analysis rather than being used to favor one technology or political constituency over another.

We can protect our air, water, land, and ecosystems while simultaneously expanding America's energy supply.

American Energy Independence and National Security

A competitive and diversified energy system is also a national-security asset.

America should reduce dangerous dependence on foreign governments for critical energy resources, fuels, minerals, equipment, components, and technologies.

Domestic production, diversified supply chains, recycling, manufacturing, energy storage, and technological innovation should form part of a long-term strategy for American energy security.

The Demo-Public Energy Principle

The question should not be: "Which energy industry should government protect?"

It should be:

How do we provide Americans with the most reliable, affordable, competitive, secure, and environmentally responsible energy system possible?

If traditional utilities provide the best solution, they should compete and succeed. If independent producers provide better solutions, they should have a reasonable opportunity to compete. If homeowners and businesses can economically produce some of their own energy, unnecessary barriers should not prevent them.

If new technologies outperform old technologies, government should not protect the old technology merely because it is established.

If essential infrastructure requires regulated monopoly characteristics, those monopoly powers should be narrowly defined, transparently regulated, and limited to what is actually necessary.

End Protected Energy Monopolies Where Competition Is Possible.

Regulate Essential Monopolies Where Competition Is Not Practical.

Open the Door to Innovation Everywhere Else.

Energy Choice. Energy Competition. Energy Independence.

Affordable. Reliable. Cleaner. Competitive. American.

Solutions Before Ideology.

17. TECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND A DIGITAL BILL OF RIGHTS

Technology should expand human freedom and opportunity rather than quietly erode privacy, competition, due process, or personal agency. America should lead the world in artificial intelligence and digital innovation while establishing clear rights for citizens in the digital age.

Innovate Freely. Protect Rights. Hold Power Accountable.

A Digital Bill of Rights

Americans should have meaningful rights to know what sensitive personal data is collected about them, obtain reasonable access to that data, correct material errors, understand significant uses, and request deletion where legitimate retention obligations do not require otherwise.

Companies should collect no more sensitive data than reasonably necessary for the service provided, secure it responsibly, and face consequences for reckless misuse or concealment of serious breaches.

AI Innovation and Competition

America should remain a global leader in AI research, computing, semiconductors, software, and applications. Regulation should target demonstrable risks rather than freeze today's technology or protect incumbent companies from future competitors.

Consequential Automated Decisions

When algorithms materially affect employment, credit, housing, insurance, healthcare, education, or government benefits, people should have reasonable notice, avenues to correct inaccurate data, and meaningful human review where stakes are significant.

Deepfakes, Fraud and Identity

Laws should clearly address malicious impersonation, AI-enabled fraud, nonconsensual intimate imagery, and deceptive synthetic media used to commit crimes or materially mislead voters about the authentic speech of candidates near elections, consistent with the First Amendment.

Children Online

Children deserve stronger privacy defaults, age-appropriate design, protections against exploitative data practices, and meaningful parental tools without requiring government surveillance of every user's identity.

Cybersecurity

Critical infrastructure, government, businesses, and households face growing cyber threats. National policy should strengthen cyber defense, information sharing, workforce development, software security, and resilience while protecting civil liberties.

Competition in Digital Markets

Dominant technology firms should not be punished simply for scale or success, but antitrust law should address exclusionary conduct, self-preferencing, collusion, or control of essential platforms when such conduct unlawfully suppresses competition.

Government Surveillance

Digital technology must not become a loophole around constitutional protections. Government access to sensitive communications and data should remain subject to lawful process, oversight, minimization, and accountability.

Your Rights Do Not Disappear Because Your Life Became Digital.

18. SCIENCE, RESEARCH, SPACE AND AMERICAN INNOVATION

America should remain the country where the future is invented. Scientific leadership strengthens health, prosperity, defense, energy security, and national influence.

Basic Research Is a National Asset

Markets excel at commercializing innovation, but basic research often produces benefits too distant or diffuse for private investment alone. Competitive federal research funding can be justified where national benefits are substantial and performance is rigorously evaluated.

Protect Scientific Integrity

Government should not manipulate scientific findings to fit political narratives. Researchers receiving public funds should disclose material conflicts, methods, and limitations consistent with security, privacy, and intellectual-property requirements.

Space Leadership

NASA, commercial space companies, universities, and defense programs should maintain American leadership in exploration, launch, communications, Earth observation, planetary science, and space

security. Government should purchase capabilities competitively where commercial alternatives exist.

Biotechnology, Quantum and Advanced Computing

The United States should support research ecosystems capable of leading in biotechnology, quantum technologies, advanced materials, robotics, nuclear science, and computing, with appropriate safeguards for biosecurity, cybersecurity, ethics, and national security.

Research Security Without Isolation

Foreign collaboration can accelerate science, but universities and laboratories must protect sensitive research, disclose foreign funding where required, and prevent theft of strategically important technology.

America Should Remain the Country Where the Future Is Invented.

19. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND NATIONAL RESILIENCE

A resilient nation prepares before disaster rather than relying exclusively on emergency spending afterward. Hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, pandemics, cyberattacks, grid failures, and other shocks require planning across government, infrastructure, businesses, and households.

Build for Known Risks

Federal incentives and infrastructure policy should encourage risk-based building standards, hardened utilities, flood and fire mitigation, resilient communications, and responsible land-use decisions where federal taxpayers bear recurring disaster costs.

Modernize FEMA and Emergency Response

Emergency agencies should be measured by speed, accuracy, logistics, fraud control, coordination, and recovery outcomes. Disaster assistance should be understandable and accessible without becoming an open-ended substitute for reasonable insurance and local preparedness.

Strategic Reserves and Supply Continuity

The United States should maintain credible plans for essential medicines, fuel, power equipment, communications, food logistics, and other critical supplies during major disruptions.

Grid and Cyber Resilience

Utilities and critical infrastructure operators should plan for restoration, black start, backup power, cybersecurity, spare equipment, and mutual assistance. Distributed energy and microgrids can strengthen resilience where economically appropriate.

Personal and Community Preparedness

Government cannot replace household and community preparedness. Public education should encourage realistic emergency plans, communications, supplies, and local volunteer networks.

Prepare Before the Crisis. Respond Competently. Rebuild Smarter.

PART IV — SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

20. IMMIGRATION AND THE BORDER

America is both a sovereign nation and a nation of immigrants. These principles are not contradictory.

A sovereign country has the right and responsibility to know who enters, control its borders, enforce immigration law, protect citizens from trafficking and criminal activity, and maintain an orderly legal immigration system. At the same time, immigration has strengthened America economically, culturally, scientifically, and civically for generations.

Secure the Border. Fix Legal Immigration. Enforce the Law. Preserve the American Dream.

Operational Control of the Border

The federal government should maintain sufficient personnel, technology, physical barriers where effective, surveillance, ports-of-entry capacity, detention resources, immigration courts, and interagency coordination to control unlawful entry and disrupt human trafficking, drug smuggling, and organized criminal networks.

Border security should be driven by operational needs and measurable results rather than slogans about either building barriers everywhere or rejecting physical infrastructure categorically.

Fix the Asylum System

People with legitimate claims to protection deserve a fair process. A system in which claims take years to resolve, however, encourages abuse and leaves legitimate applicants in uncertainty.

Congress should provide enough judges, officers, legal standards, and processing capacity to make asylum decisions substantially faster while preserving due process and humanitarian obligations.

Modernize Legal Immigration

America should maintain lawful pathways for family reunification, skilled workers, entrepreneurs, essential workers, seasonal labor, refugees, and others who strengthen the country, with levels and categories periodically reviewed according to national needs.

Legal immigration should be understandable, timely, enforceable, and difficult to exploit.

Employment Verification and Employer Accountability

Immigration enforcement cannot focus only on migrants while ignoring employers who knowingly and systematically violate employment law. A reliable employment-verification system should be paired with meaningful penalties for deliberate abuse and workable procedures for lawful employers.

A Practical Resolution for Long-Term Undocumented Residents

The country should distinguish between dangerous offenders, recent unlawful entrants, and long-term residents who have established deep ties, worked, raised families, and otherwise obeyed the law.

Dangerous criminals and serious security threats should be prioritized for removal. For qualifying long-term residents, Congress should consider an earned legal-status process requiring background checks, payment of taxes and appropriate penalties, continued law-abiding conduct, and other reasonable conditions. Such a process need not automatically provide immediate citizenship or place participants ahead of lawful applicants.

Dreamers

People brought to the United States unlawfully as children should not be treated exactly like adults who knowingly violated immigration law. Congress should create a durable legal framework for qualifying Dreamers who meet reasonable education, employment, military-service, background, and good-conduct standards.

Integration and Citizenship

Immigration works best when newcomers are invited into a shared civic culture. English proficiency, knowledge of American government and history, respect for constitutional rights, work, community participation, and allegiance to the United States should be encouraged as elements of successful integration.

Humanity and Enforcement Can Coexist

Border agents, immigration officers, migrants, asylum seekers, and border communities all deserve policies grounded in law and human dignity. Humane treatment does not require open borders, and effective enforcement does not require cruelty.

A nation can be welcoming because it is sovereign—not instead of being sovereign.

Solutions Before Ideology.

21. PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Americans deserve safe communities and a justice system worthy of public trust. Public safety and civil liberties are not opposing values. A legitimate justice system must protect innocent people from crime while protecting every person from arbitrary government power.

Focus on Violence and Serious Crime

Law-enforcement resources should prioritize violent offenders, organized crime, trafficking, repeat serious offenders, predatory fraud, and other conduct that creates substantial harm.

Communities should not be forced to choose between tolerating serious crime and tolerating abusive policing.

Professional, Accountable Policing

Police officers perform difficult and dangerous work and deserve training, equipment, competent leadership, competitive compensation, and public support when they act lawfully and professionally.

Misconduct, corruption, unlawful force, falsification of evidence, and abuse of authority must also have meaningful consequences. Accountability protects both citizens and the legitimacy of good officers.

Due Process and Equal Justice

The presumption of innocence, right to counsel, fair trials, impartial courts, protection against unreasonable searches, and meaningful appellate review are essential constitutional safeguards. Justice should not depend upon wealth, political influence, race, status, or public popularity.

Bail and Pretrial Justice

Pretrial systems should distinguish between genuine public-safety or flight risks and people who remain jailed primarily because they cannot afford money bail. Judges should have practical tools to protect communities while respecting the principle that an accused person has not yet been convicted.

Sentencing and Rehabilitation

Sentences should be proportionate to the offense, criminal history, danger to the public, and circumstances established by law. Violent and predatory offenders may require lengthy confinement. Lower-risk offenders should have access to evidence-based rehabilitation, treatment, education, and reentry programs when these approaches reduce future crime.

Accountability should be certain where possible—not merely severe after failure.

Mental Health, Addiction and Crisis Response

Police should not be the only institution available for every mental-health, addiction, homelessness, or behavioral crisis. Communities should develop coordinated response systems that match the problem with appropriate professionals while preserving law enforcement for situations involving danger or crime.

Victims Matter

Criminal-justice reform must never forget victims. Victims deserve information, protection, timely proceedings, restitution where appropriate, and meaningful access to support services.

Second Chances with Accountability

People who complete their sentences and demonstrate rehabilitation should have realistic opportunities to work, obtain housing, support families, and rejoin civic life. Permanent exclusion can increase recidivism and weaken communities.

Safe Communities. Constitutional Policing. Equal Justice. Real Accountability.

Solutions Before Ideology.

22. IMPARTIAL FEDERAL JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Department of Justice, FBI, IRS, federal inspectors, and regulatory enforcement agencies possess extraordinary power. That power must never become an instrument for rewarding political allies or punishing political enemies.

Government May Enforce the Law Vigorously. It Must Enforce It Impartially.

No Political Retaliation

Investigations, audits, prosecutions, licensing decisions, and enforcement actions should be based on law, facts, established criteria, and legitimate investigative priorities — not partisan loyalty or criticism of officeholders.

No Political Immunity

The same principle protects against favoritism. Political office, wealth, donor status, family relationships, or party affiliation should not shield anyone from lawful investigation or prosecution.

Presidential Authority and Institutional Independence

Presidents legitimately set executive policy and appoint senior officials subject to law. But individual criminal cases and enforcement matters should not be directed for personal revenge or protection. Written policies, recusal rules, inspectors general, courts, and congressional oversight should reinforce this distinction.

Protect Due Process

A politically neutral justice system must also respect warrants, discovery, counsel, evidentiary rules, grand juries, judicial review, presumption of innocence, and other constitutional protections.

Inspector General and Whistleblower Integrity

Inspectors general should have meaningful independence to investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct. Legitimate whistleblowers should receive protection, while knowingly false disclosures or unlawful release of protected information remain subject to law.

Transparency After the Fact

Where disclosure will not compromise legitimate investigations, national security, privacy, or due process, agencies should provide enough information for the public and oversight institutions to understand significant enforcement decisions.

No Enemies List. No Friends List. One Rule of Law.

23. FOREIGN POLICY, NATIONAL DEFENSE AND AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

Peace Through Strength—Without Endless War

The United States must maintain armed forces powerful enough to defend our nation, deter aggression, protect our people, and ensure that adversaries understand the consequences of attacking the United States or threatening our vital national interests.

We support a technologically advanced, properly equipped, highly trained, and adequately funded United States military.

But military strength must always serve a clearly defined purpose: the defense of the United States, its people, its Constitution, and its legitimate national interests.

America should possess overwhelming defensive capability without assuming that every international crisis requires American military intervention.

We reject both isolationism and unnecessary interventionism.

Peace Through Strength—Without Endless War.

American Military Sovereignty Comes First

America's alliances are among our greatest strategic advantages. Our relationships with NATO members and other treaty allies and strategic partners can deter aggression, expand intelligence cooperation, strengthen economic security, improve military interoperability, and reduce the likelihood that the United States must confront major threats alone.

We should honor our legitimate commitments and remain a dependable ally.

But alliances exist to strengthen American security—not replace American sovereignty.

No foreign government, international organization, alliance, or multinational institution should possess authority over the United States Armed Forces or determine when Americans go to war.

American military personnel must ultimately remain under the constitutional command structure of the United States. American forces may operate alongside allies and participate in joint commands and multinational operations when appropriately authorized, but the decision to commit American lives and military power must remain an American decision made through American constitutional institutions.

Allies Matter. American Sovereignty Comes First.

Alliances Must Be Partnerships

A strong alliance requires responsibility on both sides.

The United States should not abandon dependable allies, nor should dependable allies assume that American taxpayers and military personnel will indefinitely carry a disproportionate share of their defense responsibilities.

We should encourage capable allies to maintain credible defense capabilities and contribute fairly to collective security.

Responsible burden-sharing strengthens alliances rather than weakening them.

Greater Transparency in Defense Spending

A strong military requires substantial resources. But supporting the military does not mean giving the Pentagon or defense contractors a blank check.

Demo-Public supports substantially greater financial transparency, auditing, accountability, and congressional oversight of military spending.

Americans should be able to understand, to the greatest extent compatible with legitimate national-security requirements, where defense dollars are being spent; which companies receive major contracts; whether programs remain within approved budgets; why major programs exceed original cost estimates; whether systems meet operational requirements; how much is lost through waste, duplication, fraud, failed procurement, or administrative inefficiency; and whether taxpayers receive reasonable value.

National security requires secrecy in some matters. It should never provide a blanket excuse for financial unaccountability.

Protect Legitimate Military Secrets

Transparency must have limits where disclosure could genuinely harm national security.

Operational plans, intelligence sources and methods, weapons vulnerabilities, cybersecurity capabilities, troop movements, sensitive research, classified technologies, and similar information must remain appropriately protected.

The objective is not to expose America's military capabilities to its adversaries. The objective is to ensure that classification does not become a shield for waste, mismanagement, or corruption.

Congressional oversight bodies with appropriate security clearances should have sufficient access to examine classified expenditures while remaining accountable for protecting legitimate secrets.

Classify What Protects America. Disclose What Protects Taxpayers.

Reform Defense Procurement

The United States should have the world's most capable military—not merely the world's most expensive procurement system.

Defense contracts should be competitive whenever practicable. Major cost overruns should trigger meaningful review. Repeated underperformance by contractors should carry consequences. Emergency and sole-source procurement should be justified rather than becoming routine.

The revolving door between senior government positions and major defense contractors should be subject to the same strong conflict-of-interest principles established in the American Political Integrity Act.

Supporting our troops does not require tolerating waste.

Every dollar wasted through bureaucracy, corruption, unnecessary duplication, or poorly managed contracts is a dollar unavailable for training, equipment, military families, cybersecurity, modernization, veterans, or other legitimate defense requirements.

Congress and the Decision to Go to War

The Constitution divides military authority between the President and Congress for a reason.

America should not gradually drift into major wars through indefinite military commitments without clear objectives and appropriate constitutional authorization.

Except when immediate action is necessary to defend the United States against attack or an imminent threat, significant sustained military operations should require meaningful congressional authorization.

Major military commitments should clearly identify the mission, the American national interest involved, the objectives, expected resources, conditions for continuing the operation, and conditions under which American forces should leave.

If the government cannot clearly explain why Americans are being sent to war, it should not casually send them.

Veterans and Military Families

Our responsibility does not end when military personnel return home.

A nation willing to send Americans into danger assumes an obligation to care for those who served.

Veterans should receive timely access to the benefits, healthcare, rehabilitation, mental-health resources, employment assistance, and other services they were promised. Military families also deserve appropriate support during deployments and transitions.

The cost of war includes caring for the warrior afterward.

The Demo-Public Foreign Policy Test

Before committing significant American military power abroad, we should ask: Is there a clear American national interest? Is military action necessary? Have reasonable diplomatic alternatives been considered? Is the objective clearly defined? Do we have a realistic strategy for achieving it? What will it cost? Who is accountable for that spending? What responsibilities will our allies assume? Does the decision preserve American military sovereignty? What is the strategy for ending the mission?

Does this action make the American people safer?

If our government cannot adequately answer those questions, military intervention should face an extraordinarily high burden of justification.

The Demo-Public Principle

We advocate maintaining a military powerful enough that America's enemies respect it and America's allies trust it.

We advocate honoring our alliances while requiring responsible partnership and cooperating internationally without surrendering American sovereignty.

We advocate adequately funding national defense while demanding accountability for every taxpayer dollar reasonably capable of being disclosed.

We advocate protecting legitimate military secrets without allowing secrecy to conceal waste or corruption.

We will support America's service members during their service and after they return home.

And we will never forget that America's military exists primarily to defend the United States and the American people.

Strong Military. Responsible Spending. Trusted Allies. American Command.

Peace Through Strength—Without Endless War.

Allies Matter. Sovereignty Comes First.

Classify What Protects America. Disclose What Protects Taxpayers.

Country Before Party. Solutions Before Ideology.

24. VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

When America asks citizens to risk their lives in its defense, the nation's responsibility does not end when deployment does. Veterans and military families should receive competent, timely support without being trapped inside unnecessary bureaucracy.

If America Asks Them to Serve, America Must Serve Them When They Return.

VA Accountability and Choice

The Department of Veterans Affairs should be held to measurable standards for appointments, claims, treatment quality, patient safety, and appeals. When the VA cannot provide appropriate care within reasonable time or distance, veterans should have practical access to qualified community providers under accountable rules.

Disability Claims and Benefits

Claims should be processed accurately and promptly, with modern records systems, understandable appeals, fraud controls, and enough trained staff to prevent veterans from waiting years for decisions.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Veterans should have rapid access to evidence-based mental-health, substance-use, peer-support, and crisis services. Programs should be evaluated by outcomes, continuity of care, and actual reductions in preventable deaths.

Transition to Civilian Life

Licensing reform, credential recognition, apprenticeships, education benefits, entrepreneurship support, and employer partnerships should help veterans translate military experience into civilian opportunity.

Military Families

Spouses and children bear costs of deployment, relocation, and uncertainty. Housing, childcare, school transitions, spouse employment, and family support should be considered part of force readiness and retention.

Veteran Homelessness

No veteran should be abandoned to chronic homelessness when coordinated housing, treatment, employment, and benefits can realistically restore stability.

PART V — DEMOCRATIC REFORM AND PUBLIC TRUST

25. ELECTION INTEGRITY, VOTER ACCESS AND POLITICAL COMPETITION

Legitimate self-government requires elections that eligible citizens can access, that are administered securely, that can be audited, and that produce outcomes the public can verify through lawful processes. It also requires genuine political competition.

Every Eligible Citizen Should Be Able to Vote. Every Legal Vote Should Count. Every Election Should Be Auditable. Americans Should Have More Political Choices.

Secure and Auditable Elections

Voting systems should maintain auditable records, strong chain-of-custody procedures, transparent certification, cybersecurity standards, post-election audits, and meaningful observation consistent with voter privacy and orderly administration.

Voter Identification with Accessible IDs

States may reasonably require identification when designed so eligible citizens can obtain compliant identification without prohibitive cost or burden. Election integrity and voter access should be treated as complementary obligations.

Accurate Voter Rolls

States should maintain voter rolls using lawful, transparent procedures that remove deceased, duplicate, or ineligible records while providing notice and safeguards against erroneous disenfranchisement.

Timely Counting and Clear Rules

Election rules should be established before voting begins whenever possible. States should invest in staffing, equipment, and procedures that allow accurate results to be reported promptly without sacrificing verification.

Independent Redistricting

Voters should choose representatives more than representatives choose voters. States should adopt transparent redistricting processes with enforceable criteria and meaningful checks against extreme partisan gerrymandering, consistent with constitutional authority.

More Political Competition

Ballot-access rules should protect orderly elections without creating unreasonable barriers designed mainly to preserve two-party dominance. Independent and emerging parties should have a realistic path to compete when they demonstrate meaningful public support.

Ranked-Choice and Primary Reform

States and localities should be free to adopt and evaluate ranked-choice voting, open or nonpartisan primary systems, and other reforms that may broaden competition and reduce spoiler effects, provided systems are understandable, auditable, and constitutional.

Election Disputes Belong in Lawful Processes

Candidates may challenge irregularities through courts and established procedures. They should provide evidence, accept final lawful adjudication, and reject violence or intimidation as political tools.

Election Security and Voter Access Are Not Opposing Goals.

Participation Is Part of Election Integrity

Election integrity depends on secure systems and lawful administration, but also on citizens who register, learn the rules, evaluate candidates, vote, observe public processes where permitted, and accept lawful outcomes while preserving the right to challenge genuine irregularities through established procedures.

Free elections require both trustworthy institutions and participating citizens.

26. POLITICAL INTEGRITY, LOBBYING AND SPECIAL INTEREST REFORM

Public Trust Cannot Be Purchased

Because government belongs to the people, public trust cannot be bought, sold, or reserved for the politically connected.

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.

Public Oversight Is the Counterweight to Special Interests

Lobbying and special-interest reforms cannot substitute for public engagement. When ordinary citizens stop watching government, organized interests gain disproportionate influence by default. Transparency must therefore be paired with a citizenry willing to use it: reading disclosures, following budgets, contacting representatives, attending public meetings, and demanding equal standards from every political faction.

Transparency has power only when the public pays attention.

27. PUBLIC SERVICE, TERM LIMITS AND THE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

No Government Position Should Become a Lifetime Entitlement

Demo-Public believes public office is a temporary public trust—not a lifetime possession.

America was founded upon a rejection of permanent ruling classes. Yet over time, positions of enormous governmental power can become occupied for decades, concentrating political influence in individuals and institutions increasingly removed from regular democratic renewal.

We believe a healthy democratic republic requires both institutional stability and regular renewal.

No individual should possess governmental power indefinitely simply because they obtained it once.

Demo-Public therefore supports reasonable limits on the length of time individuals may continuously exercise significant federal governmental authority.

Congressional Term Limits

Members of Congress should serve long enough to develop experience and institutional knowledge—but Congress should not become a lifetime career.

We support a constitutional amendment establishing reasonable congressional term limits.

House of Representatives: Maximum of 6 terms / 12 years

United States Senate: Maximum of 2 terms / 12 years

This framework would provide substantial time for experienced legislators to serve while ensuring regular opportunities for new leadership.

The objective is not to remove experience from Congress. It is to prevent permanent incumbency from becoming an institution of its own.

Supreme Court Term Limits

The Supreme Court must remain independent from day-to-day partisan politics. But judicial independence does not necessarily require one individual to exercise active Supreme Court power for the remainder of their life.

We support establishing 18-year staggered terms for active service on the United States Supreme Court, structured so that a regular vacancy occurs approximately every two years.

After completing active Supreme Court service, a justice could retain the constitutional status and compensation appropriate to an Article III judge and, under a constitutionally valid framework, potentially serve elsewhere in the federal judiciary or in senior judicial status.

The objective is to preserve judicial independence while reducing the enormous political consequences created by unpredictable lifetime vacancies.

If a constitutional amendment is necessary to establish this system beyond reasonable legal dispute, we support pursuing that amendment rather than attempting to circumvent the Constitution.

No Court Packing

Judicial reform should not become an excuse for whichever political party controls Washington to manipulate the Supreme Court for immediate partisan advantage.

We therefore oppose changing the number of Supreme Court justices simply to create additional seats for a sitting president to fill.

Reform the institution. Do not capture it.

Executive and Senior Government Positions

The presidency is already constitutionally limited to two elected terms.

We support applying the same underlying principle—government authority should periodically return to new leadership—through appropriate tenure, rotation, ethics, and conflict-of-interest rules for other powerful appointed positions where extended service could create excessive institutional concentration.

However, ordinary career civil servants should not automatically lose their employment merely because they have served government for many years.

There is an important distinction between career public service and permanent political power.

Demo-Public values experienced professional public servants while opposing the indefinite concentration of policymaking authority.

Preserve Institutional Knowledge

Term limits alone can have unintended consequences.

If experienced legislators and officials leave government while lobbyists and special interests remain indefinitely, institutional knowledge can migrate away from elected government and toward the very influence industry we seek to reform.

Therefore, term-limit reform must operate alongside the American Political Integrity Act, stronger congressional professional staff, institutional research capabilities, lobbying reform, and revolving-door restrictions.

We should replace entrenched political power with accountable government—not replace experienced legislators with more powerful lobbyists.

The Demo-Public Principle

Political power belongs to the people.

Those entrusted with that power should understand from the beginning that they are temporary custodians of it.

Presidents should leave. Members of Congress should eventually leave. Supreme Court justices should eventually leave active Supreme Court service. Political appointees should eventually leave. And every generation of Americans should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in governing its country.

Experience Matters. Renewal Matters Too.

Public Service Is an Honor—Not a Lifetime Entitlement.

No Permanent Politicians. No Permanent Political Power.

CLOSING: THE DEMO-PUBLIC GOVERNING STANDARD

This platform is not a promise that government can solve every problem. It is a commitment to approach the problems government legitimately addresses with constitutional discipline, practical evidence, fiscal honesty, competition, transparency, and measurable accountability.

We will revise methods when evidence changes. We will not abandon constitutional government, equal citizenship, peaceful elections, individual liberty, national sovereignty, the rule of law, or the principle that America must remain a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Maximum Liberty. Minimum Necessary Government. Maximum Personal Responsibility.

Not Bigger Government. Not Smaller Government. Better Government.

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

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