

What Is a Democrat?

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As we look towards the 2018 midterms and beyond, the Democratic Party must campaign on its core values. Strong candidates will fit their respective districts and the priorities of their voters, but also must connect to national strategy based on these core values that unite Democrats across the nation.

Democrats have been the champions of Social Security and Medicare. While some people tire of this campaign message, imagine a world without these programs that provide such crucial protection to enable seniors to live with dignity and the care they deserve. Republicans continue to threaten these programs through privatization, diverting funds, or reducing eligibility. Democrats will protect Social Security and Medicare.

Democrats believe health care is a right for all Americans, not a luxury for those who can afford ever increasing premiums. Republicans not only continue their efforts to take away coverage from so many families who benefited from the Affordable Care Act (ACA), they are working with the insurance industry to continue rising costs and lower coverage. Democrats will fight to restore or maintain the benefits of the ACA while continuing to expand coverage for all people.

Democrats stand for a living wage. Americans have never been afraid of hard work and want to earn a living through honorable work. Democrats will fight so that working Americans can support their families. Republicans support big corporations eroding workers' protections and care not that individuals may have to work two or three jobs to provide basic necessities for their families.

Climate change poses an existential danger to our future, and the harm of continued environmental mismanagement is an evil perpetrated against the next generations. Democrats will push for clean, renewable energy and sustainability. Clean air and clean water are basic human rights. Republicans will continue supporting coal and oil, opposing sensible and necessary environmental protection. Democrats understand that the economy of the today and the future depends on clean energy and that sensible regulations help, not hurt, American business.

Democrats stand with our men and women in uniform. We need a strong defense to protect and defend the nation, but we do not need wasteful spending. Republicans push billions to the defense industrial complex on expensive systems that often do not meet standards and come in over budget. Democrats demand that the nation that sends our service members to war must then ensure they are properly cared for when they return. The decision to go to war must always be the last resort when other measures fail.

Reasonable gun control laws are critical to protect the innocent in schools, malls, and walking down the street. Democrats support common sense measures such as banning military style weapons, bump stocks, high capacity magazines, and ensuring proper background checks so that those who should not possess firearms do not gain access. Republicans distort the truth, scaring people with propaganda that the government is coming to take away their guns. Democrats

respect the 2d Amendment. The Constitution does not guarantee the right to own military style weapons, nor are such necessary to protect one's home or go hunting.

Democrats will continue to stand for individual rights and give voice and power to those facing discrimination for race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. Those who discriminate in housing, employment, and public commerce should be held accountable. Republicans will continue their silence and appease those who preach intolerance.

Democrats believe the economy needs to work for all Americans, not the privileged few. Opportunity should be available to those willing to work hard to achieve success. Republicans stand for a class of elite owners with little concern for average Americans. Education is the great equalizer and Democrats believe talented students should have to ability to go to college without bankrupting their families and sacrificing the future they strive to build due to insurmountable debt.

Democrats stand for much more than just opposing President Trump. Democrats stand for a better America and better tomorrow for the next generation.

Democrats stand for a society of respect and equality. Democrats stand for all of us and our families. We need to stand with them.