

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2008 RESOLUTIONS

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| ADA Healthcare | End Waitlist -- 58 For None Against | CO Doug 087-1 | <p>Whereas: The “Waitlist Lawsuit” charges that the Plaintiffs and others on the waitlist in Colorado have been determined to be eligible for comprehensive services in Colorado, but the State of Colorado is not providing such services in violation of a number of federal laws. More specifically, the Lawsuit charges that the State has continued to violate the federal Medicaid Act and requirements for timely processing of applications, prompt provision of services, freedom of choice and constitutional due process, as well as other laws. Six plaintiffs – three individuals with developmental disabilities filed the lawsuit in August 2000 and three have since joined the case – allege that the state of Colorado has violated the federal Medicaid mandate regarding prompt provision of services and comparability requirements. – The ARC of Colorado (In January, 2007 the case was appealed to the Supreme Court and in March, 2007, the court decided not to hear the case.)</p> <p>Whereas: Colorado currently ranks 49th in the nation in the percentage of state revenue that provides services to people with development disabilities.</p> <p>Whereas: In the state of Colorado, more than 12,000 adults and children who have development disabilities, such as mental retardation, autism, or cerebral palsy are in need of long-term healthcare services and support.</p> <p>Whereas: There is simply no safety net available to help these families. In fact, there are more children and adults with developmental disabilities waiting for care than currently receive services.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party supports ending Colorado’s Waitlist for people with developmental disabilities, such as mental retardation, autism, and cerebral palsy.</p> |
| ADA Human/Civil Rights | Homes and Work- Shops for Disabled -- 28 For None Against | CO Doug 036-2 | <p>Whereas: Colorado ranks 48th in the states in providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities, thousands of whom have been waiting for more than five years.</p> <p>Whereas: According to ARC, there are 800,000 persons with developmental disabilities in Colorado.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: Funds be provided for more group homes and sheltered workshops to serve the disabled population who are adults (over 18 years of age). It is suggested that the sheltered workshops be modeled after centers such as the Tommy Nobis Center of Marietta, Georgia, which secure funds partly through contracts with the private and public sector for simple work projects. This helps defray some of the costs of the program.</p> |
| ADA Human/Civil Rights | Support Fortification of the 1990 ADA Laws -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 083-1 | <p>Whereas: Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 with the intention of preventing unfair treatment toward people with current, past, or perceived disabilities, defined as "physical or mental impairments that substantially limit a major life activity.</p> <p>Whereas: “...the courts - including the U.S. Supreme Court - have narrowly interpreted the ADA, limiting its scope and undermining its intent.” (Source: Steny Hoyer, Congressional Majority Leader, Feb 29, 2008 press release.)</p> <p>Whereas: The purpose of the “2007 American’s with Disabilities Restoration Act” currently before Congress is to fortify the intent of the original Act.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party is for the changes to Americans With Disabilities Act currently before Congress.</p> <p>[This resolution from the caucus originally stated that we should stand “against” the new act with a vote of</p> |

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| | | | 19 For and None Against. We were not able to identify the sponsor to contact them. After researching the act, it was determined that we should stand behind this act rather than be against it.] |
| Current Admin | Abolish Presidential Signing Statements -- 26 For None Against | CO Doug 080-1 | Whereas: President Bush has issued signing statements on more than 750 new laws declaring that he has the power to set aside the laws when they conflict with his legal interpretation of the Constitution. (Source: The Boston Globe, 04/30/2006) Whereas: The federal government is instructed to follow the statements when it enforces the laws. (Source: The Boston Globe, 04/30/2006) Be it resolved that: The new Democratic President will refrain from adding signing statements to laws and that the Democratic Party will support legislation that either abolishes signing statements altogether or minimizes their impact. |
| Current Admin | Earmarks Oversight -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 026-6 | Whereas: Earmarks are funds provided by Congress for projects or programs where the congressional direction (in bill or report language) circumvents the merit-based or competitive allocation process...or otherwise curtails the ability of the Executive Branch to properly manage funds. (Source: Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget) Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support legislation that improves oversight and allocation of earmarks. |
| Current Admin | Remove Unqualified Agency Heads -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-5 | Be it resolved that: The new Democratic President shall remove the unqualified and the agenda-driven heads and members of all Governmental Advisory Boards, with special attention to those restructured by the recent administration and replace them with objective and independent experts in the areas of the respective board's mandated responsibilities. |
| DCDP | 18 Yr Old VRD -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug nnp-2 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support getting high school seniors turning 18 years old to register to vote. |
| DCDP | Five Commissioners for Douglas County -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-6 | Whereas: When a county reaches a population of 70,000, state statutes allow the county to increase the number of commissioners from three to five. Whereas: Three commissioners cannot cover all of the committee meetings and events on their calendar. Whereas: County residents are better served by five commissioners. Whereas: Two votes determine the direction of the County when there are three Commissioners. Whereas: Douglas County will learn from the mistakes of Arapahoe County and the successes of El Paso County. Be it resolved that: The Douglas County Democratic Party supports increasing the number of our County Commissioners from three to five. |
| Economy | Balance the Budget and Reduce the Deficit -- 204 For 7 Against | CO Doug 055-1 | Whereas: The national debt is at an unsustainable level. Whereas: The national debt is resulting in the declining value of the dollar. Whereas: The national debt poses a serious threat to long-term economic growth. Whereas: The national debt acts as a hidden inflationary tax on American consumers. Whereas: The national debt consumes an increasing proportion of the taxpayer burden. |

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| | | | <p>Whereas: Foreign governments, many of which are non-democratic, increasingly fund the national debt.</p> <p>Whereas: One of the most serious threats to the continued viability of the United States, according to the Comptroller General of the United States, is the unprecedented size and growth rate of the national debt.</p> <p>Be it resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The new Democrat elected President shall develop a plan to start reduction of the deficit within a year after taking office. 2) The Democratic Party shall stand for a balanced budget, fiscal responsibility, responsible spending and the restoration of fiscal surplus. |
| Economy | Close Class Gap -- 32 For 6 Against | CO Doug 119-1 | <p>Whereas: In the history of the Democratic Party, FDR policies of taxing the rich and union polices of ensuring fair wages were responsible for successfully creating the middle-class.</p> <p>Whereas: We are again starting to see a rise in disparity between the incomes of the “poor” and the “rich” and a decline in the income of the middle-class as quantified by foreclosures and jobs being lost to foreign labor.</p> <p>Whereas: The 2007 Congressional Research Report analyzing 2005 data says that the definition of middle class is not clear and may include a range that extends from \$20,000 to \$150,000 in household income. (Where many two-income families making as much as \$200,000 a year consider themselves to be in the middle-class income bracket.) If we choose the range of middle-class income to start at \$36,000 and end at \$91,705 per household, then 37.6% (or about 1/3) of all households would be considered middle class. The data show that 12% of households make less than \$36,000 and 50.4% make more than \$91,705.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party continue to pursue the important goals of decreasing and eliminating poverty in the United States (based on the CRS report, the poverty figure falls around \$15,577 in household income for a family of three) and recognize the growing gap between “poor” (3.4% of households making less than \$19,178 per year) and “rich” (22% of households earning more than \$166,000 per year) and strive to turn the economy around so that the “middle-class” can survive on their income and not go further into debt by passing the following types of legislation designed to stimulate job growth:</p> <p>Provide tax incentives to businesses that keep jobs here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the negative affects of NAFTA and the WTO as they encourage jobs to leave the U.S. (One caucus voted “30 For” and “None Against” to eliminate NAFTA and the WTO altogether.) • Within the new era of a global economy, encourage and provide incentives for our young people to train here and become employed here. • Allow unions to thrive. • Increase minimum wage (If we were to match the first minimum wage at today’s dollar, minimum wage would be close to \$15 per hour today.) |
| Economy | Predatory Credit Practices -- 8 For None Against | CO Doug 076-1 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will enact policy to protect young adult credit ratings and not allow predatory lending practices by the credit card industry to dictate credit for a young person. The party will also help youth (18-25) establish good credit practices.</p> |

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| Economy | Social Security Tax Increase -- 4 For None Against | CO Doug 094-2 | Whereas: There is a predicted short fall in funding for social Security around the year 2040. Whereas: Strengthening the current Social Security System will allow retiring workers to exit their profession with dignity and the ability to support themselves with quality healthcare and money to live on. Be it resolved: The current social security tax of 7.65 per cent paid by both employer and employee should be paid on every dollar of income earned by anyone working in the United States . By having every individual and their employer pay social security tax for every dollar earned we may be able to avert the social security funding crisis. |
| Economy | Social Security Reform -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 084-5 | Whereas: Government employees are penalized by social security rules if they have worked the 40 quarters or more in public employment besides their private employment years. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support reform of social security so that state and/or federal employees do not lose the benefits that they have accumulated. |
| Economy | Strengthen Dollar -- 4 For None Against | CO Doug 094-3.1 | Whereas: The current administration has maintained a weak dollar policy on the world market. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall be committed to strengthening the U.S. dollar. With a strong dollar, an individual American's purchasing power would increase and the national debt would go down. |
| Education | Charter Schools -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug nbn-3 | Whereas: PUBLIC Charter Schools may receive state funds by adhering to state education criteria and PRIVATE Charter Schools do not receive any state funding. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support legislation to provide capital construction money to public charter schools as it does regular public schools. |
| Education | College Tuition -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 084-4 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports minimizing or lowering costs for all students so everyone can have the means and opportunity to go to college. |
| Education | End NCLB -- 52 For 2 Against | CO Doug 062-2 | Whereas: The No Child Left Behind Act is not accomplishing its goal. Whereas: Teachers, parents and students do not like the results they are getting as a consequence of "teaching to the test". Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will do all that it can to end, terminate, get rid of, rescind, or repeal the No Child Left Behind Law. |
| Education | Expand Vocation Ed -- 23 For 1 Against | CO Doug 117-3 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports providing more funding and support for vocational, technological, and science education and training. |
| Education | Funding -- 26 For None Against | CO Doug 108-3 | Whereas: The Democratic Party has always supported public schools K-12 funded by tax dollars from the local community because the local community benefits by sharing in the cost of educating themselves and their neighbors. Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party will stand for and support reasonable increases in taxes and tax allocations to schools in order to: |

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| | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce extra individual costs. 2) Increase teacher pay. 3) Provide better facilities. 4) Facilitate student achievement by limiting primary classes sizes to 20 and intermediate classes sizes to 23. 5) Provide public early childhood (3-5 yrs) education. 6) Increase funding for technology (hardware/software/maintenance) and certify technically qualified teachers. <p>Be it further resolved: The Colorado Democratic Party will support State fund allocations that make an effort to balance K-12 funds over districts that have diverse property values. That is, those district that receive less funding because property values are lower in that area, will receive more State funds.</p> |
| Election Reform | Campaign Finance -- 93 For 12 Against | CO Doug 095-2 | <p>Whereas: The cost for carrying out a campaign for an elected office in both the Federal and State governments has become so great that we no longer have a truly representative form of government.</p> <p>Whereas: Many well-qualified individuals will not seek office for this reason.</p> <p>Whereas: So much time is required to raise money to support becoming reelected that many current office holders have to devote more time to this task than to carrying out the responsibilities of the office.</p> <p>Whereas: Public funding of Federal/State elections can remove special interest money and influence from our political process.</p> <p>Whereas: It is felt that \$6 per year per tax payer would be enough to fund ALL federal (Senate, Congressional and Presidential) elections, given these elections occur every two years.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports public funding for federal elections.</p> |
| Election Reform | Election Day Holiday -- 5 For 5 Against | CO Doug 010-2 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party, to encourage celebration of our Democratic process and encourage voting in the country that made voting a true right of passage into citizenship, shall put forth and support making election day a national holiday as it is in other counties who fought, like we did, to have this right.</p> |
| Election Reform | Election Judges -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 026-8 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party shall support changes to election judge rules dictating length of duty day and consider splitting the duty day between two individuals so that more people would volunteer to participate.</p> |
| Election Reform | Electoral Colleges -- 39 For 5 Against | CO Doug 099-3 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports abolishing the electoral college.</p> |
| Election Reform | Include Poor in the Vote -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 122-3 | <p>Whereas: The poor and minorities have traditionally made up large share of the Democratic Party base.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party support measures that assure the poor and minorities are afforded to opportunity cast their vote.</p> |
| Election Reform | Paper Trails -- | CO Doug | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports a national requirement that all voting machines in America create a paper trail of each vote cast that is retained until such time as all voting questions or</p> |

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| | No Caucus Vote | 102-1 | <p>issues are resolved.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party create a National Independent Supervisory Board to oversee the National Voting Computer, examine and improve the software, remove all back-doors seeded by previous programmers, and to monitor all data acquisition, reporting and security,</p> |
| Energy | Alternative Fuel/Energy Research -- 120 For 1 Against | CO Doug 055-7 | <p>Whereas: The future of America is imperiled by continued dependence on fossil fuels. Coal and oil supplies are finite and their use adversely impacts the environment. Our dependence on oil forces us to support repressive regimes, which is one root cause of terrorism directed at the United States.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: A massive program (such as the suggested National Energy Project) to develop alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, tidal, geothermal, atmospheric gases, water, nuclear, magnetic, biological and as-yet unimagined alternatives must begin immediately providing incentives to explore and support these ideas. Within that program, make a date certain for the nation/state to become energy independent. For example, United States shall adopt an energy standard achieving 20% of our domestic energy used from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. (This is the current Colorado State Standard.)</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: Using the national experience with the Manhattan Project and the space program of the 1960's as models, a partnership between federal and state government and private industry will be implemented to conduct coordinated research and development of alternative fuel sources.</p> |
| Energy | Appliances -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-7 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support legislation requiring all appliances and other energy-consuming devices, such as refrigerators, microwave ovens, air conditioners and heaters, washers and dryers, stoves and toasters, lawn-mowers and other outdoor tools, to gradually increase their energy efficiency.</p> |
| Energy | Electric Co-Ops -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 131-2 | <p>Whereas: The state of Colorado won't make its renewable energy use goals without everyone's participation.</p> <p>Whereas: REAs (co-ops) believe it is up them to ask their members <i>again</i> to decide whether they want to go with renewables (after they already passed a state law affirming this choice).</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall pursue policy that will better regulate the power and control, transparency and accountability of REAs.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party will raise renewable energy standards within Colorado to insure REAs will purchase renewable energy produced within Colorado, made by small producers (including those produced by private homeowners) and allow these small-scale renewables to be sold on the grid.</p> |
| Energy | National Energy Independence Act -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-8 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support legislation to initiate a National Energy Independence effort (similar to the War on Drugs or Cancer, or the Race to the Moon) to encourage the implementation of innovative approaches to alternative fuels, improved efficiency in both the production and operation of solar, wind, geothermal and hydrodynamic systems, developing a more decentralized energy production grid, to bring in coal and oil companies that they may make the transition to non-fossil energy sources without disrupting theirs and our national economies, and to include a national competitive</p> |

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| search for the best and most innovative solutions to our energy problems. | | | |
| Energy | Transportation -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-9 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support the following energy conservation transportation measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Alter the priorities of the Federal Highway Act to improve the national transportation grid so as to include significant efforts to increase light rail, bus and other transportation and to decrease the need for automobile transportation. 2) Emission and fuel efficiency exemptions to be rescinded, including but not limited to tractor-trailer type diesels, ATV's, snowmobiles, golf carts, et cetera (specifically including the definition of SUV's as farm vehicles or trucks). 3) American automobile manufacturers to be required to increase their fuel efficiency standards to the highest standard of all industrialized nations within twenty years. |
| Energy | Transportation Light Rail/RTD -- 19 For 1 Against | CO Doug 072-1 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic party will support extending Light Rail to Castle Rock and Colorado Springs...and further. In addition, RTD should also be extended to Castle Rock and extend to DIA.</p> |
| Energy | Utilities -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-10 | <p>Be it resolved that: Regarding public utilities, the Democratic Party shall support legislation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Remove all grandfather and other exemptions allowing inefficient and acid-rain-producing power plants to continue operating in such a manner within five years. 2) Require all utilities to begin using energy sources that are renewable (non-fossil fuel) in ever increasing percentages. 3) Restructure and rebuild the national electrical grid to increase efficiency, redundancy (backup systems that prevent outages), and robustness. 4) Enforce transparency of all energy providers (including REA's) to include all environmental impacts both in economy and carbon emission. 5) Require energy providers to use any significant major profit stemming from current energy crises (to be defined as any increase in profit of more than 10% in any one year, adjusted for inflation, not attributable to major innovation or major changes in production or operations efficiencies) to invest in carbon-footprint reduction and reversal. 6) Require all utilities to buy-back all energy produced by individuals and residences that stems from renewable and non-fossil fuel sources. |
| Environment | Carbon Tax -- 28 For None Against | CO Doug 029-5 | <p>Whereas: Carbon emissions are profoundly damaging to society and to the environment.</p> <p>Whereas: Cap and trade emissions systems are inefficient and economic and environmental legislation currently rewards polluting firms.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports legislation that favors a domestic carbon tax on pollution-intense activities whose standards are to be gradually increased until the cost becomes significant to corporate bottom-line profits.</p> |

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| | | | Be it further resolved that: The Democratic party will encourage the use of the Carbon Tax to offset costs of preserves wilderness, jungle, native species, et cetera. |
| Environment | Current Protection Laws -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC- 11 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic shall restore and/or strengthen and adequately fund the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clean Air Act. 2) Clean Water Act. 3) Endangered Species Act. 4) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 5) Parks, Wildlife, Forest Service and similar departments (to include greater efforts to preserve roadless wilderness and to include reordering of BLM priorities to put greater emphasis on preservation as opposed to multi-use income preservation aims). 6) The Superfund (to include some teeth in the requirement that all polluters pay for cleanup and to include significant punitive damages). |
| Environment | Kyoto Protocol -- 16 For None Against | CO Doug 029-4 | Whereas: The impact of global climate change has a profoundly negative impact upon the world's peoples and ecosystems, congruent with the findings of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Whereas: Global Warming has been shown to be a scientifically serious and undeniably clear and present danger to our national security and to our children's welfare and about which there is no legitimate scientific controversy except in the minds of the owners and editors of certain media outlets. Whereas: Nearly every industrial economy has ratified the United Nations' Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and the stigma of non-commitment tarnishes the international reputation of the United States of America. Whereas: The findings of the British government's Sir Nicholas Stern Report affirm that global climate change poses a serious hindrance to long-term economic growth and the costs of action now are much lower than the consequences later. Whereas: These and all other environmental efforts not only will not harm our economy but will strengthen it. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports the immediate ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and that we will voluntarily and unilaterally exceed Kyoto standards. |
| Environment | National Park Funding -- 90 For None Against | CO Doug 055-9 | Whereas: The National Park system is a national treasure, unique in its size and diversity. Whereas: Not only do our National Parks provide unlimited recreational opportunities for Americans, but they are also a major attraction for foreign visitors. Whereas: Low budgetary priority over many years has impacted their infrastructure to the point that many of our greatest parks look sadly neglected, with disintegrating facilities and inadequate personnel for proper maintenance and visitor services. Be it resolved that: Funding for the National Parks Service will be restored to levels commensurate with its important place in our national life. |
| Environment | Recycling | CO | Whereas: Natural resources are a precious commodity and all plastics and many fabrics are made from oil |

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| | -- No Caucus Vote | Doug PC-4 | by-products and oil is becoming scarce. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will pass laws working towards all packaging and other materials to be recyclable and require all manufacturing patents to include a mandatory “zero footprint” end use parameter by including a description of the recycling methods for packaging. |
| Environment | Restrict Fossil Fuel Pollution -- 10 For None Against | CO Doug 134-1 | Whereas: Our dependence on oil, fossil fuels and coal is detrimental to both our economic and as well as environmental health. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall require mandatory reductions of pollution resulting from use of these fuels while promoting incentives in use cost effective clean energy technologies. |
| Foreign Policy | End the Iraq war -- 285 For 8 Against | CO Doug 127-1 | Whereas: The Iraq War was conceived in ignorance, dishonesty and hubris and perpetuated with incompetence, the Iraq war must end in as responsible a way as is practical under current conditions. Open-ended commitment to restoring stability to Iraq is unacceptable. Establishing reasonable timelines for withdrawal of all military support for the government of Iraq, although perhaps lending encouragement to the current government’s enemies, is the only practical way to disengage and return the control of Iraq to its citizens. Whereas: The war in Iraq continually draws the strength of our country and our country's financial health without just cause. Whereas: The continuation of this war will lead to further drains on our economy and the loss of life of our fighting men and women, we support ending the war and withdrawing our troops. Whereas: The excess money currently being spent on the Iraq war could be going towards K-12 education in this country. Be it resolved that: The next Democratic President of the United States shall produce a timetable for ending military involvement in Iraq, bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq in an orderly fashion while providing humanitarian assistance. Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party will initiate the request for UN, NATO, and international involvement as peacekeeping forces in Iraq and will keep a minimum of U. S. forces in Iraq only as part of a multi-national peacekeeping force via the U.N., NATO, etc. Be it further resolved that: The Democratic party will stand for supporting the people of Iraq and support legislation to meet our obligations to help rebuild the infrastructure as well as the economy in the country. |
| Foreign Policy | Foreign Aid -- 7 For 5 Against | CO Doug 029-3 | Whereas: The United States should show its commitment to the United Nations’ Millennium Goals to reduce world poverty, hunger, and illiteracy. Whereas: The United States at the 2002 Monterey Summit linked economic poverty with destitution and, in some cases, terrorism, and pledged a minimum of 1% of GDP to foreign aid. Whereas: Subsequently, the United States spends one tenth of one percent on foreign aid, in defiance of our agreements and principles. Whereas: The United States is among the wealthiest countries in history. Be it resolved that The United States promotes the development of foreign nations to improve the welfare |

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| | | | and livelihood of others and restore our international reputation by committing a minimum of 1% of annual GDP to non-military foreign aid. |
| Foreign Policy | Foreign Policy -- 43 For None Against | CO Doug 111-1 | <p>Whereas: Democrats are committed to restoring the United States' reputation in the international community.</p> <p>Whereas: We are opposed to the United States' continued military presence in Iraq and the preemptive doctrine.</p> <p>Whereas: Our position as a world power must not be compromised but we must actively engage the world through diplomacy more than primarily military might.</p> <p>Whereas: Skilled and aggressive diplomacy, coupled with the use of sanctions and other coercive tactics, as necessary, should be employed in all situations.</p> <p>Whereas: We support a policy to use U. S. military force when necessary as a last resort or to defend its citizens.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: Democrats encourage the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Restoring U.S. international integrity in the world. 2) Condemning preemptive military intervention against any sovereign nation. 3) Supporting the people of Afghanistan and meeting our obligations to rebuilding the country. 4) Recognizing the critical situation in Darfur and urge our country to send aid in a meaningful form. 5) Recognizing the critical situation in Pakistan and work to support a government there devoted to opposing terrorism. 6) Supporting a U. S. foreign policy in the Middle East that promotes peace, recognize the sovereignty of Israel and its unique challenges balanced with support for peaceful efforts by the Palestinians to secure a homeland. 7) Promoting understanding of other cultures and religions throughout the world. 8) Revising our National Defense policy so our National Guard troops are not deployed on foreign soil. 9) Preventing a foreign policy that allows no-bid contracts for vendors supporting our military presence or foreign aid policies in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other nations. |
| Foreign Policy | Vote Before Invade -- For 17 Against 1 | CO Doug 081-6 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support expanding the current War Powers Act to include any type of invasion onto foreign soils <i>without a formal declaration of war</i>. (Where "invasion" means that the government of the county we plan to enter has not asked us to be there.)</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The President of the United States shall ask for a 2/3 ratification vote of Congress before invading (sending troops to fight on) foreign soil.</p> |
| Healthcare | Healthcare Reform for Children -- 10 For None Against | CO Doug 084-1 | <p>Be it resolved that: By 2010, the Colorado Democratic Party Colorado shall have in place legislation to ensure that all children under the age of eighteen will have access to quality healthcare both in schools and private healthcare options. This healthcare will be available regardless of pre-existing conditions and regardless of parent/guardian financial status.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party will also support reinstating S-CHIP for all children (Medicaid).</p> |

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| Healthcare | Mental Health -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 026-1 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support legislation for more mental healthcare funding and improved mental healthcare. |
| Healthcare | Regulate Health Insurance Companies -- 18 For None Against | CO Doug 110-1 | Be it resolved that: Until a universal health-care system can be implemented the Democratic Party will support legislation to: 1) Repeal McCann-Ferguson Act (1930s) prohibiting federal regulation of insurance companies. 2) Stop insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions. 3) Regulate insurance companies to prevent them from dropping insured members at any point for any medical condition. |
| Healthcare | Profit -- 19 For None Against | CO Doug 083-2 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support legislation to remove profit motives from the healthcare system. |
| Healthcare | State Single Payer Universal Healthcare System -- 544 For 52 Against 78 For Reform | CO Doug 061-2 | <p>Whereas: The Democratic Party stands firmly for healthcare reform that insures all Americans.</p> <p>Whereas: Access to affordable healthcare should be considered a right of all U.S. citizens.</p> <p>Whereas: The current healthcare system in the United States has reached a crisis point.</p> <p>Whereas: The fragmented, administratively wasteful model of commercial healthcare insurance has resulted in the continued escalation of healthcare costs and bureaucratic nightmares for healthcare providers, patients, and employers.</p> <p>Whereas: We understand the difficulty of implementing a national healthcare program any time soon.</p> <p>Whereas: True Universal Healthcare may only be achieved through a single-payer plan.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: As a matter of basic economics and the common good, the Colorado Democratic Party will support guaranteed, quality, affordable healthcare for all through a single-payer financed system within the state.</p> <p>Elements of a single Payer Finances System of Healthcare include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable quality healthcare for all • Healthcare for everyone regardless of pre-existing conditions including people with disabilities • Emphasis on prevention/primary care • Financing through one agency (public or quasi-public) that pays healthcare providers and hospitals for the care they deliver • Return of medical decisions to the patient and healthcare provider—no more insurance company interference • Patient choice and continuity of care within our system of private healthcare providers • Strong cost containment program and reduction of administrative costs • Access to portable healthcare coverage that is no longer tied to employment • Marked reduction in both economic and human costs, such as bankruptcy due to healthcare expenses • End of “cost plus” healthcare. <p>Funds will be provided for job training and placement for healthcare industry workers impacted by this</p> |

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| Healthcare | U.S. National Health Fund | CO | <p>Whereas: A national healthcare plan will require compromise on the part of health insurance companies, drug companies, employers and unions—where compromise means that ALL negotiating parties come away sacrificing something so that American citizens will win. It also means that health insurance companies, employers, unions and drug companies need to be active participants in the new healthcare solution.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will consider the following proposal for a National Healthcare Plan that takes into consideration the roll of government, health insurance companies, unions and employers.</p> <p>The proposal starts by naming the new national healthcare system the “U.S. National Health Fund” as it behaves more like a “centralized trust fund” than an “insurance”. The assumption is that current assets in the Medicare fund would be transferred to the National Health Fund and the National Health Fund would replace Medicare. In addition, all funds that are currently deposited into employer held or union held healthcare trust funds, shall all be deposited into the National Health Fund.</p> <p>With this plan, STATES NO LONGER MAKE PAYMENTS TO MEDICAID. The National Health Fund will be opened to all U.S. citizens, not just those over 65 or those who are underprivileged.</p> <p>Contributions to the National Health Fund will be based on the average of what employers are currently paying to private insurance companies today. (Averages currently range from 15% to 20% of an employee’s salary.) Contributions by the employer will be automatic and start with the employee’s hiring date.</p> <p>Like Medicare, the National Health Fund will pay benefits on an 80/20 indemnity plan. To prevent overcharging the National Healthcare Fund (as happens with Medicare today) payouts will be based on average costs.</p> <p>To cover the last 20% of healthcare costs, companies unions or individuals my purchase private supplemental insurance, or unions may negotiate for this additional coverage. For the purposes of providing supplemental insurance only, employers and unions may establish trust funds or escrow accounts from which to manage these funds when no private insurance company is contracted to provide the supplemental insurance.</p> <p>As prescriptions will also not be covered 100% by this fund, deductible amount may be paid by the insured, companies may cover all or a portion of the deductibles as an additional benefit, or unions can negotiate for this additional coverage, or provide this coverage themselves by creating a trust fund.</p> <p>In addition to allowing private insurance companies the ability to provide supplemental coverage not covered by the fund, the National Health Fund program allows companies, unions or individuals to select a private insurance company to manage claims. The selection of the claims management company can be through the bidding process. (Should no claims management company be selected, claims are sent directly to the National Healthcare Agency.) The claims management company can also be the provider of the supplemental insurance coverage. The job of the claims manager is to receive incoming claims and transmit the claims within seven (7) days to the National Health Fund agency. The Agency then has ten</p> |
| | -- | Doug | |
| | 4 For | 094-1 | |
| | None Against | | |

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| | | | <p>(10) days to transmit funds (preferably electronically via ACH) to the claims management company (funds to include the 80% of claim being covered and handling fees that are kept by the claims management company). The claims management company then has seven (7) days to forward funds onto the healthcare provider. In the case where the claims management company is also providing supplemental coverage, the supplemental amount is added to the amount from the National Health Fund and they are both sent to the healthcare provider. This quick turn around will prevent backlogs. To accomplish this feat, all transactions will be done electronically via a national claims database.</p> <p>If there are any problems in getting claims there will be a customer service division to provide answers while on the phone. (Note that this service can be distributed across the country, again to private insurers on a bid basis, as long as service reps have access to national database records.)</p> <p>In addition the National Health Fund will have authority to negotiate prices for prescriptions with the pharmaceutical companies that should result in huge volume discounts.</p> <p>Under this plan, entire families with at least one working member in the household are covered. Retired people collecting pensions, retired people collecting IRA distributions, disabled persons that cannot work, or those on sick leave, children under 25, and all others who can show proof that they are actively seeking work will be covered. In these cases, no supplemental coverage is provided unless it is purchased separately by the individual.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Adhere to Constitution -- 90 For None Against | CO Doug 055-6 | <p>Whereas: Our current administration has a disregard of the Constitution and the separation of powers. The Executive Branch has failed to honor basic Constitutional rights of Americans as well as the rights of prisoners of war guaranteed by treaties and fundamental international law.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will restore adherence to the Constitution by all branches of government.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Child Welfare -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 026-7 | <p>Whereas: Child welfare services may include foster care, child protection services, juvenile and protective court services, and services associated with child neglect such as family preservation, family reunification, adoption, guardianship, and independent living. – PEW Commission on Children in Foster Care</p> <p>Whereas: The Division of Child Welfare is within the Colorado Department of Human Services and consists of a group of services intended to protect children from harm and to assist families in caring for and protecting their children.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party will strengthen support for and encourage adequate funding of the state’s child welfare system.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Civil Rights -- 96 For 1 Against | CO Doug 018-4 | <p>Be it resolved that: There shall be no new amendment to the Constitution that infringes on, limits, denies, or circumvents the equal rights of citizens.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Corporations Do Not Equal “Citizen” | CO Doug | <p>Whereas: For the first 100 years of U.S. independence, and reflecting the U.S. experience of large British corporations such as the British East India Company, U.S. corporations were appropriately regulated and</p> |

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| -- No Caucus Vote | 111-2 | <p>easily dismantled if they became a threat to the public trust.</p> <p>Whereas: During the Civil War and later during WWII and the impending Cold War, corporations gradually were allowed their profits and power to grow.</p> <p>Whereas: This power enabled corporations to buy legislatures and courts; and President Dwight D. Eisenhower expressed his concern with further entrenchment of corporate power and its further insinuation into government via the Military-Industrial Complex as a threat to democratic sovereignty in his 1961 farewell address.</p> <p>Whereas: The Korean and Vietnam wars and the concomitant untold billions spend on expanding the U.S. military, coupled with the rampant deregulation of corporations initiated during Reagan’s administration and which continues unrestricted today; “what can only be described as total victory over democracy was achieved by the corporate powers that be”.</p> <p>Whereas: The 1886 Supreme Court ruled in a decision that corporations were persons, thereby giving corporations the same power and rights as a human being.</p> <p>Whereas: Corporations have become known as “Supercitizens”.</p> <p>Whereas: The power and rights of corporations has become much bigger than the power and rights of any human being due to their large resources and ability to manipulate and influence our democratic government.</p> <p>Whereas: Corporations do not face the same onus or responsibility of a human being, thus enabling corporations to escape the normal burdens a human being would have while wielding much more influence than human beings.</p> <p>Whereas: Corporations have become able to place an undue power over our democratic government, thus greatly lessening the rights and power of persons as human beings.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall enact laws to REDUCE the power of the corporations so that corporations no longer have the same rights and powers of a human being.</p> | |
| Human/Civil Rights | Free Speech No cages -- 12 For None Against | CO Doug 020-4 | <p>Whereas: Restricting free speech to designated areas is a form of censorship.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: Democrats will support legislation to disallow “free speech cages” (restricted designated area for exercise of free speech in a public setting).</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Gender pay equity -- 24 For None Against | CO Doug 091-5 | <p>Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will institute, fund, and implement gender pay equity.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Habeas Corpus -- 14 For None Against | CO Doug 117-7 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will restore the right to Habeas Corpus and insure that right is guaranteed to all of U.S. citizens and non-citizens no matter what the circumstances surrounding an arrest.</p> |

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| Human/Civil Rights | LGBT Inclusion in Hate Crime Bill -- 35 For None Against | CO Doug 075-3 | Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support legislation to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens in the National Hate Crime Bill. |
| Human/Civil Rights | LGBT In the Military -- 19 For 8 Against | CO Doug 075-4 | Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will actively pursue repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and support the LGBT contingent in military openly. |
| Human/Civil Rights | LGBT Same Sex Union -- 141 For 2 Against | CO Doug 104-5 | Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value. Be it resolved that: Support for same-sex unions with equal rights and privileges enjoyed by any other legal domestic union. |
| Human/Civil Rights | LGBT Respect Life -- 110 For 2 Against | CO Doug 104-6 | Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value. Be it resolved that: Promotion of equality, safety and respect for all citizens regardless of sexual or gender orientation in all respects of life including employment, housing, education, healthcare, spousal equality, beneficiary rights and responsibilities. |
| Human/Civil Rights | LGBT Immigration Asylum -- 80 For 19 Against | CO Doug 104-7 | Whereas: The Democratic Party holds equality as a cornerstone value. Be it resolved that: Support for legislation and policy that promotes dignity and safety for incarcerated members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender community and extends asylum to Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender immigrants who might face persecution from their home government due to their orientation. |
| Human/Civil Rights | Open Communication/Media Deconsolidation -- 85 For 2 Against | CO Doug 055-013 | Whereas: It has been proposed that a consortium of companies should have the ability to restrict access to the internet by individuals, small companies and other entities by mechanical, technological, fee, licensing, or other means. Whereas: Broadcast media companies and periodical publishers are not limited to the number of media outlets such as radio and television stations, newspapers, magazines and others that can be owned by any single company, sister company or umbrella company in a given market. Be it resolved that: 1) The Democratic Party will foster the free flow of information and commerce worldwide over the Internet and no company or consortium of companies should be allowed to restrict access. 2) The Airways and the Internet should remain open to all. Media outlets must be limited in the number |

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| | | | <p>of radio, television stations, newspapers, magazines and others that can be owned by any single company, sister company or umbrella company in a given market and should remain subject to anti-trust laws.</p> <p>3) Democrats support “Net Neutrality”. Network neutrality is the principle that Internet users should be in control of what content they view and what applications they use on the Internet. The Internet has operated according to this neutrality principle since its earliest days... Fundamentally, net neutrality is about equal access to the Internet. In our view, the broadband carriers should not be permitted to use their market power to discriminate against competing applications or content. Just as telephone companies are not permitted to tell consumers who they can call or what they can say, broadband carriers should not be allowed to use their market power to control activity online. – Source unknown.</p> <p>4) Given that airways and bandwidth “belong to the American people”, prices for airways and bandwidth should be commensurate to their true value.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Patriot Act -- 11 For None Against | CO Doug 117-6 | <p>Whereas: The Patriot Act legislation erodes our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall roll back and/or eliminate The Patriot Act.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Reinforce FISA -- 3 For None Against | CO Doug 058-1 | <p>Whereas: In 1978, The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act [born of Watergate] created a court which meets in secret, and approves or denies requests for search warrants [wire taps and other surveillance]. Only the number of warrants applied for, issued and denied, is reported. In 1980, it approved 322 warrants. This number has steadily grown to 2224 warrants in 2006. In the period 1979-2006 a total of 22,990 applications for warrants were made to the Court of which 22,985 were approved (sometimes with modifications; or with the splitting up, or combining together, of warrants for legal purposes), and only 5 were definitively rejected. (Source: Wikipedia)</p> <p>Whereas: The Act was [temporarily] amended by the U.S.A PATRIOT Act of 2001, primarily to include terrorism on behalf of groups that are not specifically backed by a foreign government. – Wikipedia</p> <p>Whereas: In February 2008, when the Patriot Act amendment expired and a new one was proposed, the House resisted the language to provide retroactive immunity for telecom companies that assisted the government with illegal wire taps (i.e., did not follow FISA protocol) that were approved by President Bush after 9/11.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall work towards even stronger regulations limiting government wire tapping and other forms of surveillance of American citizens to protect our rights.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Remove the Death Penalty -- 33 For 9 Against | CO Doug 046-1 | <p>Whereas:</p> <p>1) The argument has been that, in conservative states, like Colorado, an anti-Death Penalty plank would lead to a soft-on-crime label, making it more difficult to elect Democrats, but this historical tide is waning both locally and nationally. Overall, American attitudes are changing and we will be better served leading the charge rather than following the pack.</p> <p>2) We are all aware of the inequities with regards to enforcement of the Death Penalty – racial, financial and otherwise – that have stubbornly remained impossible to address. We are all also aware of the</p> |

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| | | | <p>many convicted of murder that have been found, through DNA and other methods, to be innocent. There is not a lot we can do for these unfortunate victims but for those already executed we can do <i>nothing</i>.</p> <p>3) As punishment, the Death Penalty is at the same time both insufficient and inhumane, leads to further cycles of revenge and is contrary to the progressive ideals of the Democratic Party.</p> <p>4) As a cost-containment strategy the Death Penalty does not work and is an incredibly cold-hearted argument in the first place.</p> <p>5) As a deterrent, the Death Penalty also simply does not work and even had the contrary effect of increasing injury and death due to violent crime in any state in which it is enforced.* In other words, State sponsored violence sponsors violence in the State.</p> <p>*There are three categories of States when it comes to the Death Penalty, those that have it and enforce it, those that have it and do not enforce it and those that do not have it. States in the first category have the highest rates of death and injury per capita due to violent crimes (as compared to the U.S. as a whole). States in the second category have lower rates. States in the third category have the lowest. States have shifted between categories and the death rate due to violent crime per capita as compared to the U.S. as a whole has shifted accordingly, sometimes immediately but within two years. When the crime statistics for the New Jersey 2007 come out in August the change may already be noticeable, but almost certainly will be readily apparent in the statistics for 2008 available August 2009, and definitely in the statistics for 2010.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party will actively pursue abolishing the Death Penalty in Colorado.</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Right to Choice -- 56 For None Against | CO Doug 091-4 | <p>Whereas: The Democratic Party recognizes that a women's right to choose abortion is a decision between herself and her physician.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will uphold the Roe vs. Wade supreme court decision and a woman's right to choose.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party will support legislation to ensure affordable, safe and confidential access to birth control options to be provided without posing undue burdens or unwarranted governmental intrusion.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: Members of the Democratic Party stand against any initiative and oppose any and all efforts to subvert Roe vs. Wade, to include backdoor or deceptive tactics such as the attempt to legally redefine a fertilized egg as a "person".</p> |
| Human/Civil Rights | Strengthen Gun Control Laws -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 111-03 | <p>Whereas: The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed".</p> <p>Whereas: The Second Amendment being the most misunderstood of all provisions of the U.S. Constitution, where criminal defendants and the gun lobby have repeatedly and erroneously claimed that reasonable gun laws must be struck down as a violation of Second Amendment rights; yet the U.S. Supreme Court and an overwhelming majority of federal appellate courts have held that the Second</p> |

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Amendment protects only a right to keep and bear arms in furtherance of a well-regulated militia.

Whereas: Since our country was founded, no gun law had ever been struck down based on the Second Amendment, and in 1939 the U.S. Supreme Court in the U.S. v. Miller case held that the “obvious purpose” of the Second Amendment was “to assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness of” state militias, and that the Second Amendment must be interpreted and applied with that end in view.

Whereas: In March 2007, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued it’s ruling in Parker v. District of Columbia and that the D.C. rule restricting handgun possession was thus struck down.

Whereas: In 2004, guns murdered 5 people in New Zealand, 37 in Sweden, 56 in Australia, 73 in England/Wales, 184 in Canada, and 11,344 in the U.S.

Whereas: Recent mass shootings at schools and workplaces continue to shock the nation and decimate innocent individuals.

Let it be resolved that: We must reduce the number of handguns and assault weapons on the streets; we do not assert that we are trying to gut the Second Amendment or reduce it’s strength, and specifically that we are not trying to ban the NRA (National Rifle Association) from reasonable practices and pursuits; simply bring gun laws back into a more sensible and controllable state; that the so-called “Gun Show Loophole”, and waiting periods for purchase of guns to allow a “cooling off” period to prevent senseless violence and domestic abuse situations; the number of guns an individual may purchase within a specific timeframe, such as one handgun per purchaser per month; an assault weapon limit which regulates weapons with at least one military style feature such as folding stock or protruding pistol grip; a child safety regulation wherein no person under the age of 21 may purchase a gun and where guns are by law kept out of the hands of children age 18 and younger; the recordkeeping of gun purchases; the licensing of gun dealers and prohibition of illegal gun dealers from participating in gun shows; the reporting of purchases to a federal system such as the Brady background check system which would have prevented the Virginia Tech Institute mass killings; closing the so-called “Terror Gap” wherein federal authorities cannot stop sales of guns including military-style assault weapons, by dealers to known or suspected terrorists and that this Terror Gap threatens the safety of the U.S. population; required reporting of any guns stolen from gun dealers; ballistic identification so gun manufacturers be required to test-fire guns prior to sale and submit their data to a database for availability to law enforcement for later use if the gun is used in a crime; and other such common sense and reasonable measures that will help reduce the mass killings U.S. citizens.

Immigration

Equal Education for
Immigrants
--
11 For
None Against

CO
Doug
047-1

Whereas: Immigration related issues impact education at all levels.

Whereas: The U.S. has a long history of valuing public education.

Whereas: Children rarely have a say in where they are born or live.

Whereas: We respect the rights of all students in our public schools to receive first-class education and to have an opportunity for higher education.

Be it resolved that: U.S. and Colorado immigration policies be reformed such that, regardless of their citizenship status, students may attend Colorado schools and those who graduate from accredited Colorado high schools should be eligible for in-state college tuition rates.

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| Immigration | Immigration Reform -- 25 For Reform 1 Against Reform 11 For Work Visas 10 Against Work Visas | CO Doug 055- 11 | <p>Whereas: NAFTA, with its pro farm co-op takeover in Mexico and anti-union policy within the Maquiladoras corridor, has served to exacerbate the plight of the Mexican laborer in Mexico, driving them to enter the United States illegally.</p> <p>Whereas: We support immigration reform that balances our national security needs and our socio-economic needs with respect for human rights and dignities.</p> <p>Whereas: The number of illegal immigrants has reached many millions.</p> <p>Whereas: The U.S. needs a comprehensive immigration policy to address the presence of illegal aliens given the lack of a feasible, cost effective way to return them to their country.</p> <p>Whereas: The U.S. economy, U.S. taxpayers and U.S. businesses will benefit from an improved immigration system with an orderly path to citizenship and a method for visitors and guest workers to safely enter the country.</p> <p>Whereas: We believe the U.S. and Colorado benefit from hard-working tax-payers, whether citizens or legal residents, who desire a better life for themselves and their families than can be provided by their homelands or politically unstable governments.</p> <p>Be it resolved: The federal government needs to revise the current immigration system to provide a comprehensive immigration policy based on stricter controls of illegal immigration and increased ease in legal immigration based on employment availability and humanitarian principles. We support immigration policies that encourage citizenship; provide work visas and permits; protect laborers from unscrupulous employers; penalizes those who knowingly hire undocumented workers for the purpose of exploiting them; provide for legal, educational, and healthcare assistance for those who are properly documented; provide a path to citizenship, and secure our borders. This revised immigration policy should include a method for illegal immigrants to apply for citizenship separate from those who are classified as legal, speed up the application process at all levels, allow for temporary work visas that are simple to acquire, and step up border controls.</p> |
| Labor Rights | Opposition to the “Right to Work Initiative” -- 126 For 37 Against | CO Doug 061-1 | <p>Whereas: The Colorado Democratic Party recognizes that America’s working people are struggling to make ends meet and our middle class is disappearing, and the best opportunity working people have to get ahead economically is by uniting to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits.</p> <p>Whereas: The Colorado Democratic Party supports workers’ fundamental right to join together in a union to bargain collectively.</p> <p>Whereas: Unions operate under fair democratic rules and workers in Colorado cannot require anyone in their workplace to pay union fees unless 75 percent of the workers have voted to do so. The rules are strict enough now, and Colorado does not need an initiative the overrides a majority decision in the workplace.</p> <p>Whereas: The proposed initiative will lead to more government interference in businesses and workplaces. No one in Colorado can be forced to join a union today, and employees are only required to pay a fee for union representation if both the employees to negotiate the best solution.</p> <p>Whereas: If passed, the “Right to Work” ballot initiative would destroy unions’ ability to be a voice on behalf of working families in Colorado.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party strongly opposes the proposed “Right to Work”</p> |

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| | | | Constitutional Amendment. Be it further resolved that: The Colorado Democratic Party supports allowing state labor law reform to remain in the hands of the Colorado General Assembly. |
| Other | Dept. of Peace -- 6 For None Against | CO Doug 129-1 | Be it resolved that: Democrats support creating a “Department of Peace” that focuses energy and resources towards working with communities on a global level to establish peace and unity. |
| Other | Repay Tax Incentive if Move -- 23 For None Against | CO Doug 097-11 | Whereas: Towns often give companies tax incentives (TIF money) to locate their business in the town or area near the town, but then the business moves away before the incentive period is over. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support legislation to require companies to repay TIF money if the business moves away before the incentive period is over. |
| Other | Restore Gulf Coast -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug 127-2 | Whereas: The devastation left by Hurricane Katrina continues to be in dire need of repair and rebuilding. Be it resolved that: Democrats support further aid to the restoration of the Gulf Coast damage. |
| Other | Value People -- 12 For None Against | CO Doug 020-7 | Be it resolved that: Democrats recommit to value our (U.S.) people as our most valuable resource. |
| Party Directive | Caucus -- 9 For 1 Against | CO Doug 072-2 | Whereas: Many people came to the 2008 Democratic caucus wanting to participate, but could not because they were not registered as a Democrat. Whereas: We want to encourage party affiliation at every opportunity. Be it resolved that: Prior to the 2010 caucuses, a means will be added for any currently registered voters to change party affiliation by completing a new voter registration form at the Democratic caucus and have full voting and delegate rights after completing the registration form and giving it to a State VRD certified registration representative. |
| Party Directive | No more Super Delegates -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-2 | Whereas: The Democratic Party stands for open political processes. Whereas: The Democratic Party believes in the strength of grassroots involvement. Whereas: The party’s Presidential nominating process is at odds with its grassroots philosophy. Whereas: Super delegates bypass the representative caucus process and are comprised of the “party elite” including the members of the DNC, Governors, Party Chairs and former Presidents. Whereas: The “non-elected” super delegates make up 40% of the entire convention delegate vote. Whereas: The institution of super delegates to insure “party control” of the nominating process goes against all Democratic values. Be it resolved that: At the 2008 Convention, all super delegate votes shall be rescinded and in 2012 ALL delegates will be elected through either the primary and/or caucus process. |
| Research | Research Policy | CO | Whereas: Reliance on the advice of internationally recognized scientists is critical to sound policy |

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| | -- 92 For None Against | Doug 055- 002 | <p>decisions in most governmental endeavors.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports a return to a vigorous and influential OSTP (White House Office of Science and Technology Policy) first established by President Kennedy, where the goal will be to search for the best scientific minds willing to serve our government and to seek a diversity of opinions, rather than to continue the current administration's monolithic approach to scientific inquiry in government matters which listens only to advisors who agree with preconceived, politically-inspired positions.</p> |
| Research | Stem Cell Research -- 27 For None Against | CO Doug 125-2 | <p>Whereas: The health and wellbeing of our citizens deserve all our best research efforts.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports Federal funding for stem cell research.</p> |
| Taxes | Deduction -- 20 For None Against | CO Doug 081-1 | <p>Whereas: Putting children into daycare is a required business expense for many families in Colorado.</p> <p>Whereas: One family with three children reports that daycare cost them \$26,000 in 2006.</p> <p>Whereas: The current maximum Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses is \$6000 per year.</p> <p>Whereas: It is often imperative that both parents work in today's economic environment.</p> <p>Whereas: The status quo is that women typically stay home to care for children when the costs of daycare are prohibitively high reducing the net worth of the woman's income. This creates yet another gender obstacle that women must overcome to be equal.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will enact a new law allowing full Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses for all children in the household as if it were a "business expense", necessary to actually meet the requirements of the job.</p> |
| Taxes | Keep Jobs in U.S. -- 18 For None Against | CO Doug 102-8 | <p>Be it resolved that: In order to inspire businesses to return and/or stay in the U.S., the Democratic Party will provide tax incentives for companies that keep jobs (both skilled labor and technical jobs) stateside.</p> |
| Taxes | Remove Alt Min Tax Calculation -- No Caucus Vote | CO Doug PC-3 | <p>Whereas: The Alternate Minimum Tax was designed in the 1970's to tax the "100 wealthiest" families in America who were paying virtually no taxes because they had so many deductions.</p> <p>Whereas: About 200 million "middle class" families are now finding themselves paying the Alternate Minimum Tax because of deductions like four children.</p> <p>Whereas: The Alternate Minimum Tax can't be planned for because it is based on number of deductions.</p> <p>Whereas: The average as well as median income in the U.S. has gone up since the 1970s; items like the Alternate Minimum Tax are not written to take in those changes into account.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will remove the Alternate Minimum Tax calculation since it is no longer taxing the 100 wealthiest in the U.S. who pay no taxes but is in fact adding an additional tax burden to families making between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per year.</p> |
| Taxes | Tax Rollback / Tax Increase | CO Doug | <p>Whereas: The current tax code favors the wealthiest 10%. (To clarify, according to the Tax Foundation, in 2005 the top 1%, those making over \$350,000 AGI* per year, paid 39.4% of all federal taxes collected and</p> |

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| | -- 27 For Rollback 4 Against Rollback | 094- 3.2 | <p>paid an average tax rate of 23.13%. The top 10%, with an AGI of \$104,000 or more per year (including those making \$350K), paid an average tax rate of 18.84% making up 70% of all Federal income taxes that are collected. The bottom 50%, those making less than \$31,000 per year, contributed 3.1% to all Federal taxes collected at an average tax rate of 2.98%.)</p> <p>Whereas: In the 1920's the highest income tax collected was 24%. Today it is 35%. Under FDR it rose to 69% and then to 79%. In the 1950's it went all the way to 91%. In addition, estate taxes climbed from 20% to 77%. (Source: Paul Krugman, <i>Conscience of a Liberal</i>, 2007)</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party supports a tax code to adjust inequalities among the tax burdens of higher, middle and lower income earners and current "temporary" tax cuts enacted under the Bush administration will be allowed to expire knowing that letting these tax reductions expire will affect all families making incomes of \$100,000 a year or more.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that: The Democratic Party supports increasing the tax rates for the top 1% of tax payers such that they will pay a 50% tax rate and that all amounts collected above the current 35% rate will go to pay off the deficit.</p> <p>*Adjusted Gross Income includes regular income as well as interest, dividends and capital gains.</p> |
| Taxes | Windfall Tax -- 2 For 2 Against | CO Doug 094-4 | <p>Whereas: The compensation between executive officers and employees is becoming increasingly more extreme and executive salaries are not approved by stockholders.</p> <p>Be it resolved that: The Executive Offices (board members and any other high-ranking employee of a company or corporation) being compensated by more than 40 times the average salary or hourly pay of the average employee in the same company or corporation shall be taxed at a rate of 75% on income in excess of the "40 times threshold".</p> <p>Whereas: The bonuses of stock options, bonds or any financial instrument that are given to Executive Officers are not approved by investors and are not offered to employees.</p> <p>Let it be resolved: Bonuses and stock options that are given to executive officers shall be treated as windfall income and taxed at the rate of 75% unless these bonuses and stock options are also given to employees on the same percentage basis according to their salaries. If employees are offered the same percentage of bonuses and options as the executive officers then the tax rates for are the standard tax rates.</p> <p>Whereas: The "golden parachute" for executives has become excessive.</p> <p>Let it be resolved: All retirement severance packages for Executive Officers that are more than 40 times the average severance package of an employee, then the difference in compensation shall be taxed as windfall income and be subject to 75% withholding.</p> |
| Veterans | Aid for Ex-Spouses with Children -- 20 For None Against | CO Doug 119-3 | <p>Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall support legislation that provides aid for ex-spouses with children of U.S. military troops in a manner similar to spouses.</p> |
| Veterans | Benefits -- | CO Doug | <p>Whereas: Some failures in the quality of medical care and deficiencies in disability benefits for soldiers injured in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world suggest a government that does not fully appreciate the</p> |

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2008 RESOLUTIONS

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| | 90 For None Against | 055-8 | nature of the sacrifices made by our military personnel and the seriousness of their injuries. Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party will support providing the best possible medical, psychological care and aid to all injured soldiers and their families, regardless of cost, utilizing civilian as well as military facilities. Paperwork and “red tape” will be aggressively minimized and rules and regulations will be rewritten as needed to recognize all medical and psychological conditions that may afflict a veteran. |
| Veterans | Protecting rights -- 28 For None Against | CO Doug 091-6 | Be it resolved that: The Democratic Party shall ensure that our retired military will be protected from further cuts in their financial and medical benefits. |

2008 Platform Committee:
 Christopher Horak
 Karen Cody-Hopkins
 Mary Anne Slick
 Rebecca Moore-Leach
 Samuel Van Why
 Shelly Tokerud
 Dianne Bailey, Chair/Editor