

Houghton County Democratic Party
Summary Platform, 2014, Adopted 9/3/2014

Poverty and Inequality: Workers should be secure in the knowledge that honest labor will earn a wage sufficient to support their family and give their children the chance to achieve their dreams. When work is unavailable, citizens deserve support to stay safe and healthy to seek reemployment. We oppose the capture of economic productivity by a shrinking sector.

Health Care: Health care is a basic human right. Government must provide full and equal access to high-quality, affordable care. We support a strengthened public health system that promotes conditions leading to better health for the entire population.

Education: Functioning democracy requires a population with knowledge, critical thinking habits, a spirit of inquiry and good communication skills. Economic opportunity also requires education. We support high-quality universal public school from pre-K through high school, and making post-secondary education universally affordable.

Labor: As Michigan Democrats, we are proud of our long history of standing by labor. We support legislation to strengthen the right of workers to organize and negotiate for their wages and working conditions. Workers have the right to safe and healthy conditions enforced by strong regulatory agencies.

Physical Infrastructure: Our aging infrastructure needs maintenance and innovation to keep us competitive and connected. In the Upper Peninsula, our roads and broadband are vital lifelines. We call for Michigan to invest in this core governmental responsibility.

Crime: The rule of law is a prerequisite for democracy. A good government provides for the safety and security of all, with care, even-handedness, and respect for the individual.

Security: We honor those who choose to answer our country's call to military service. We owe it to those who put their lives on the line, to deploy our military judiciously.

Public institutions: Democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry whose voices are not drowned out by wealth; a voting process that is fair, transparent, and open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society. America's legitimacy relies on its democratic institutions.

Civil Rights: All humans have the right to food, water, shelter, safety, health care, education and jobs. Government's first duty is to the fulfillment of these basic needs.

Environment: We must responsibly steward the natural resources we have inherited. Changing climate threatens catastrophic consequences to our lives and livelihoods, urgently demanding decisive action to constrain carbon emissions. Our economy must transition to sustainable power on the swiftest feasible path, and we must lead other countries to follow our example. The richness of our wild lands must be preserved: Michigan has a particular responsibility to protect the Great Lakes from challenges such as water diversion, pollution, and invasive species.

Immigration and Foreign Policy: We welcome immigrants who wish to become part of our economy and democracy. In dealing with foreign countries, we must have an effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our constitutional rights and the human rights of all.