

Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Ongoing Platform

(Following are excerpts from the platform on Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty issues.)

Thank you for your interest in the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Platform. This document is part of the platform, known as the Ongoing Platform. These statements embody the beliefs and principles of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and consist of statements of support or opposition with regard to particular policies. Each of these items has received at least a 60% affirmative vote at a State Convention of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The categories are arranged alphabetically, and the ordering of the points does not reflect rank or priority.

Civil, Human, and Constitutional Rights

We recognize that when the rights of any citizen are threatened, the rights of all are endangered. We therefore pledge to preserve our constitutional and civil rights.

We Support:

- Separation of church and state and the right to privacy.

We Oppose:

- Discrimination against any person on the basis of race, creed, religion, immigration status, sex, sexual or affectional orientation, HIV status, marital or homemaker status, disability or age.
- Government interference in all matters related to the control of one's own body, including protection of the rights of women to bear children, practice birth control and obtain safe and legal abortions, and the rights of patients and their families, guardians, and physicians to honor a decision not to extend life by artificial means.

Education

We believe a vigorous and universally available system of public education is basic to a productive, democratic society.

We Support:

- Academic freedom, student and faculty rights, and church-state separation in public school curriculum and educational funding.

Health and Human Services

We believe that all people should have the opportunity to be self-sufficient, secure and healthy. Cost-effective and adequately funded programs can help ensure these basic needs.

We Support:

- Private and public funding for health care programs that include pregnancy care, family planning and abortions, regardless of age or income.

National Security and International Policy

We recognize the intertwined relationship between national security and international policy. We believe in a foreign policy that strives for international cooperation, supports human rights, and respects international justice. Such a policy will have the effect of restoring American leadership in world affairs and thereby greatly enhancing the security of our borders as well as the safety of our citizens at home and abroad

We Support:

- The protection and promotion of women's rights, including comprehensive, adequately funded international family planning programs. Countries receiving foreign aid must be required to protect and promote women's rights.

Tax and Budget Policy

We believe government budgets must be based on sound fiscal policies and fair taxation aimed at achieving economic growth, conservation of resources and full employment.

We Support:

- Taxing all income producing property owned by tax-exempt organizations, at the same rate as other income producing property.

Minnesota DFL 2008-2010 Action Agenda

The DFL Action Agenda contains the specific positions adopted by each State Convention on important state and national public policy issues that the party supports in order to enact the principles in the ongoing platform. The DFL Action Agenda is effective until the next State Convention convenes, subject to any modifications or additions adopted by the State Central Committee between state conventions pursuant to the party's bylaws.

Civil, Human, and Constitutional Rights

- Allow same-gender couples to marry and to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of civil marriage.
- In the absence of marriage equality, fully recognize civil unions for same-sex domestic partners and make available to them all the rights, privileges, and protections available to married couples.
- Oppose any amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that prohibits or limits marriage, civil unions, and/or legal protections to same-sex couples.
- Repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the U.S. military and open service of gay and lesbians in the armed forces.

Yellow = Pro-Family / Be prepared to defend.

Pink = Anti-Family / Attempt to amend or repeal.

- Support domestic partner benefits for all public employees in Minnesota.
- Pass the Constitutional Amendment For Equality

Consumer Issues

- Require pharmacists to distribute medication prescribed by a physician without moral judgment or discrimination.

Education

- Support state and federal funding for family planning services and age-appropriate, medically accurate comprehensive sex education programs in schools.

Minnesota DFL 2008-2010 Legislative Priorities

These priorities are drawn from the party's platform resolutions by the Platform Commission and approved by the State Executive Committee. We work with DFL elected officials to enact meaningful legislation that achieves these goals. The categories are arranged alphabetically, and the ordering of the points does not reflect rank or priority. Please Remember: All Legislative Priorities are Action Agenda Item. The Action Agenda items listed below have been elevated to the Legislative Priority list.

Civil, Human, and Constitutional Rights

- Allow same-gender couples to marry and to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of civil marriage.

Consumer Issues

- Require pharmacists to distribute medication prescribed by a physician without moral judgment or discrimination.

Democratic Party Credo

We Democrats are the oldest political party in America and the youngest in spirit. We will remain so, because we enjoy the challenge of government. Time and again, for almost two centuries, the Democratic Party has made government work – to build and defend a nation, to encourage commerce, to educate our children, to promote equal opportunity, to advance science and industry, to support the arts and humanities, to restore the land, to develop and conserve our human and natural resources, to preserve and enhance our built environment, to relieve poverty, to explore space. We have reached difficult and vital goals.

Yellow = Pro-Family / Be prepared to defend.

Pink = Anti-Family / Attempt to amend or repeal.

We recognize that the capacity of government is limited but we regard democratic government as a force for good and a source of hope.

At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction, that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society.

We believe it is the responsibility of government to help us achieve this fair society.

A society where both public and private discrimination based upon race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, **sexual orientation**, economic status, philosophical persuasion, or physical disability are condemned and where our government moves aggressively to end such discrimination through lawful means.

A society where we recognize that the strengthening of the family and the protection of children are essential to the health of the nation

This is our purpose and our promise.