

# Platform of the Bucks County Democratic Party

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We, the people of the Bucks County Democratic Party, espouse these values as our ideal for the government of the County, the Commonwealth, the country and the world.

We believe in the equality and freedom of the individual; in the importance of the family in our homes, our communities and our world; in equal opportunities for all; in an open and honest democratic government, representing the will of the people; and, in furthering the highest calling of all, to love one's neighbor. We believe it is the responsibility of government to provide all citizens with quality education and accessible healthcare, to ensure our personal and national security, to preserve a clean environment, and to leave a healthy and historic legacy to our children.

## I. Freedom

**We believe in equal rights and individual freedoms for all.** To this end, we will

- Defend our right to privacy, and our freedoms of speech, assembly, worship, and association
- Ensure the separation of church and state
- Respect the equality and dignity of every individual, and protect the rights of all individuals from governmental interference with respect to our bodies, our lives, and our deaths
- Eliminate and remedy all discriminatory laws and practices

## II. Opportunity

**We believe in promoting a sound economic climate throughout the County that protects the environment, provides employment, and promotes the well being of our community.** To this end, we believe in policies that

- Protect the right to organize and join unions, improve working conditions, and provide workers with a livable wage, secure benefits, and meaningful opportunities to meet their family obligations
- Implement fair tax policies that balance the contributions of individuals and corporations and that are based on the ability to pay
- Balance budgets and provide essential government services without imposing burdensome debt on future generations
- Endorse economic opportunity for all, free from exploitation by governments and corporate interests
- Promote business and job opportunities within the County
- Balance the demands of trade, commerce, education, recreation, the environment, and historic preservation

## III. Family

**We believe that *the family* is the foundation of our society.** To this end, we will

- Respect families of all types and composition and recognize that *the family* encompasses both those in our households and in our communities
- Recognize that people in our communities and around the world are entitled to the same respect, consideration, and rights, including the right to care for their families
- Support policies that strengthen the ability of families from all economic levels to provide nurturing, in-home support for their children and other dependents

## IV. Democracy

**We believe in government of, by and for the People.** To this end, we support

- Equal access to and the integrity of a voting process that is verifiable

- Government that is open, accessible, and accountable, and which provides ready access to all public documents, agendas, and related materials to facilitate public comment prior to a vote
- Government that is free from the undue influence of wealth, hidden personal agendas, and partisanship
- Honest campaigns, disclosure of contributions to candidates for state, county, and local office and the end of *pay to play* practices
- Grassroots organizations in which ideas, priorities, and decisions flow from the people
- Use of democratic principles of government by all nations, consistent with the social and moral fabric of their societies

## V. Responsibility

**We believe the responsibility of a community through governments is to ensure education, healthcare, and retirement security for all, and to ensure assistance to those in need.** To this end, we support

- Public funding for day care, early childhood education, affordable higher education, and lifelong learning programs that promote broad-based critical thinking
- Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as publicly-funded programs with periodic reviews to ensure sustainability
- Healthcare for all, including pre- and post-natal care, prescription drugs, mental health treatment, and long-term care for those in need
- Providing the basic services and necessities of life to all who are unable to provide for themselves

## VI. Protection

**We believe that a safe and secure community is essential for our families to thrive, our prosperity to grow, and our freedom to flourish.** To this end, we support

- Policies that oppose the culture of violence at home and abroad, and that promote crime prevention, prosecution, and punishment, while maintaining fundamental human rights
- Resources and training to promote cooperation and coordination among all local, county, state, and federal emergency service providers
- Cooperation of communities, governments and international agencies to prosecute and punish cross-border terrorism and international criminal acts
- A strong defense of our freedom and independence, with war to be employed only as a last resort.

## VII. Environment

**We believe in the preservation and protection of the natural environment, historic resources, and culture of Bucks County.** To this end, we support:

- Protection of open space, farmland, wetlands, and woodlands by promoting reuse and urban revitalization over green field development
- Funding for new infrastructure demands, such as schools, streets, and utilities, to be assumed by the developers or to be approved by referendum
- Expansion of sustainable energy sources, recycling programs, community composting, and the advancement of mass transit, carpooling, and bike & hike paths
- Coordination and cooperation between townships and local agencies to ensure that all zoning and planning decisions are consistent with the interests of the greater County community

We invite all Bucks County residents to join us as we build our grassroots movement in support of these Democratic values and in support of candidates who embrace these values.