



# Yakima County Democrats

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## 2010 Party Platform

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### Preamble

2We come together to declare our vision as Democrats, mindful that the challenges of our  
3times are profound. For the first time in generations our great middle class is shrinking,  
4millions of Americans have lost their jobs, and millions of Americans are struggling with  
5the ever-increasing burden of life’s everyday demands. We approach these challenges  
6with an optimism that comes from our great faith and our pride in America.

7Today we pledge to return to the core moral principles of stewardship, service to others,  
8personal responsibility, shared sacrifice and equal opportunity for all. The Democrats of  
9Yakima County commit ourselves to the democratic values of justice, fairness and equal  
10opportunity.

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1 **Agriculture**

2 Agriculture is the economic base of Yakima County. We recognize the role of farmers as  
3 “stewards of the land” and we support programs that ensure the availability of high-  
4 quality food, strengthen rural communities, preserve family farms, and maintain the  
5 viability of the land.

6 Because Yakima County is a major national producer of tree and vine fruit, row crops and  
7 livestock, it relies heavily on manual labor. The men and women who provide this labor  
8 have worked in the US for years; they have put down roots and raised their families. In  
9 the interest of promoting their full integration into US society, we call on Congress to  
10 reform immigration policy.

11 An adequate supply of water is the lifeblood of our communities. We endorse additional  
12 water storage and conservation as a means to alleviate the burdens of water shortages to  
13 farmers, industry, recreation, and our environment. And, we call on our fellow citizens to  
14 recognize the appropriate usage and conservation of water as a limited resource.

15 We support:

- 16 • The family farmer and so we urge federal and state legislation to maintain this  
17 American tradition by providing economic support for the survival, protection,  
18 and improvement of rural communities, including marketing support for Yakima  
19 Valley agricultural products.
- 20 • Funding for agricultural commodity programs that strongly support long-term  
21 economic viability of local agriculture and the availability of local high quality  
22 food.
- 23 • Conservation and environmental efforts to preserve agricultural land and natural  
24 resources such as soil, water, forests, and wildlife habitat.
- 25 • Organic farming and the establishment of stronger organic farming standards.
- 26 • Reductions in pesticide, herbicide, and other persistent toxic chemical use.
- 27 • Increased research in sustainable, non-toxic farming techniques through WSU and  
28 other Land Grant Colleges.
- 29 • Adequate governmental support for research and extension programs to develop,  
30 improve and protect crops and livestock and improve quality, marketability and  
31 safety of agricultural products.
- 32 • Requirements for food chain inspection of all animals at risk of spongiform  
33 encephalopathy disease and other emerging disease threats.
- 34 • Promotion of fair marketing opportunity for Yakima cattle growers competing  
35 with foreign producers.
- 36 • Enforcement of antitrust laws to prevent market dominance by too few buyers or  
37 sellers.
- 38 • Legislative limitations on genetic engineering of seeds and plants so we can more  
39 effectively preserve native plant diversity and protect farmers from liability for  
40 accidental drift of proprietary crop pollen.

- 1 • Clear food labeling including full and complete disclosure of nation of origin,
- 2 genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic certification, as the
- 3 public’s right to know must supersede corporate secrecy.

**4Corporate Power and Media Reform**

5Corporations are important and vital entities, but government was created by and for the  
6people, not for the corporation.

7We believe the free flow of information is fundamental to democracy. We believe the  
8public owns the broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which should be managed so as to  
9serve the public interest.

10We support:

- 11 • Full enforcement of antitrust laws.
- 12 • International trade based on fair trade standards including living wages and
- 13 environmental protection.
- 14 • Increased export of manufactured goods and decreased export of raw resources.
- 15 • Transparency in corporate accounting.
- 16 • Strengthening and enforcement of laws against corporate crime, with appropriate
- 17 penalties.
- 18 • Internet neutrality as fundamental to preserving the value of the Internet to the
- 19 public.
- 20 • First Amendment shield laws for journalists.
- 21 • Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast
- 22 licensing.
- 23 • Media ownership regulations to avoid corporate domination of our airwaves.
- 24 • Minority and community media ownership.
- 25 • Adequate, stable funding, free of political pressure, for public radio and public
- 26 television.
- 27 • Community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV.
- 28 • Rural access to a modern communications infrastructure.

29  
30We oppose:

- 31 • The Supreme Court decision that corporations are people;
- 32 • Undue influence by corporate lobbyists on our government through campaign
- 33 financing and unlimited issue advertising.

**34Economic Justice and Development**

35We support economic policies and business practices that promote the creation of living  
36wage jobs and sustainable economic growth. We deplore the growing gap between the  
37rich and poor, the downward trend in real wages, soaring executive compensation and tax  
38loopholes for the wealthy.

1 We support:

- 2 • Long-term solvency of Social Security and therefore we oppose privatizing Social
- 3 Security.
- 4 • Social Security benefits for people with disabilities and dependent survivors,
- 5 maintained in a fair and universal manner.
- 6 • We believe that it is the government’s responsibility to take the necessary actions
- 7 to ensure that all people have safe and affordable housing.
- 8 • The protection of both private and public pension plans, and the right for those
- 9 persons enrolled in their respective pension plans to be included in the processes
- 10 affecting their pensions.
- 11 • Multilateral trade agreements conditioned on environmental standards, human
- 12 rights, worker rights, and transparent democratic processes.
- 13 • Expiration of the Bush Administration tax cuts, raising capital gains taxes,
- 14 changing the alternative minimum tax, and elimination of special interest
- 15 loopholes and deductions.
- 16 • Limitation of tax havens for large multi-national corporations to hide income
- 17 overseas.
- 18 • Incentives for businesses to provide family wage jobs, adequate healthcare,
- 19 pension benefits, and on-site daycare.
- 20 • Changes to the State of Washington’s B&O tax to further encourage small
- 21 business growth.
- 22 • Continuation of federal estate taxes with an inflation adjustment so that the
- 23 minimum value of the estate taxed is greater than \$3 million in 2010 dollars.
- 24 • Congressional adoption of legislation to eliminate the status of corporate
- 25 personhood under the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Constitutional amendment.
- 26 • Corporate bankruptcy laws that prevent employer circumvention of obligations to
- 27 previously held employee contracts.
- 28 • Programs that provide options for homeowners to refinance existing high-interest
- 29 mortgages.
- 30 • Limitations on “bailing out” hedge funds, investment banks, and investors in
- 31 financial products with taxpayer funds or guarantees.
- 32 • Increased regulatory oversight of financial institutions.
- 33 • Separation of banks from insurance and investment firms.

34 **Education**

35 *“It is the paramount duty of the state to make*  
36 *ample provision for the education of all children.”*

37 The Washington State Constitution-1889

38 Since quality education strengthens our democracy and our ability to compete in the  
39 global economy we support a fully funded, excellent Pre K-12 and post-secondary public  
40 education system with well-qualified teachers and staff and state of the art facilities.

1 We support:

- 2 • Safe public schools free from bullying, harassment, and violence for students,
- 3 staff, and community members. We believe that there should be no retribution for
- 4 those reporting violence or harassment in schools.
- 5 • Full inclusion in the school environment of all students regardless of sex, race,
- 6 ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability.
- 7 • Access to high quality higher education and/or vocational training.
- 8 • Identification of a better funding source for educational capital projects because
- 9 public lands and forests can no longer sustain the funding requirements.
- 10 • Effective programs for teaching students for whom English is a second language.
- 11 • Educational employees’ salaries, retirement benefits, and healthcare benefits that
- 12 will attract and retain quality personnel.
- 13 • Identification and implementation of a stable funding source for all basic, gifted
- 14 and special education state and federal programs and mandates.
- 15 • Reduction of class sizes.
- 16 • School facilities that are adequately maintained and regularly certified as safe and
- 17 healthy by public health authorities.
- 18 • Full funding of Headstart, ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assisted
- 19 Programs), full day kindergarten, and assuring that early childhood education is
- 20 accessible to all.
- 21 • Fine Arts and Physical Education in the Basic Education Act of the State.
- 22 • Facilities and programs that advance vocational and technology education.
- 23 • Access to higher education for all, through financial aid and work-study programs.
- 24 • Age-appropriate, medically correct, and research-based health education
- 25 concerning issues of sexuality and alcohol/drug abuse for K-12.
- 26 • Public funding for our community college system and four-year colleges and
- 27 universities to provide a fully diversified, educated, and skilled workforce.
- 28 • College loan adjustments for graduates who choose public service careers.

29  
30 We oppose:

- 31
- 32 • Commercialism in public schools.
- 33 • Unfunded or under-funded mandates for education.
- 34 • Organized prayer in public schools.
- 35 • The teaching of pseudo-sciences such as intelligent design.
- 36 • Aggressive or deceptive military recruiting in public high schools.

37  
**38 Energy and Environment**

39 Our goal is to create a sustainable society in which future generations are assured of  
40 abundant renewable energy, pure water, clean air, and fertile soil to meet the needs of a  
41 strong economy. We accept responsibility for our natural world and recognize the need to

1 develop and implement policies and to encourage lifestyles consistent with long-term  
2 sustainability and viability. We must respect the web of life of which we are a part and  
3 preserve it for future generations.

4 We support:

- 5 • Widespread research and use of energy efficiency, solar, wind, biomass,  
6 geothermal, and other renewable natural sources of power.
- 7 • Production of renewable energy on farms including biodiesel, methane, solar,  
8 ethanol and wind power.
- 9 • Increased incentives and low-emission standards for clean renewable energy  
10 sources.
- 11 • Economic incentives for energy conservation and clean energy systems, including  
12 severe financial penalties for excess carbon emissions.
- 13 • The elimination of tax breaks and subsidies for coal, oil and gas companies for  
14 mining, extraction, and exploration costs.
- 15 • The immediate revision of the 1872 Mining Act to end exploration and extraction  
16 in environmentally sensitive public lands and provide compensation to the public  
17 for resources that they own.
- 18 • Requirements that our cities be responsible for neighborhood and open space  
19 planning.
- 20 • Intelligent growth management, limiting urban sprawl and preserving farmland,  
21 wildlife habitat and our remaining natural resources.
- 22 • Recycling and reuse of waste in ways that do not further contaminate the  
23 environment.
- 24 • An increase in federal funding for public transit projects. By balancing spending  
25 between roads and public transportation, we can reduce our dependence on fossil  
26 fuels, and better reflect Yakima’s priorities for a clean environment, good health,  
27 and enhanced quality of life.
- 28 • Clean water protections for fishing, swimming, and wildlife as well as efforts to  
29 clean up our air and water and reduce toxic pollutant releases.
- 30 • Sound stewardship of our resources as the first goal of forestry management and  
31 ecosystem management. To this end, restoration of fish habitat and forests should  
32 be fully funded.
- 33 • Limiting nuclear power until environmentally safe long-term waste storage is  
34 guaranteed.
- 35 • Distributed sources of energy, such as solar and wind power, supplied by  
36 homeowners and business owners.
- 37 • Cooperation with the international effort to reduce greenhouse gases and to  
38 respond to climate change, proportionate to the magnitude of the crisis.
- 39 • Higher Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, including SUVs.
- 40 • Long-term policies that promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed  
41 protection, and restoration of wild salmon and endangered species.

- 1 • Clean Water Act protections to ensure water quality and fair water usage, and to
- 2 conserve wetlands, a vital element for clean water.
- 3 • Cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and protection of the Columbia
- 4 River in keeping with the principles adopted by Washington State voters.
- 5 • Infrastructure and targeted tax incentives to encourage use of alternative fuel and
- 6 electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- 7
- 8 We oppose:
- 9 • Use of Bonneville Power Administration revenue to retire federal debt.
- 10 • Development and oil exploration in any national wildlife refuge.
- 11 • The trading of energy and pollution credits that does not reduce carbon emissions,
- 12 other pollutants, or further abuse natural resources.
- 13 • Exemption of military bases from environmental regulation.
- 14 • Open-cage, polluting fin fish farms of carnivorous species in our marine waters.
- 15 • Any new nuclear power or nuclear research stations producing high-level nuclear
- 16 waste until a national repository is established for safe disposal or monitoring of
- 17 the waste. This may not include pool storage.

18**Foreign Policy**

19The U.S. must work cooperatively with other countries to promote a sustainable, non-  
 20violent world in which the human rights of all people are respected. Critical issues  
 21including international terrorism, criminal apprehension, environmental degradation and  
 22nuclear proliferation can be resolved best by cooperation with the world community.  
 23While national self-interest is a legitimate element of foreign policy, it must be tempered  
 24by respect for other cultures, economies, and national aspirations.

25We support:

- 26 • Fully paid participation by the U.S. in the United Nations and other organizations
- 27 that promote human rights.
- 28 • Adherence to international law, including the Geneva Conventions.
- 29 • Reduction of nuclear weapons by our government and all other nuclear states. We
- 30 urge our government to honor and ratify openly negotiated treaties to reduce
- 31 nuclear proliferation.
- 32 • Worldwide family planning programs.
- 33 • We support the Charter of the United Nations, the Land Mine Treaty, the
- 34 Biological and Chemical Warfare Conventions, and other international treaties
- 35 and conventions protecting civilian populations and addressing climate change.
- 36 • A new approach to the Iraq War by the US, including:
- 37 ○ Full support for our troops, including sufficient protective equipment and
- 38 full assistance and medical care upon their return from service.
- 39 ○ Actions based on recognition that the sovereignty of Iraq belongs to Iraqis.
- 40 ○ The orderly and complete exit from Iraq of all U.S. combat forces.
- 41 ○ A rebuilding plan for the infrastructure destroyed since our invasion.

- 1 • Implementation of an orderly, complete and rapid exit strategy for all U. S.
- 2 combat forces from Afghanistan.
- 3 • That the United States should commit to vigorous, serious, persistent and even-
- 4 handed engagement toward a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian
- 5 conflict, promoting negotiations that lead to a viable resolution that ensures
- 6 security and a good quality of life for the Israeli and Palestinian people.
- 7 • That the United States foster long-term stability and open government in Pakistan
- 8 and Afghanistan with a substantial contribution to education.
- 9 • That the United States continue to isolate and contain the nuclear threat from Iran
- 10 and North Korea.
- 11 • That the United States cooperate with all nations in the suppression/elimination of
- 12 Al Qaeda operations worldwide. Strategies might include economic sanctions,
- 13 intelligence sharing and military pursuit and capture of leaders including Osama
- 14 Bin Laden. Additionally, we support Muslim nations in their efforts to prevent the
- 15 radicalization of Islam.

16  
17 We oppose:

- 18 • Covert efforts to destabilize other national governments.
- 19 • The use of depleted uranium in conventional weapons.
- 20 • The use of the National Guard for any purpose other than domestic defense and
- 21 response to natural disaster. For which the National Guards shall be under the
- 22 direction of their respective governors.
- 23 • The use of secrecy, psychological techniques and disinformation/manipulation to
- 24 intentionally misinform U.S. citizens.
- 25 • The use of taxpayer money to fund, train or sponsor military or police forces to
- 26 suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries. We call for the closing of the
- 27 School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for
- 28 Security Cooperation.
- 29 • Iran’s program to develop nuclear weapons.

30  
**31 Government and Political Reform**

32 Our government derives its legitimacy solely from the democratic will of the people and  
33 must reflect our values as citizens. Our government must be fiscally sound; operate  
34 ethically; refrain from establishing or supporting religion; and be open, transparent, and  
35 accountable to the will of the people. Our confidence in our government and our political  
36 and election system can be restored only through constructive reform.

37 We support:

- 38 • The right and duty of citizens to vote in free, open and verifiable elections, as
- 39 being the most critical action to uphold our democratic process.
- 40 • Oversight of the executive branch, on behalf of the American people, by our
- 41 democratically elected representatives.

- 1 • Taxes that are levied fairly and spent wisely.
- 2 • A return to a balanced budget and a gradual pay-down of the national debt.
- 3 • Full funding of all regulatory agencies.
- 4 • Contribution and spending limits as an integral part of campaign finance reforms.
- 5 • Laws requiring all broadcast license holders to provide adequate free airtime to
- 6 political candidates as a condition of their FCC license. We support the
- 7 reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine.
- 8 • Provision of information in the voter pamphlet on the caucus process, including
- 9 county and political party contact numbers to assist in caucus participation.
- 10 • Public financing of all election campaigns and full disclosure of sources of
- 11 campaign funds.
- 12 • Curtailment of the abuse of minority power in the U.S. Senate, specifically the
- 13 overuse of the filibuster rule and the anonymous block on appointments.
- 14 • Uniform voter registration and eligibility requirements for all U.S. citizens.
- 15 • Enforcement of Sunshine laws and transparency in government meetings that
- 16 discuss and make policy.

17**Health Care**

18Healthcare is a basic right, and our government must ensure accessible and affordable  
19health care for all.

20We support:

- 21 • Establishment of a comprehensive national healthcare plan, similar to
- 22 Medicare/Medicaid, and available to all, regardless of age or employment.
- 23 • Health care that is affordable for individuals and all employers and changes to the
- 24 system that benefit those employers who provide quality affordable health care for
- 25 their employees.
- 26 • Development of a state healthcare plan, assuring access to affordable, equitable
- 27 healthcare for everyone, beginning with children, until a national plan is realized.
- 28 • State legislation requiring employers of 50 or more employees to either provide
- 29 health care coverage or pay a fee to the Washington Health Care Authority.
- 30 • The right to access and confidentiality of medical records and genetic information.
- 31 • The right to sovereignty over our own bodies; we support family planning and
- 32 women’s reproductive rights, regardless of age or ability to pay.
- 33 • A woman’s right to choose as protected by Roe vs. Wade and the Washington
- 34 State Reproductive Freedom Act.
- 35 • Patient right to refuse any medical procedure or product.
- 36 • Comprehensive health care coverage including prescription drugs, preventive
- 37 care, dental care, vision care, physical therapy and medical technology including
- 38 long-term care, home care and hospice.
- 39 • Parity for mental and physical healthcare, including treatment and education for
- 40 drug, alcohol, and tobacco problems.

- 1 • Encouragement of personal healthful behaviors through incentives and health
- 2 education.
- 3 • The rights of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities to direct their own
- 4 lives in housing, education and all other life choices, consistent with the
- 5 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- 6 • The right for medically assisted death with dignity, with suitable safeguards for
- 7 terminally ill patients.
- 8 • There should be no retribution against patients, families, and loved ones who
- 9 complain about mistreatment, harassment, or bullying by healthcare institutions
- 10 and facilities.
- 11 • Public health policy based on sound scientific guidelines, following the
- 12 recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, and organized plans for an
- 13 effective response to major epidemics.
- 14 • Funding for medical research, including stem cell research, based on scientific
- 15 merit.
- 16 • Passage of legislation that will truly benefit Americans in controlling the
- 17 escalating costs of prescription drugs.
- 18

19 We oppose:

- 20 • Denial of legal medical care or dispensing of prescriptions based on personal or
- 21 religious beliefs.

**22 Human Rights, Civil Rights and Human Services**

23 The strength of our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in the U.S.  
24 Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the subsequent amendments to the Constitution.

25 We support:

- 26 • Affirmative action, and laws designed to ensure that prejudice does not prevent
- 27 qualified persons from obtaining education, employment, promotion, housing,
- 28 insurance or any other social good.
- 29 • Civil marriage as a legal union of consenting adults, not restricted by sexual
- 30 orientation or gender identity.
- 31 • Repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act.
- 32 • Separation of religion and state.
- 33 • The individual right to privacy, and that government or business respect and not
- 34 violate that right.
- 35 • Repeal of the Military Commissions Act.
- 36 • Immediate repeal of the repressive, unconstitutional USA Patriot Act and. Until
- 37 the Patriot Act is repealed, we urge all governmental entities to resist
- 38 implementation.
- 39

40 We oppose:

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- 2 • Discrimination of any kind, and believe that those who face discrimination must
- 3 be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such
- 4 injustice.
- 5 • Officially organized prayer in public schools and the granting of public money to
- 6 religious charities or schools that require a profession of faith or act of worship as
- 7 a condition of participation.
- 8 • Torture of prisoners for any reason in any location by any government or private
- 9 agency.
- 10 • The rendition of a prisoner to a third country for interrogation.

11 **Immigration**

12 Immigrants have historically strengthened America and continue to do so. We applaud  
13 cultural pluralism and believe that all people, regardless of their country of origin or their  
14 legal status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people  
15 have a right to equal treatment under the law. Immigrants to the United States should be  
16 helped in a systematic manner to know how and be able to live productive lives in our  
17 society, ensuring a future flow of legal workers.

18 We support:

- 19 • Comprehensive reform of immigration policy, providing all immigrants, including
- 20 undocumented, a clear path to earn citizenship or legal status with full labor and
- 21 civil rights.
- 22 • Due process to be provided in all proceedings throughout the immigration system.
- 23 • Fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our
- 24 communities, affording immigrants and their children equal access to education,
- 25 social services, and employment opportunities free of exploitation.
- 26 • Programs offering immigrants instruction in English.
- 27 • Making the process of confirming immigration status readily available to
- 28 employers.
- 29 • Enforcement of the laws that penalize employers who knowingly employ
- 30 undocumented immigrants.
- 31 • Safe and adequate housing, medical care, education and sanitary facilities for
- 32 migrant workers.
- 33 • Clearing the immigration backlog.
- 34 • A sound program to ensure a future flow of legal workers.
- 35 • Sensible enforcement policies that enhance our national security and safety.

36  
37 We oppose:

- 38 • Policies that deny civil and/or human rights or educational opportunities for
- 39 immigrants and their children.
- 40 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

- 1 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border
- 2 militia groups in the United States.
- 3 • Deportation or detention of any person without regard for the needs of their
- 4 dependents.
- 5 • The Nativist Movement and its discrimination against immigrants.
- 6 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the
- 7 United States.
- 8

**9Indian Tribes and Sovereignty**

10Indian tribes share a common history with the United States. American Indian Tribal  
11Governments make up a part of our national identity and community. We recognize them  
12as self-determining, self-governing, and separate governments. Local, state, and federal  
13governments must respect the decisions of the Native American Nations and tribal  
14governments, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose  
15attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures.

16We support:

- 17 • Treaties or tribal agreements, to be upheld by any party.
- 18 • Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs.
- 19 • Preservation and protection of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance.
- 20 • Provision of help to improve the social, economic, and health status of American
- 21 Indian people and tribes on a level equivalent to that of other Americans.
- 22 • Education of the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of
- 23 Indian tribes.
- 24 • Respectful and civil relations between Indian tribes and local communities, the
- 25 state and the nation.

**26Labor**

27A strong economy is based upon jobs that provide safe working conditions, a fair and  
28living wage and health and retirement benefits. These benefits are obtained and ensured  
29by workers’ actions protected by their right to organize unions for collective bargaining.

30We support:

- 31 • The right of individuals or groups to legally band together for the purposes of
- 32 collective action or bargaining.
- 33 • A livable wage that increases with inflation and productivity, including affordable
- 34 healthcare benefits and retirement benefits transportable between employers.
- 35 • Equal pay and equal benefits for equal work.
- 36 • Workers’ right to work in a safe, hazard-free workplace.
- 37 • On public buildings and publicly financed projects:
- 38 ○ Enforcement of the Davis-Bacon and Prevailing Wage laws.

- 1           ○ Requirements that prevailing wages be protected on all publicly financed
- 2           work.
- 3           ○ Requirements for 15% set-asides for use of Apprentices on Public Works
- 4           Projects. Apprentice set-asides should be included in all contracts
- 5           involving publicly funded and public financed work, to maintain ongoing
- 6           education and training for young people and others entering the workforce.
- 7           ○ Passage of reforms in the bidding process including “Responsible Bidder”
- 8           language in all public and public financed work, including expansion to
- 9           include contractor responsibilities to the community on issues of fair
- 10          wages, health insurance, retirement, and training.
- 11         • The rights of workers who are locked out to extended unemployment benefits and
- 12          retraining opportunities.
- 13         • A workplace atmosphere free from discrimination based upon sex, disability,
- 14          religion, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, race, national origin, union activities,
- 15          or political preference.
- 16         • Protection from retaliation and access to courts for workers who “blow the
- 17          whistle.”
- 18         • Amendment of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to allow automatic
- 19          recognition of a union, based on signatures of a majority of those represented
- 20          (commonly know as Card Check) as a basis of determination of workers’ intent to
- 21          organize.

22  
23 We oppose:

- 24         • Exploitation of migrant, temporary and contract workers.
- 25         • Taxing workers at a higher rate than the tax on capital gains.
- 26         • Corporations under-funding their pension liabilities.
- 27         • Foreign trade agreements that put the might of a corporation above the rights of
- 28          workers.
- 29         • Tip-credit minimum wage.
- 30         • Efforts to eliminate restrictions on the working hours of teenagers.
- 31         • Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes.
- 32         • Outsourcing of government jobs and privatization of public services, supplanting
- 33          public employees with low-wage, low benefit contract employees, or prison labor.

34  
**35 Law and Justice**

36 We recognize that civil order is necessary to the survival of a free and democratic state.  
37 Civil order is served when Justice treats all people equally. We recognize that in the  
38 pursuit of civil order, we cannot abandon the legal principles upon which a free and  
39 democratic society relies. We affirm liberty and justice for everyone residing in the U.S.  
40 according to the Constitution and believe that criminal justice and human rights are  
41 linked.

1 We note that the war on drugs has been a dismal failure, and we ask for a new approach  
2 based on treatment and education, as opposed to incarceration. Drug treatment and  
3 community-based aftercare, including clean and sober housing, should be available to  
4 every offender who needs it. In the matter of drug enforcement, asset seizures should be  
5 based on one’s conviction and not on arrest or assumption of guilt.

6 As a nation we must invest in children and work actively to eliminate poverty in order to  
7 help prevent future crime. We strongly believe criminal justice emphasis should include  
8 preventative and rehabilitative measures.

9 We support:

- 10 • The abolishment of the death penalty in favor of life without parole.
- 11 • Background checks before gun sales at all commercial venues including gun  
12 shows.
- 13 • Adequate punishments, including appropriate fines and jail time for white-collar  
14 crime. Restitution must be a precondition for any plea of leniency.
- 15 • Security measures consistent with preservation of civil liberties at airports, border  
16 crossings, train and bus stations to protect the public and the United States from  
17 terrorist activities.
- 18 • Adequate state funding for indigent defendants in all criminal cases.
- 19 • DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty in criminal prosecutions.
- 20 • Elimination of mandatory sentencing guidelines and “three-strikes” sentencing.
- 21 • The U.S. Attorney General appointing an independent Special Counsel to  
22 investigate and prosecute any government officer responsible for having ordered  
23 or participated in violations of law.
- 24 • Impeachment and prosecution of any member of the Executive Branch who has  
25 ordered violations of law.
- 26 • Legislation to prohibit predatory practices in payday lending.
- 27 • The preservation of the right to a civil trial by jury.
- 28

29 We oppose:

- 30 • Racial profiling by law enforcement and in sentencing practices.
- 31 • The use of prison labor on any contract bid for governmental work in the State of  
32 Washington.
- 33 • Harassment, intimidation, and domestic or sexual violence, and support strong  
34 legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce these ills.

35 **Military**

36 We pledge to honor and support our troops and our veterans who act in the service of our  
37 country. Yakima citizens have always answered their country’s call to duty and we are  
38 proud of our military contributions to the nation.

1 We support:

- 2 • Equal GI Bill privileges for all service men and women including National Guard
- 3 members who were activated for combat duty.
- 4 • Equal treatment for all service members including abolishing the “don’t ask, don’t
- 5 tell” policy and passing legislation to ensure that sexual orientation does not affect
- 6 equal treatment of service men and women.
- 7 • Restoration of full, no-cost treatment at local military medical facilities for all
- 8 veterans, as they were promised when they joined.
- 9 • Fully funded VA mental health treatment, including treatment for Post Traumatic
- 10 Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries.
- 11 • A full review by an independent medical and vocational rehabilitation panel of all
- 12 military partial disability ratings since the start of the Iraq war and occupation.
- 13 • Increased instruction by the military of all American personnel in their rights and
- 14 responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions, and enforcement of these
- 15 responsibilities to the highest levels of command.
- 16 • Elimination of excessive, unnecessary and redundant programs and/or weapons
- 17 from the military budget, the savings to be allocated to more pressing domestic or
- 18 military needs.

19  
20 We oppose:

- 21 • The federal use of the National Guard for any purposes other than defense
- 22 enforcement of a court order or response to natural disaster.
- 23 • Any religious, racial, sexual, and gender-based harassment, and we demand that
- 24 offenders be disciplined.
- 25 • The imposition of hardships on military and National Guard families by policy
- 26 that unreasonably extends deployments, straining marriages, separating parents
- 27 and children, and contributing to unprecedented numbers of suicides among
- 28 military personnel.
- 29 • The militarization of space.

30 **Transportation**

31 We believe that an efficient, flexible, and far-sighted transportation system is vital to  
32 healthy communities, a strong agricultural industry in Yakima County, the broader local  
33 economy, and a healthy environment.

34 We support:

- 35 • Investments in public infrastructure that
  - 36 ○ Broaden transportation choices and reduce dependence on the automobile.
  - 37 ○ Increase funding of rural community transportation services, such as those
  - 38 provided by “People for People”.
  - 39 ○ Provide rail options for agriculture and manufacturing shipments.
- 40 • Policies that make travel as safe as possible for all modes of transportation,
- 41 motorized and non-motorized.

- 1 • The development and use of alternative energy sources for vehicles, including
- 2 additional charging stations for electric vehicles.
- 3 • Accessible transportation for all, including persons with disabilities.
- 4 • Increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles.
- 5 • Land use planning that works to decrease the need to drive.