

**PEOPLE OVER PROFITS**

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM**



# PREAMBLE

We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few.

Therefore we, the Socialist Party, dedicate our efforts to the creation of a democratic and equal society. We seek the complete abolition of capitalism and its replacement with a socialist system built upon the principles of freedom, equality, and solidarity.

Our aim is to empower and strengthen the working class through the pursuit of drastic changes to the system. Our fight to bring about change through reform and electoral politics are intended to expose the deep flaws in the system, and to show the American people the need for radical change.

Together, we shall end the oppression and exploitation of the masses by the ruling class and the system that holds them up. We will advance the cause of social revolution, in pursuit of the liberation of the oppressed and the defeat of the oppressors.

# POINTS OF UNITY

**Anti-capitalism:** The Socialist Party stands against any economic order where workers are exploited and do not see the full product of their labor. Capitalism is inherently alienating, both in an economic sense and a social sense. It creates a culture in which our relations with one another are defined by commodification.

**Liberation.** The Socialist Party seeks to abolish the system of arbitrary privilege under which a handful benefit while the many are oppressed. The Party has no tolerance for racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or other discrimination.

**Socialism:** The Socialist Party seeks to introduce a socialist system in which there are no classes and the means of production are shared and democratically controlled by all. We support workplace democracy and collectivization.

**Democracy:** The Socialist Party stands in support of increasing democracy. In that, we reject unrepresentative systems of voting and governance and support direct democracy and consensus-building. We are a democratically governed party.

**Solidarity:** The Socialist Party will unite a diverse group of Marxists, Libertarian Socialists, Democratic Socialists, Anarchists, and other socialists, who all believe in worker ownership of the means of production as well as working against the adverse effects of a capitalist economic system. As a Party in the current liberal democratic political structure, we cannot achieve anything unless we coalesce around our shared beliefs, epitomized in these Points of Unity, and so we reject factional infighting in favor of our shared beliefs.

**Anti-Fascism & Anti-Imperialism:** The Socialist Party will stand against right-wing nationalist, authoritarian third positionist, and related movements, and will oppose such ideologies through party policy. The Socialist Party will stand against interventionism, except for the unconditional liberation of an oppressed people.

# OUR PROGRAM

## Budgeting and the Economy

### Investments

We seek to increase investment in transportation, education, and employment through increasing funding to these areas. We seek full employment by guaranteeing every person who wants a job can get one - either in private business or in the public sector. We also seek to increase funding for welfare programs and social services and support the implementation of a Universal Basic Income or Negative Income Tax program.

### Taxation

We support heavy estate and income tax increases on the wealthiest and seek to cut taxes on workers when possible. We feel that sales taxes, payroll taxes and VAT are regressive, and seek to abolish sin taxes. We believe that capital gains should be taxed as income, and support replacing the corporate tax with a tax on dividends in order to streamline our tax system. We support a federal Land Value Tax as a fairer way to fund entitlements - instead of the payroll tax.

### Trade

We recognize the importance of international trade to the global economy, but we will only support trade deals that serve the interests of working people and the environment and not global capital. The government should make efforts to help workers affected existing trade deals.

### Science and Technology

We are a party which believes in science and embraces scientific advancements. Our stance on science and technology issues is simple: the government must invest in these fields, increase diversity, and prepare more people for employment in these fields. Policies must be enacted which increase representation of women and minorities in science and technology. In addition to this, we must increase access to a career in this field by improving science education, science programs, and awareness of scientific issues.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

Our plan to solve infrastructure issues is to invest in infrastructure to serve the needs of people, not profits. We need no new urban highways, but we need billions in extending transit capacity. Flint needs clean water, and American children still grow up in lead homes that could be quickly and cheaply made safe.

## Decarbonization

We must decarbonize our economy by 2050 to head off the worst effects of climate change. We support carbon taxation, emission caps, efficiency mandates, and direct investment to accomplish emission reductions. Further, we support a large public investment in clean energy technology, and sharing the technologies gained freely with developing countries and partners around the world. The United States must help bear the cost of global de-carbonization and climate disaster mitigation.

# Labor

The Socialist Party believes that the labor movement is an extremely important part of expanding opportunities for all workers and increasing workplace equity and democracy. We support the repeal of right-to-work legislation and Taft-Hartley, believing that all workers should have the right to unionize. It is imperative that we enforce and strengthen our labor laws. The extreme injustices of capitalism can only be solved by uniting workers and providing them with adequate support in their struggle.

The creation of a socialist mode of production depends on the ability of workers to own and control their workplaces and their labor. As a temporary solution, we support using budgetary means to incentivize the creation of worker-owned cooperatives. However, there must be more significant changes. We will push for economic mutualization in which all companies shall be owned and collectively controlled by their employees. As part of a broader worker self-management strategy, there must be a comprehensive system of workplace democracy. Workers must be able to determine goals and democratically determine management, and they must have the ability to profit from the success of their company through profit sharing.

We propose a comprehensive full employment program - one in which every person who wishes to work is provided an opportunity to do so. This shall be accomplished in the following ways. Firstly, there must be significant investment in industries which provide decent paying jobs for people of different skills. Secondly, we must assist the unemployed

in finding fulfilling labor. We shall do this by reducing financial pressures on the unemployed, by expanding the Negative Income Tax and unemployment insurance. And most significantly, we must guarantee those who are involuntarily employed a job in the government.

In limited cases, we support nationalization of major industries. We support workplace democracy and increased regulations for all businesses to ensure that business help all people - not just their shareholders. We encourage worker-owned cooperatives and the democratic self-management of all corporations as well as steps to implementing workplace democratization in the civil service.

### **Minimum Wage and Fair Workweek**

It is a sad reflection on our society that there even needs to be a minimum wage as we believe all working people should be entitled to proper living standards. Nevertheless, we support a federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour and seek to ensure that all workers are paid a living wage. We believe that the minimum wage should be indexed to cost of living differences around the country as well as over time.

We support the fair workweek and seek to expand overtime pay to all employees working over thirty hours per week. We oppose zero-hours contracts and support adequate amounts of sick leave, maternity and paternity leave, and paid vacation days.

## **Social Welfare**

### **Healthcare**

The Socialist Party recognizes that our current healthcare system has failed. We must move to a single-payer, universal healthcare model similar to the United Kingdom's National Health Service.

We must reduce the stigma against mental illness and receiving treatment for mental illness. In this, there must be significant investments to ensure that no person who requires mental health assistance is denied it.

### **Welfare**

The Socialist Party supports our welfare programs and the strengthening of our safety net. We support the consolidation of many of the inefficient and costly means tested programs into a Universal Benefit.

We also believe that our many job training programs for the disadvantaged must be streamlined into an efficient and effective service for training workers to work in skilled or vocational fields.

## Human Rights and Equalities

It is the opinion of the Socialist Party that we are born with certain rights - not just basic rights to equality, due process of law and justice, and life, but the right to fulfilling labor, to a quality education, to food, quality healthcare, a home, and more fundamentally, to happiness and dignity.

### Feminism and Reproductive Rights

The Socialist Party is a feminist party. We stand against workplace discrimination and condemn rape culture. We support the self-empowerment and militant self-defense of women against patriarchal power structures. In this, we fully support a woman's reproductive rights.

### Anti-Racism

Our history as a country is shocking and shameful, and the Socialist Party believes that it is time for racism and its entrenched systemic power to end. People of color are opposed by economic injustice, slavery, and injustice in the justice system. We must support efforts led by communities of color to strengthen communities of color and believe that it is our moral obligation to provide reparations to those affected by slavery and economic injustice. Furthermore, we seek to demilitarize the police, and give communities more power to oversee police departments. We support affirmative action programs and stand against Eurocentrism. We seek to celebrate all cultures and their history and accomplishments.

### LGBTQ+ Rights

The Socialist Party fully supports the LGBTQ+ rights movement and seeks to end the discriminatory treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals. We stand against homophobia and transphobia, and fully support same-sex marriage and adoption.

We support policies which seek the full acceptance of LGBTQ+ people, especially LGBTQ+ youth. Transgender people must be guaranteed the right to transition. There must be safe spaces in schools for LGBTQ+ students to find support and solidarity, and discussions

about how to improve treatment of LGBTQ+ students or faculty must be encouraged in public schools and universities. A comprehensive education, employment, and housing non-discrimination act must be passed to guarantee equal rights.

## Democracy

Socialism depends on democracy and a populace which is engaged civically. There must be a radical shift in the systems and methods of democracy in our country.

### Enfranchise All

Firstly, we must give all people over the age of sixteen the right and the opportunity to vote. Currently, due to arbitrary state laws and regulations, many groups of people are shut out from the ballot box. Prisoners are denied the right to vote while in prison and in some states, years afterwards. Those aged sixteen to eighteen, who have significant responsibilities and deserve the right to vote are denied it in some states. Racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, and the poor are denied access to vote due to restrictive and discriminatory voter ID laws. We support extending the vote to permanent residents.

### Fair Elections

We must also reform the current methods of elections. The complex system of party primaries and caucuses must be limited and simplified. Caucuses, which deny many the right to vote must be eliminated. First-past-the-post elections must be abolished and replaced with more democratic and representative systems of voting. The current Electoral College method of electing the president must be eliminated and replaced by a national popular vote.

The assignment of seats in the United States Senate, which underrepresents those in more populous states and vastly over-represents those in less populous states must either be made proportional by state to give each person a fair say, or be abolished entirely

## Law and Order

### Drugs and the Criminal and Civil Justice System

The War on Drugs has failed. We support ending the war on drugs, releasing nonviolent drug offenders, and reevaluating the sentencing of those in prison due to drug offenses.



We seek to refocus our efforts on rehabilitating drug addicts and support the legalization and regulation of marijuana and some other recreational drugs.

We support the death penalty abolition amendment and ensuring a fair justice system for all. Furthermore, we support re-enfranchising people - inside prison and outside of it. As a socialist party, we oppose private prisons, mandatory arbitration, and tort reform. We believe that there must be a greater focus on rehabilitation and corrections instead of punishment in our criminal justice system. There must be opportunities for those in prison to educate themselves in a trade or for personal enrichment. We support the humane and just treatment of prisoners. Prison time for property crimes and crimes in general must be reduced.

We are a sex-positive party and oppose the stigmatization of those who partake in sex work or pornography.

### **Immigration**

America is a country of immigrants and we support comprehensive but inclusive immigration reform. We oppose mass deportations of immigrants from our southern border and refuse to interfere with those pursuing a path to citizenship. We believe that the vetting of Syrian and other refugees is sufficient, and there must be significant increases in the number of refugees accepted into our nation. We propose the immediate end to the cruel practice of immigration raids and the abolition of ICE.

### **Religion**

We support the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and furthermore believe that public officials should not promote or detract from any religion. We oppose the teaching of creationism in public schools, as well as mandated or pressuring students in public schools to partake in religious ceremonies

## **Education**

### **Universal childcare**

The Socialist Party supports universal childcare programs for families to improve school readiness - subsidized by the government and affordable to all.

## Public education

Our elementary and secondary education system is deeply troubled and requires a significant restructuring. Rather than impose unnecessary federal regulations which encourage standardized testing and the adoption of national standards, we believe that local and state governments must be empowered to create appropriate and relevant curricula. We oppose most standardized testing and seek to weaken the federal mandate requiring significant testing.

Our public education system must remain free, publicly owned, and of an excellent quality. We strongly oppose charter schools and their efforts to privatize public education, exploiting teachers and students alike. Rather than offering the illusion of school “choice”, we support the creation of real choices for parents by prohibiting zoning by neighborhood and supporting magnet schools and specialized schools. This should have a positive effect in creating a competitive aspect in our education system which encourages accountability while keeping our schools free and public. These real choices should also have an impact in terms of limiting class and race based segregation, as zoning, charters, and school voucher systems do.

Our commitment to democracy does not stop at the political level. For too long schools and other instruments of education have fared under harsh and unilateral conditions imposed on them by either a local school board or, in the case of charters, an unelected administration. The Socialist Party shall not stand for the normalization of unjust power structures, schools being the primary example. Thusly the Socialist Party advocates for the creation of student-run and student-led initiatives to give students a voice in our education system. There must be student solutions to student problems.

Likewise, the Socialist Party advocates for the creation of a Working-Teachers Council in every school in the United States. Such councils would not only be an instrument for collective bargaining for local teachers, but it would serve to further our commitment to workplace democracy.

## College for All

The Socialist Party supports free college and university tuition for all in order to ensure that no person is limited from receiving an education due to poverty or an inability to pay.

## Foreign Affairs

The Socialist Party - first and foremost - supports the liberation of the proletariat from exploitation and imperialism around the world. We recognize that our current foreign policy is in need of significant changes. We understand that the war on terrorism is at a critical point, and we believe that the United States has a responsibility to intervene on behalf of our interests as well as the interests of the global proletariat. However, we are hesitant to support increasing military spending or intervention of U.S. troops. Our priorities are to scale back our presence around the globe while maintaining our current relationships and encouraging movements of freedom, democracy, and the liberation of workers.

We believe that while international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank can be forces for good across the world, they must be significantly reformed. We must use our influence to liberate developing countries from crippling austerity policies demanded by the World Bank and the IMF. We must also use our influence as a tool to stop imperialism around the world.

We must support developing nations around the world as they enter our global community. We propose that foreign aid to developing nations be increased drastically in order to address global concerns. We also must invest in developing countries by providing them with fair trade deals and other means to support developing economies. In this, we believe that debt to these nations must be forgiven, as much of this debt cripples these nations and needlessly hurts their people.

In order to achieve these goals, we support moderate to significant reductions in military spending as well as the streamlining of our current defense and intelligence apparatus. We support the nationalization of defense contractors in order to prevent profiteering and the military-industrial complex.

While we believe the nuclear deterrent to be an important tool, we believe that we must decrease our nuclear arsenal and push for international nuclear disarmament. We support changing our nuclear posture to prohibit a first strike.

### **The American Empire**

America has had a brutal and shameful history of imperialism throughout the Americas and the Pacific. We believe that we must treat the remaining parts of the American Empire with respect, permitting them to self-manage with limited interference from the federal government. Those areas which seek independence must be granted it.