



Franklin County Democrats

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Franklin County Democratic Party Platform

Approved July 20, 2004 at a duly held meeting of the Franklin County Democratic Party

We, the Democratic voters of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, being assembled as the Franklin County Democratic Party, do hereby proclaim that:

Farming

1. We support family farmer-based agricultural systems that respect the natural environment and rural communities.
2. We oppose corporate farming and the creation of factory livestock operations that are owned or controlled by absentee agribusiness corporations.
3. We support local, state, and federal tax policies that encourage the continued operation - and viability of - family farmers.
4. We support farmers markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) systems, and the creation of other retail and direct sales outlets that directly benefit Franklin County farmers.
5. We oppose the land application of sludge, and encourage municipal governments and authorities to develop alternatives to centralized sewage treatment systems that generate sludge.
6. We support farmland preservation programs, and urge municipal governments to create programs and systems to protect and preserve farmland from real estate development pressures.
7. We support farm organizations that work to protect family farmer-based marketplaces from agribusiness corporate involvement.

Healthcare

8. We believe that a health care crisis exists in this country.
9. We call for full access to affordable healthcare, and for a system that supports people, not corporations.
10. We call for the evaluation of a statewide risk pool system to provide healthcare to those unable to afford health insurance.

Women's Issues

11. We support a woman's right to choose.
12. We support equal pay for equal jobs, regardless of gender.

Education

13. We support high quality education and equality of educational opportunities for all children in Pennsylvania, regardless of where they reside.

14. We believe that the current method of funding schools is burdensome and unfair both to School Districts and property owners, and especially to seniors and others on fixed incomes.

15. We call for legislative reform that creates a tax system that distributes the tax burden equitably.

16. We believe that because corporations benefit from a well-educated workforce, they should be required to support the cost of education at the local, state, and federal levels.

Jobs and the Workplace

17. We support organized labor, the right of individuals to join unions, and the unencumbered right and freedom to unionize.

18. We call for an end to out-of-country job outsourcing.

19. We believe that tax subsidies should only be conferred on businesses making a substantial, contractual commitment to the workers and well-being of Franklin County.

Protecting and Preserving Historic Sites

20. We support programs to preserve and protect Franklin County's rich historical legacy.

21. We support programs to educate Franklin County students at the elementary and high school levels about this County's historical legacy.

22. We support the sustainable development of the tourist industry in Franklin County focused on the County's historic lands, people, and buildings.

23. We support the work of groups dedicated to protecting Franklin County's historical legacy.

Environmental Protection

24. We support the permanent protection and preservation of significant, undeveloped tracts of forestland, riparian buffers, and wildlife habitat within the County.

25. We support the work of groups dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural environment in the County.

26. We call for the creation of Township referenda processes to approve or disapprove all new resource extraction projects within the County. We oppose all projects that do not receive the approval of a majority of Township residents.

27. We oppose the siting of new quarrying and/or manufacturing operations near schools, churches, parks, residential neighborhoods, or all land or buildings that would be adversely impacted by those operations.

28. We call for improved air quality in the County by requiring new and existing polluting facilities to install state of the art pollution control equipment.

29. We support the enforcement of local, state, and federal environmental laws, and call on the Franklin County Commissioners to create new County Ordinances that protect and preserve the natural environment.

30. We support the development of renewable energy sources, including solar energy, and encourage Township and County governmental buildings to create and install efficient energy systems.

31. We call for the clean-up of waste tire piles, with the costs of clean-up borne by those individuals or corporations that created the waste tire pile.

32. We call for the legislative creation and funding of tax credits for businesses and

individuals that use environmentally sustainable technologies.

Rural Communities

33. We support all programs that nurture and support the viability of rural communities in the County.

34. We support all programs that nurture and support the viability of home-based businesses in rural communities.

35. We support state and federal funding that enables rural communities to provide appropriate services to the residents of those communities.

36. We oppose any recognition that corporate “rights” supersede the rights of rural communities and their residents.

37. We support local control and oppose any attempts to remove legislative authority from municipal governments and communities.

Land Use

38. We support the development of Comprehensive Land Use Plans by every Township government in Franklin County, and support the implementation of Zoning Ordinances only in those Townships where development has rendered the adoption of those Ordinances necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Township residents and the natural environment.

39. We support protections for groundwater and surfacewater, including increased protections and safeguards for residential wells.

40. We oppose suburban sprawl.

41. We support the adoption and implementation of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) systems, that permanently protect openspace, farmland, and forestland from development while enabling dense development to occur in appropriate locations.

42. We support the development of renewable fuels.

Democracy

43. We call for full citizen participation in the electoral process without regard for financial resources, race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

44. We respect and encourage diversity and will work to build a hate-free environment in the County.

45. We believe in democracy - and the consent of the governed - as principles that must serve as the basic governing framework for this country.

46. We believe in citizen legislatures, and call on residents across Franklin County to run for local, state, and federal elected offices.

47. We support the full exercise of political rights free from control by wealthy individuals and corporations.

48. We support programs that make voter registration, voting, and running for office easier, and which remove hurdles to individuals participating in the electoral process.

49. We support the creation of Voter Day by Franklin County employers, to enable employees to participate in the electoral process on Election Day.

50. We support open and responsive Township and County governments.

51. We believe in the separation of Church and State.

Specific Policy Positions:

Approved July 20, 2004:

We oppose the St. Thomas Development Corporation's proposal to site a quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete plant within St. Thomas Township.