

# Yankee National Party Platform

Unanimously Adopted February 20, 2025

## Our Vision

The Yankee National Party is a center-left, social democratic political party that seeks to protect residents of the northeast from the failures of Washington and promote northeastern values of Independence, Democracy, Empathy, and Sustainability. We will provide a viable choice on the ballot, advocating for the interests of real people rather than oligarchs and profiteering corporations. We have the capacity to avoid the partisan gridlock instituted by the two major parties on the national level. We strive to become the third major political party in the United States and to do what is necessary to repel the advances of authoritarianism in our land.

Our platform is anti-authoritarian, anti-fascist, and for the people. We will, with allies, restore democratic principles in our country and correct system failures that led to authoritarianism and regressive policy in Washington.

Within this Platform, under the values of Independence, Democracy, Empathy, and Sustainability, we outline our policies under the following categories:

- Sovereignty & Nationhood
- Communities & Local Government
- Voting Rights & Political Equality
- Democratic Institutions & Constitution
- Human Rights & Necessities
- Economic Mobility & Security
- Law & Justice
- Peace & International Relations
- Faith & Culture
- Education
- Environment & Nature
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- Energy
- Future Technology & Exploration
- Sustainable Economy
- Transportation

## Party Strategy

The Yankee National Party has three central goals, and a three-point strategy to achieve them. Our Goals include:

1. To promote northeastern values of Independence, Democracy, Empathy, and Sustainability - the true, original, ideals of the United States.

2. To effectively serve the people and their needs over big-monied, profiteering interests.
3. To end partisan gridlock in Washington and enact pragmatic and substantive changes at all levels of government - especially to systems that have failed our democracy and that are broken in the eyes of the American people.

Our Strategy includes:

1. Engaging people about their needs directly and refusing donations from corporations and billionaires.
2. Working across party lines to build a coalition of individuals interested in real, practical reform.
3. Focusing on regionally-shared values and working to enact greater legal protections for the rights and liberties that are under attack by authoritarian forces in Washington.

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# Independence

*“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.” -Nelson Mandela*

In 1776, the founders of the United States fought for a truly radical, progressive concept: that all are created equal, and that we are endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. At that time, it was perhaps the most liberal declaration that had been made publicly. We have taken those rights for granted, however, and they are slipping away from the average US citizen.

When that declaration was made centuries ago, our forerunners were immediately unable to live up to those lofty ideals. Instead, American independence resulted in the creation of a country where slavery was practiced and only white, land-owning men had the right to vote. Despite this, the spirit of that declaration remains a guiding light for liberty, and over the centuries great strides have been made in expanding rights such that all people are actually endowed with the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Today, in the northeast, we keep the torch lit, and we remember what it means to be free. We are not going back - and we will resist efforts in Washington to pull us back towards the dark ages.

We deserve a Constitution and laws that are based on modern concepts of liberty and equality - not the antiquated notions of slavery and the landed gentry. An updated Constitution must work for the many, not the few, and must protect and uphold northeastern values and improve democratic systems.

The northeast drove the fundamental values of the American Revolution of 1776. These values hold true in the northeast today, but other parts of the United States have adopted less accepting, more autocratic values. While we aim to unite all people of the United States under our values, we maintain and are unafraid to assert our right to self-determination as our own nation in the event that progress continues to fail in Washington.

## Sovereignty & Nationhood

### National Identity & Autonomy

A nation and a country are two different things - a country is a region, such as the United States, that has a common government. A nation is a region that shares a common culture and values. While we accept, at the present, that we belong to the country of the United States, we assert that the United States consists of several

smaller nations. The northeast has a different culture, a different set of values, and different aspirations than states found in the south and central parts of the country.

As the heart of the United States' founding and development over the centuries, we believe that our values lie at the heart of what it means to be a citizen of the United States, and that it is the other parts of the United States that have deviated from these values.

We have no intent of meekly giving up the country we built, the country of our shared values, to the advance of would-be kings and despots who advocate only for the rule of hatred, division, and oppression. We will ceaselessly fight against the advance of the forces. If, however, authoritarianism prevails in Washington, we maintain and are unafraid to assert our right to self-determination as our own nation, a right protected and secured by the Charter of the United Nations, onto which the United States has signed. We reject the 5-3 ruling of the Texas v. White Supreme Court case in 1869, given that the Constitution does not require the various states to have a "perpetual" association with each other. We assert that the Constitution of the United States in no way prohibits the autonomy or independence of the states that currently belong to it, and we do not accept the notion that our forefathers would bind us to a future course in perpetuity without our own consent. We support each state's individual ability to chart their own course and determine their own future.

We are patriots - we believe in democracy, in our country's ability to improve itself, and in the liberties our forefathers fought to protect. We simultaneously recognize and celebrate our culture and seek to support and improve our nation. We refuse to be dragged back into the dark ages by a mandate of tyranny given by states that are not part of our nation.

## Limiting Federal Power

The federal government's power over the fifty sovereign states is excessive and has grown intolerable. The vast differences in culture and values between the various sections of the United States has forced the values of some states onto others, leading to discontentment, the deprivation of human rights and liberties, and general gridlock in Washington.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to guarantee and protect each person's rights. To that end, we support a national approach to the implementation of single-payer (universal) healthcare, climate-protecting regulations, and other related legislation; but we reject overreach at the federal level beyond actions taken to protect and ensure human rights.

Given that no alternative seems to be feasible in our current political climate, we will call for Washington to devolve power to regional bodies and states so that they may administer a government that aligns with regional values. We assert each state's right to self-determination and self-governance and reject Washington's oppressive level of oversight and paternalism.

## Regional Cooperation

The states of New England and the Mid-Atlantic are already deeply intertwined economically, socially, and programmatically, coordinating with a large number of interstate agreements to solve our common issues. We believe that further regional integration, led by the region and directed locally instead of by the federal government, can only benefit the northeast. So, we call for the creation of a northeastern parliament that will allow for multifaceted regional cooperation and protect the people's rights and liberties that are under attack from Washington.

We propose that this parliament consist of the six New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and any others that choose by majority referendum to join with it.

## Communities & Local Government

### Self-Reliance

As a people-focused Party, the Yankee National Party advocates for programs that assist people in need and encourages community assistance and cooperation on all levels that will help better the condition of the people. We also believe, however, that our states, regions, and federal government have not only a right but a responsibility to be self-reliant and able to provide basic necessities to its people without being beholden to potentially hostile external actors. To that end, we support a transition to true energy independence - the goal of moving, as near as possible, to a 100% renewable energy grid that removes our dependency on fossil fuels and, critically, the oil-generating countries that use their position as oil producers to wield undue influence over our country, dragging us into immoral foreign quagmires that waste American lives, resources, and damage our diplomatic relationships. We encourage all regions to diversify their economies in an effort to strive ever closer to self-reliance.

### Local Government

Much federal innovation occurs at the state level first, and much state innovation occurs in our towns and cities first. We believe that local government is the true cornerstone of our democratic society, and the Yankee National Party puts a special emphasis on running candidates for local office, where they can gain experience, learn

what it means to serve the needs of individuals, and make a lasting impact on the day-to-day lives of thousands of their fellow citizens.

## Internal Community Improvement

We believe in local rule when it comes to policy decisions, and the same goes for decisions about how we want to develop and improve our community infrastructure and amenity offerings. We reject federal overreach in such community improvement projects and support each community's right to choose how to best spend federally-provided infrastructure funding.

# Democracy

*“That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part.” – Thomas Jefferson*

As the beating heart of American ideals since the country's inception, New England and its surrounding partners maintain their fierce commitment and loyalty to democracy as the soul of who we are as a people. We assert everyone's right to not just be and belong in a country, but to participate in its governance. We reject the march towards authoritarianism accepted by the two major parties and the recent fascist tendencies of the Republican Party. We believe that democratic institutions need to be more accessible and transparent to the public, and the way our country is run needs to be communicated effectively to the people we serve. We believe that it is clear that the United States has lost this same commitment to democratic principles; we stand ready to reinstate them in our government if elected.

## Voting Rights & Political Equality

### Right to Democracy

The United States was founded on the idea that the people have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that the people have a right to completely reform their government if it fails to protect those rights. Despite the cultural departure of many parts of the United States from this belief, we maintain that a right to democracy is woven into the fabric of our society. We believe that this right must be exercised, fought for, and defended at all costs, and we assert that portions of our country have the right to pursue that right outside the Union if the Union fails to adhere to democratic institutions and principles.

We believe that the people of other countries also have a fundamental right to democracy. We condemn any electioneering by the United States government in overseas elections, and we condemn the United States' past actions to overthrow genuinely elected leaders. We do believe that there are cases in which a military maybe used as a force for good to secure overseas elections, but we believe that the United States, to the present, has abused the privilege of having a powerful military and intelligence agency operating overseas and has wreaked havoc on the international system as a result of their meddling. Our elected officials will not interfere with overseas affairs unless they threaten the peace of the United States or its allies, or if help in stabilizing free and fair elections is sought by the current government of the country in question.

## Equal Districting Processes

In cases where lines are drawn for the purposes of establishing legislative districts, both on the state and national level, we insist that fair processes be used to determine where the lines fall. We will not tolerate gerrymandering for the purposes of political gain by any one party, and we denounce the practice.

## Overturing Citizens United

Candidates can only appear on our ballot line if they have refused to accept money from lobbyists or corporate interests. We believe that those interests should not be allowed to offer such exorbitant amounts of money to political candidates in the first place. We believe that Citizens United is equivalent to legalized bribery, and we will not stand for it. We call for the passage of a Constitutional amendment that will effectively overturn the Supreme Court's decision and reinstate reasonable limits on political campaign contributions.

## Trust Busting

Corporations should not be too big to fail. In the 2008 housing market crash, our government decided that the major banks responsible for the crash were too big to fail, and they in turn decided to bail those banks out on the backs of the taxpayers. We deserve better from our government, and we deserve banks and other corporations that will serve responsibly and be held accountable for their actions. We will increase restrictions on the size of any given corporation in a sector to ensure that these failings do not continue into the future. We categorically refute the stance that the Consumer Welfare standard is the only reason to break up a corporation and seek to dismantle many of these industrial and technological goliaths that use their money and reach to bribe politicians and manipulate the public. Corporations are not people - and they will not be allowed free reign to harm the real people of this country any longer.

## Right to Speech & Expression

We believe that a right to speech, press, and expression must be much more fiercely protected than it has been under the current federal government. Our elected officials would seek to put an end to the practice of enforcing "free speech zones," outside of which protesters are not allowed, and would establish strict legal consequences for any member of the government that actively incites violence and hatred against independent and neutral media outlets. Furthermore, our party proposes that we expand the role of the Public Broadcasting System to include full-time news coverage to ensure that at least one national news outlet, mandated to remain neutral on all

matters in accordance with the now-defunct Fairness Doctrine, shall present the news in such a way as to allow the audience to draw its own conclusions. We believe that the key to a healthy democracy is a well educated and engaged citizens, and we believe these actions are needed to achieve that end.

## Democratic Institutions & Constitution

### Constitutional Convention

While the question of independence is pursued, we will prepare and stand ready to facilitate a Constitutional Convention at such a time that independence is secured.

### Instituting Federal Ethics

The federal government has lost all sense of ethical dignity; supreme court justices refuse to recuse themselves from cases where they have a stake in the outcome of the case, the President hires and pardons their immediate family members, and members of Congress blatantly abuse their stations to make money for themselves, above and beyond the significant salary they are paid by taxpayers. We call for the institution of strict federal ethics standards that prohibit these practices and enforce such prohibitions with strong legal action including but not limited to fines, removal from office, and imprisonment. Nobody is above the law, and our elected officials should be held to the highest possible standards.

### Ranked-Choice Voting

In our current first-past-the-post system of voting, a 3-way race could result in someone being elected with as little as 34% of the vote, rounded up. This factor generally causes one candidate to be labeled as a “spoiler” in the process, as the presence of the third candidate has in some way “spoiled” the possibility of a second candidate gaining a combined 66% of the vote, toppling the first candidate’s smaller total. Thus, this system of voting not only allows for candidates to be elected without a mandate of the majority, but it also forces the country to think of each election as a two-sided fight, with any third-party insurgency as only causing harm to one of those two major parties whose umbrellas are far too wide to truly represent everyone in their camp.

We reject first-past-the-post voting in favor of ranked-choice voting systems. In a ranked-choice, single transferable vote system, each voter has the opportunity to rank each of the candidates on the ballot from 1 to X, where X is the number of candidates running. All the first-place votes are counted, and any candidate who holds a mandate of the majority, or over 50% of the vote, wins. In the event that there is no winner, the last-place candidate’s first-place votes are redistributed to the second

choice of each of those voters. This process is repeated until one candidate receives over 50% of the vote.

This process ensures that the candidate with the greatest level of support always wins, and it allows for people to vote for third-party candidates without fear of “spoiling” any election. It is the next step we must take to ensure our democracy remains true and valid. We have all been witnesses to the level of dysfunction first-past-the-post voting has brought to Washington, and we will not stand for it any longer.

## Digital Citizenship

Secure, effective digital citizenship would benefit all, but rural communities especially would benefit from the ability to confidently vote, pay taxes, renew driver’s licenses, apply for a business license, view vital records, or check on the status of applications for unemployment benefits, without having to travel long distances or stand in line at an office during business hours.

While recognizing the challenges to full digital citizenship, we support the digitization of many important government services on a regional basis. Paramount to achieving this goal, is a coordinated effort amongst the New England states to ensure every citizen has access to reliable, high-speed internet connection. This would unlock opportunities for digital civic participation in many forms, through a secure system of digital identification and verification. This type of initiative has enjoyed great success in countries where it has been implemented, and a gradual transition to a digital-hybrid citizenship could be achieved in New England as well.

This will require a commitment to cybersecurity, which could best be implemented on a regional basis. Ensuring the security of digital civic participation will be paramount to instilling public confidence in such institutions.

## Expanded Voting Opportunities

The people of our country deserve better than to be told that they only have 14 hours to vote. We support making Election Day a national holiday, allowing for early voting, and no-excuse absentee voting. The right to choose one’s own destiny is perhaps the most sacred opportunity we have as sentient beings, and we will fight fiercely to ensure that the right to vote is protected and expanded.

# Empathy

*“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death.” –Anne Frank*

## Human Rights & Necessities

### Right to Health & Health Care

As a human being, we believe that we all have a fundamental, inherent right to live and be alive. To attain this right, we declare that health and healthcare are human rights. We will ensure universal healthcare coverage for all Americans. Health and healthcare are rights that have already been provided by the majority of other developed nations around the world at a lower cost per patient than the United States is able to boast through its privatized system.

Our party supports a transition to a national single-payer healthcare system, with continued access to private care for those that choose to pay out-of-pocket, where the government would be responsible for both paying medical bills issued by doctors’ offices and bargaining with pharmaceutical companies over drug prices. Studies show that this could [save the United States billions in administrative costs alone](#), and other countries that bargain with pharmaceutical companies, such as Norway, have demonstrated that collectivizing purchasing power into a single hand can lower costs by thousands of dollars per dose for life-saving treatments. This move will lower the operating costs to hospitals and other treatment centers by millions, and those savings may be felt by the people through lower taxes and a total removal of medical bills from the American consciousness. Furthermore, businesses will not have to spend time and money managing their own health programs, saving them money, and your single-payer coverage will follow you regardless of where you work or live and be accepted by any medical center.

### Right to Food & Water

We believe that access to food is a fundamental human right, being necessary for sustained human life. Unlike the current federal government, we believe that government must guarantee access to food in order to secure our people’s right to life. To this end, our party supports passing laws that incentivizes or requires supermarkets with unsold foods to distribute those foods to individuals who are unemployed and living below the poverty line.

Similarly to the question of food, we believe that access to clean drinking water is an inalienable human right, and it is the responsibility of government to ensure that this

right is upheld. To do this, we propose that the government purchase and operate all private water companies. This will help the administration better track and manage freshwater resources as droughts and floods greatly vary and impact the availability of our water supply, it will help the government to more carefully guard and protect drinking water from contaminants and contamination-based terrorism, it will help to reduce the cost burden on the residents who were formerly paying private water companies to make a profit, and it will allow the government to create processes by which those in need can request and be granted access to drinking water for either a reduced price or free-of-charge.

## Right to Self & Body

We are committed to preserving the freedom of self and bodily self-determination. We believe that all humans have the right to be free and to determine their own destiny. Human beings must not be bought and sold as slaves in any market, and we condemn the institution of human trafficking in the harshest possible terms. Our party calls on the federal, state, and even local governments to help educate the American public about the projected hundreds of thousands of trafficked slaves that are in the United States today, and to redouble efforts to break up trafficking rings at home and abroad.

In that same line of thinking, reproductive rights are innate and should not be infringed upon in any way. While we recognize many people's desire to see abortion rates reduced in this country, we support providing universal access to contraceptives as a means of reducing the annual number of pregnancies rather than seeking to curtail inalienable rights.

## Right to Shelter

The vacancy rate for rental units and houses in the United States is far greater than the proportion of the population that is currently homeless. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that every person has a roof over their head. Therefore, our elected officials will direct housing authorities on all levels of government to create programs that both acquire and provide housing for individuals in need, while also implementing incentive programs that will help to motivate and inspire program participants to seek new sources of income and either purchase or rent homes of their own.

## Right to Move & Relocate

For too long, country borders and a lack of affordable transportation have led to generations of unhappy people. We believe that people have a right to affordable travel within our country's borders and should have just as much a right to leave to become a citizen of a country of their choosing without being persecuted for the act. We acknowledge that there are some people within our borders who would rather live in a

society that has arranged itself differently or that has a different culture to our own, and we wish to ensure that those people are able to safely emigrate as they choose. Our elected officials will invest in transit-oriented development to help residents live and work in a manner that maximizes the efficiency of their time, money, and other resources. We will pursue a total overhaul and expansion of our train lines, create public train companies and subsidize costs to make them more affordable for our people, and work on the local level to develop complete streets that allow for easy walking and biking options.

## Economic Mobility & Security

### Economic Bill of Rights

In 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt outlined what has come to be known as an “Economic Bill of Rights,” and challenged that Congress act to ensure these rights. We believe wholeheartedly in FDR’s proposal, and we believe that the rights he outlined are not only important to the welfare of our people and a free society, but we believe they are moral imperatives. Our elected officials will work to get an Economic Bill of Rights passed as legislation, which will protect the people’s right to the following:

- The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;
- The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;
- The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;
- The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;
- The right of every family to a decent home;
- The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment; and
- The right to a good education.

We believe that the workers of our country have a right to act to better their conditions in the workplace. While unions have been loosely protected by law before now, we believe that our Constitution needs to more specifically ensure the right to unionize and identify what rights fall under that wider umbrella of action. The United States is one of the only developed countries to have less than 20% of its workforce in a union, and our party will encourage all employees, public and private, to unionize in an effort to better their places of work and their own quality of life.

The 20th century brought us the 40-hour work week, and we believe that societal standards should keep pace with technological advancements. We propose that the government gradually facilitate a shift down to a 32-hour work week in both the public and private sector. Studies have demonstrated that the workers of any company or agency are generally more efficient in their work if they feel more fulfilled in their home and social lives, and we believe that the true mark of a thriving civilization is the degree to which people are able to pursue happiness. We stand with companies and organizations that are experimenting with the possibility of allowing their workers flex time and other innovative work schedules, and we stand in favor of these innovations as automation and other efficiencies continue to develop.

In the richest country on earth, we should afford our laborers the opportunity to take maternity, paternity, and medical leave for sensitive operations without the threat of their pay being limited. We value the forging of new life and family units, as well as self-betterment through medical care, and we believe that workers deserve to feel secure in their job and income as they undergo these experiences. We support the creation of a government-run paid family and medical leave program for private and public employees alike.

## Right to Integrate

Many of our communities, whether it be by choice or by design, are segregated by color and class. We seek to find ways to preserve community character while also working to end de facto segregated classrooms. We believe that one of the best ways to fight bigotry is to ensure that our children grow up in an environment that is diverse, tolerant, integrated, and loving, and we believe that working to desegregate classrooms is an important part of bettering the next generation.

We fully support the right of people to live where they work, and believe that unequal housing opportunity is a major factor perpetuating segregation in many of our communities. When people think of segregation, they often think of documentaries about the Jim Crow south, but segregation persists to this day, with some of the most racially- and income- segregated places in the United States falling within New England. This is perpetuated largely by local zoning laws which effectively prevent lower-income families, as well as people of color, from accessing housing in many exclusive communities.

One crucial part of this solution falls to the various states to create fair-share housing laws, the most effective of which would be modeled after a Massachusetts section 40b style program, which reduces the ability of communities to crush proposed developments which would provide affordable housing if less than 10% of the housing stock in the community is affordable. Contrary to popular belief, this does not entail

the end of all local control, but if maintaining the character of a community means preventing low income families and people of color from accessing the high-quality schools and opportunities provided there, fundamental change is necessary. Even in our most progressive communities, we must not be afraid to call our segregation where it exists, and to try and remedy this fundamental societal ill.

## Universal Basic Income

Corporations in the United States have worked hard to increase profit margins at the cost of American jobs and paying living wages - the endless pursuit of automation and now artificial intelligence is eliminating jobs from the workplace at such a rate that we must act to mitigate damage to our communities, and even those who are able to find a job are often not able to afford to pay rent and groceries at the same time.

In an effort to ensure that all may thrive and live their best lives in our country, we believe all basic necessities should be guaranteed. To guarantee this while keeping the government's footprint as small as possible, we propose the implementation of a universal basic income, essentially a monthly stipend given to all residents regardless of age or other factor. This basic income would provide a bare minimum to allow for residents to acquire food, water, and housing, in turn giving individuals a greater opportunity to pursue higher education, jobs and careers they may have otherwise thought to be lofty goals, and innovate. We will help facilitate local and state governments to pilot these programs to determine their feasibility on different levels of government and help determine whether or not this is a policy we wish to implement in the long-term as a country.

## Right to Workplace Democracy & Unionization

Our nation was founded on industry; but we desire a society that favors the interests of the workers that make industry happen, not those that would profit from their labor. Unions helped bring about modern workplace safety standards that have saved countless lives and the forty-hour work week limitations that have prevented wider exploitation of workers over the 20th and 21st centuries. We maintain that the right to workplace democracy and to belong to a democratic union is an innate part of making a fair economy, and we will enact policy to encourage greater collective business ownership and profit sharing within private companies.

## Law & Justice

### Right to Equal Protection

A right that is fundamentally American at its core is the right to be treated equally under the law. Our devotion to equality must be indiscriminate and relentless: we

assert that equality must be provided for each individual regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, political affiliation and ideology, religious affiliation and belief, ability, appearance, national origin, class, income, or social status. There may be no exceptions to this rule, and our party will act to pass legislation and constitutional amendments that help to cement this ideal not just in law, but also in practice.

The people of any country should be free from discrimination and incitement to any such discrimination, slavery and servitude, torture or other cruel and unusual punishment, arbitrary arrest or exile, the unjust imposition of one's will on another, undue attacks on one's honor and reputation, and being compelled to affiliate or associate with any given organization.

## Right to Restoration

Restorative Justice is the practice of working to rehabilitate criminal offenders by helping them to understand the harm their actions caused others and the community-at-large. This is often done by having the offender sit down with the victim or community representatives sitting on behalf of the victim so that the offender can develop a greater sense of empathy for the victim and a consensus can be brought about regarding what the offender can do to make things right again. This is a movement away from retributive justice, which seeks to punish offenders in equal measure to the crime they committed. We believe that, especially in instances of non-violent crimes, society has a responsibility to help offenders understand their wrongs and work to rehabilitate offenders rather than condemn them to extended periods of time in bondage.

## Drug Legalization

The "war on drugs" has, in reality, been a war on minority populations, supplier nations, and civil liberties. That war has failed. Outlawing drugs has criminalized far too many individuals and crowded our jails with those that have done nothing to harm others. Interdiction, foreign and domestic, has been ineffective in stemming the flow of drugs. The U.S. Government has immorally used the drug war to justify foreign military intervention. The time has come to put an end to these draconian practices.

We call for the immediate decriminalization of cannabis possession, distribution, and use, and call for pardons to be issued for all individuals that are or have been incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses. Our elected officials will advocate for medical and recreational marijuana to be legalized and regulated in the same manner as alcohol and tobacco, using taxes gained from the sale of such products for education, prevention, and treatment efforts related to substance abuse disorder.

We call for a redirection of funding away from processes aimed to catch and

incarcerate drug users towards education, prevention, and treatment efforts. We also demand an end to all corporate tax deductions for cigarette, vape, and alcohol advertising.

Our elected officials will fight to give states a greater autonomy in choosing to criminalize, decriminalize, or legalize other drugs without having to fear federal reprisals (such as taking highway funds from states like Oregon during their effort to legalize marijuana).

## Policing Reform

We support a reform of 21st century policing so that officers are truly keeping the peace and serving the people rather than being tasked with breaking up constitutionally-protected assemblies and targeting political rivals. We know that our local police departments are better prepared to face the issues of the day when they are supported by social workers, a working healthcare system, and policies that keep people out of poverty. Therefore, we support moving a portion of the funding from our over-bloated military and police budgets to housing, mental health facilities, universal healthcare, and other policies that will help people gain access to basic necessities and will help preserve domestic peace better than additional riot gear. We believe that the notion of qualified immunity needs to be revisited in a way that protects police officers carefully carrying out their responsibilities while not allowing abuses of power.

## Right to Live

Given that we believe all human beings have an innate right to live, we find violent and forced death to be cruel and unusual punishment. Our party will work to abolish the death penalty on all levels of government, and we cite the differing positions of the federal government and the New England state governments on this issue as a demonstration of our conflicting cultures. In its place, we seek to implement more restorative justice practices. In addition to being the morally correct thing to do, promoting restorative justice over retributive justice also saves taxpayer money over time.

## Right to Die

While controversial, our Party is one that supports an individual's right to choices in life. That also means that an individual, with a clear and healthy mind, has a right to choose when their life comes to an end. While we do not encourage it, we support an individual's right to choose to end their life in situations where they have been diagnosed with a terminal illness causing significant pain and discomfort, and we would work to decriminalize physician-assisted euthanasia in those specific instances.

# Peace & International Relations

## Right to Peace

At home and abroad, we believe wholeheartedly that all human beings have an innate right to live peaceful lives, free from threat of violence. We are an anti-war Party. We understand that the best way to ensure peace is to cultivate robust diplomatic relationships with other countries and to stand resolutely against violations of international law. We will always stand with those that support Democracy against the aggressive nature of tyrannical nations and actors and be prepared to defend ourselves, but we do this in the interest of maintaining peace, not entering and exiting conflicts around the globe on a whim as we have seen in the United States since the 1960s.

## Global Stabilization & Cooperation

Iran, 1953. Congo, 1960. Chile, 1973. These are just a few examples of the United States disruption of the democratic process of other nations. The United States has been responsible for the destabilization of dozens of government structures over the course of its history, generally acting in the financial interest of big business - our actions in this regard can best be described as deplorable, and as often as not generate incredible resentment of the US worldwide - resentments which lead to the emergence of hostile governments that feel justified in hating us, like Iran and Cuba. In government, our Party will end these tactics of overseas meddling and work to foster greater international cooperation and understanding.

## Free Haven

Refugees are those who flee their home country because of violence and war - wars that have often been instigated by the United States or an agent thereof. Individuals that have "refugee" status have a reasonable belief that they will be harmed or persecuted if returned to their home country. It is our moral obligation to do whatever it takes to see that these displaced refugees are cared and provided for, and we stand in support of streamlining our refugee application process to ensure that those in need can enter the country and receive aid in a timely manner. Furthermore, we propose that it be our policy to advertise our status as a refugee haven. We will work to support refugees as they come to the northeast so that they are able to transition into their new life here easily and become a productive part of the local economy. Our acceptance of all, regardless of race, class, gender, or any other factor has always been what has made America great, and it is what continues to make the northeast great.

## Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a global political commitment which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit in order to address its four key concerns to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. R2P has three basic pillars:

- Pillar I: The protection responsibilities of the state – "Each individual state has the responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity."
- Pillar II: International assistance and capacity-building – States pledge to assist each other in their protection responsibilities.
- Pillar III: Timely and decisive collective response – If any state is "manifestly failing" in its protection responsibilities, then states should take collective action to protect the population.

The doctrine is regarded as a unanimous and well-established international norm over the past two decades, yet the United States has wielded its power in the international community to allow and, in some cases, even encourage genocide, war crimes, and other prohibited and morally bankrupt activities in other countries. Our Party condemns these atrocities in the strongest terms and stands with the international community that would take decisive action to end such crimes from being committed. Our nation would commit its military, economy, and general administration to ending such atrocities around the world. We support the Responsibility to Protect doctrine and call for the United States to adhere to it immediately.

## Revoking Permanent Veto Status

At the United Nations, the United States of America and four other countries (the Soviet Union (succeeded by the Russian Federation), the Republic of China (usurped by the People's Republic of China), the French Republic, and the United Kingdom) have all been given a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council and, in turn, have permanent veto power on actions of the Security Council. We reject the notion that any of these countries have more of a right to decide the course of world events than any others, and we assert that this permanent veto power has led to the systemic allowance of genocides and war crimes to occur in the spheres of influence of these five countries. In government, our elected officials would move to build consensus within the United Nations to amend the agency's charter to revoke this power.

## Combating White Supremacy, Fascism, & Extremism

From the Klu Klux Klan to the Nazis, history provides us ample examples of what right-wing authoritarians do when they get a handle on power – terror, murder, war.

The authoritarian right is resurgent across the world, and many seem to have forgotten the horrors created by Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and Japan, and fascist Spain to name a few. We have not forgotten, and we will not be complacent in our war on fascism. At home, this means that we must do more to combat terror groups, including and especially white supremacy groups. All white supremacy and pro-authoritarian groups should be considered terror groups, and work must be done to counter their efforts to harm and degrade sections of our society.

## Restricting Overseas Military Activity

The United States has not legally declared war since 1942, when it declared war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania as a part of World War II. Since then, each action taken has been done at the President's discretion or upon passage of an "authorization for the use of military force" by Congress, neither of which truly begins a state of war. The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, but it says no such thing about authorizing a level of military force without an official declaration of war. We feel that the power of Congress and of the states has been usurped by war-hawks in Washington, and we will not allow these unconstitutional practices to continue. We call for the immediate cessation of all US hostilities overseas and demand that the right to levy a foreign invasion force be more strictly limited.

## Ending Nuclear Proliferation

Nuclear proliferation around the world is a threat to the survival of our species, and, in a world where we aim to promote peace and human rights, we believe there is no need for nuclear arms. Our elected officials will not only work to stop nuclear proliferation around the world, but they will work to dismantle the stockpile in the United States for all time.

## Peace & Sovereignty for Palestine

We believe that the actions taken by the Israeli government constitute acts of genocide, and we condemn their actions against the Palestinian people in the strongest terms. While we know and recognize that this situation is supremely complex, we believe the only way to secure a peaceful future for Israel or Palestine is the adoption of a two-state solution to allow for the self governance of each people.

## Faith & Culture

### Freedom of Faith

Our elected officials will staunchly oppose the introduction of any values based in religious doctrine on all levels of government while wholeheartedly protecting our region's tradition of holistic religious freedom. Many of our ancestors came to these

shores seeking refuge from religious persecution, and the native people of this region were too often persecuted and attacked by religious fanatics due to their differing culture and belief systems. We seek to grow a culture and a community that is inclusive and celebratory of all, and we believe that our nation will be stronger if we choose to support each other and expand the number of faiths and creeds that are able to express themselves in our community.

## Separation of Church & State

We believe in the firm separation of church and state. We believe that any religious group that wishes to advocate politically to any degree should have their tax-exempt status revoked, and we will work hard to keep the domination of any faith or faiths out of the policy and legislation adopted within our government.

## Freedom of Culture

Our party believes that the ultimate goal of any society is to provide for its citizens in such a way that they can enjoy the world and all its offerings to the fullest. In government, we will strive to provide all the basic essentials one needs to be able to more thoroughly appreciate life.

Not only do individuals have the right to a culture, but they more specifically have the right to a culture of their choosing. We believe that, as a country, we are stronger when cultures come together to form something greater than the individual - a collective tossed salad. We do not believe that immigrants should be forced to integrate with all cultural norms when they come to the United States, and we believe that cultural family traditions should not only be permitted, but should be celebrated. We believe that culture is an undeniable part of one's self, and that everyone should have the opportunity to explore and express their culture in a way that they choose. Immigration has made the northeast strong, and we embrace all those who wish to seek the northeast as a place to make their home in peace.

## Supporting the Arts

Freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and is a key element in empowering communities and promoting a celebration of culture and diversity. Artists can create in ways that foster healthy, non-alienating relationships between people and their daily environments, communities, and the earth. As a government, our elected officials will invest in the arts and ensure that our nation remains a place of artistic creation and celebration.

The people of other modernized countries have long enjoyed affordable access to art and culture, and we feel that this country should have no less of an opportunity. We support creating a subsidy program, in the style of those seen in England and France,

to lower admission prices to theatrical performances, museums, concert halls, and more. We believe that the arts are an integral part of a holistic education, and we support expansion of art programs in public schools.

We will fight against laws to censor artists and encourage community-funded programs, employing local artists to enrich communities through public art programs. We will incorporate arts education studies and activities into every school curriculum with appropriate funding and staffing. We also encourage local artists and the community to contribute time, experience, and resources to these efforts.

## Education

### Free Public College & Trade School

In an increasingly globalized and automated world, we believe that our citizens have a right to education so that they may hold jobs of their choosing and feel empowered to engage with the world-at-large and their country's government. Our party supports guaranteeing all citizens the right to at least two free-of-charge years attending university or trade school. In the modern era, most jobs require either a college degree or a good amount of technical training in a specific field; a high school diploma alone does not suffice. To that end, we will seek to make all public colleges and trade schools tuition-free for residents of the nation, and we will encourage all to pursue higher learning as they please.

### Individualized & Differentiated Learning

Our candidates for local Boards of Education do not believe that schooling should be stagnant; we believe that schooling is a dynamic process that must be amended over time and adapted to fit the needs of each student. We will promote individualized and differentiated teaching practices in all public school systems.

### Equal Resource Access

We believe that children deserve access to the same resources, and thus we propose centralizing education funds and distributing them to school systems equally per enrolled pupil. This will ensure that students in cities with otherwise steep property tax will not be left behind solely because of where their parents live, and it will help to provide a more equitable experience for all.

# Sustainability

*“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” -Rachel Carson*

## Environment & Nature

### Carbon Neutrality

We have known about the dangers of climate change, as well as the causes thereof, for decades. Our party fully accepts the overwhelming evidence that climate scientists have presented demonstrating the causes and effects of climate change over time, and we urge all citizens to accept the validity of these countless studies and to now help us be a part of the solution to the already-present problem. Even to those who doubt that human activity is the primary cause of climate change, we say that it is apparent that the climate is undergoing a level of change, and we know for certain that a reduction of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere can help to stabilize the earth’s natural systems as we have come to know them over the past several thousand years of human history. The time has come to put away debate and to take decisive action to achieve total carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve this end, we will invest heavily in renewable resources, we will explore the possibility of installing more solar technologies on our roadways and buildings, we will invest in more green infrastructure, and we will look to study and utilize new carbon sequestration technologies. We have a moral obligation to allow for future generations to not only survive, but thrive, and failure to achieve climate neutrality is a failure of this duty.

### Climate Resilience Preparation

There is a level of climate change that has already taken place around the world, and even if we succeed in massively scaling back on future emissions, the effect of our past emissions will continue to impact the world for decades to come. This means worsening environmental conditions around the globe, and these conditions put many of our civilians at risk of displacement, injury, or even death. Upon election, our candidates will fight for federal funding to be designated for climate resilience projects, and we will encourage local and state governments across the country to be proactive in both reducing emissions and preparing themselves for the changes they face. Lowland coastal communities must study their shores and prepare projects to help mitigate erosion and mass-flooding; farmers across the midwest must begin looking to produce crops that are either drought or flood-resistant, depending on their specific location; and communities across the nation must be prepared for more extreme heat and cold temperatures and all the risks that are associated with those conditions, and we are prepared to begin these conversations now, before it is too late.

## Biodiversity

Protecting biodiversity and preserving individual, unique species is not an arbitrary goal, but it is rather one of paramount importance to human survival and betterment. Beyond the obvious benefits that biodiversity can offer our planet's ecosystems, humanity also relies on a multitude of other organisms for the development of new food, medicine, and other technological breakthroughs. Without the horseshoe crab's blood, we would be without an agent to test new medications for endotoxins, and without horses, many types of snake antivenoms would have never been possible. We do not yet know what endless possibilities may still await our discovery as we continue to research different species, but we do know that our options become more and more limited as species go extinct. Beyond a moral obligation to each species on this planet, we have a moral obligation to the people we serve to protect the existence of all species to ensure that our future is secure.

## Corporate Carbon Taxation, Carbon Dividends for Taxpayers

Our party is one that values the earth and our limited natural resources very greatly. In an effort to both protect ourselves from climate change and to raise revenue for the government, we propose enacting a steep carbon tax on businesses and other organizations, which would charge a greater amount from entities that consume more carbon fuels on an annual basis. These funds would not go into some invisible government fund, but would be returned to the people as a tax refund, giving common folks extra resources with which they can "vote with their wallets" to buy now-cheaper, less carbon-intensive products. Over time, the carbon dividend and tax system will drive down carbon use and move us towards a more sustainable economy without putting the burden on regular people as so many other plans tend to do.

## Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries

### Local, Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture lies at the heart of civilization, and we believe that this deep-rooted practice must be preserved and made sustainable. To that end, our party supports enacting policy that will promote eco-friendly, efficient farming practices. We will seek to support small farms and protect the individual's right to farm as a means of creating sustenance for themselves.

### Elimination of Food Deserts

We wish for local agriculture practices to not simply be reserved for rural and suburban communities, but we also believe that agriculture must be supported in

urban centres, too. We will encourage city residents to engage with rooftop and vertical farming in an effort to produce fresh food for those areas.

## Improvements to Water Infrastructure

Flint, Michigan has been without clean, drinkable water since 2014, and many communities near fracking operations have had their drinking water irreparably contaminated with deadly toxins. It is our party's goal to provide all with clean drinking water, and we will guide local communities through the process of creating more robust water treatment centers.

## Energy

### Lowering Our Carbon Footprint

In an effort to lower our carbon footprint, we call for a holistic approach to eliminating the use of fossil fuels to power our electric grid, automobiles, and other machine systems. We call for the electrification of all machine systems and for greater investment in renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, hydro, and tidal power.

While controversial, we also at this time of transition support the creation of nuclear power plants in lieu of more carbon-heavy fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. In the future, with the advent of more efficient renewable technologies and a strengthening of our power grid, we would aim to eliminate the use of nuclear technologies. We see nuclear power as a means to bridge our current grid to one that is wholly sustainable.

### Regional Energy Autonomy & Cooperation

For the good of our earth, our communities, and our region, we support a sustainable, regional approach to energy infrastructure. We support making full use of the latest technological advances to make New England energy independent, and by leading the charge towards decentralized, battery enabled *smart-grid* technology. Using this technology, we can make use of a large number of small-scale, local energy sources, and preserve that energy for times of peak demand. Smart-grid technology allows for more efficient energy transmission, and easier integration of renewable energy sources.

Decentralization of these grids will create a more resilient and efficient energy distribution system, which can better make use of the smaller scale, local generation opportunities. For example, many towns and cities in New England once flourished as a result of the ability to harness hydropower, and deploying small-scale hydroelectric facilities in many of these locations may help us create more affordable electricity across the region. This would not only reduce the cost of energy for the consumer, but

would also capitalize on natural assets to provide good-paying jobs in many communities that are still suffering from the loss of manufacturing and extractive industries. By creating a region-wide system of decentralized smart grids, we can successfully integrate large- and small-scale energy generation from a variety of carbon free sources.

## Electric Infrastructure

Our electrical infrastructure is aging and growing more obsolete with each passing year. We support the greater development of microgrids and support microgeneration being utilized for any and all buildings where it is safe to do so. We support putting wires underground in tornado and storm-heavy regions, as power outages can very quickly become life-threatening for our elders and those undergoing medical care, and we will support examining the feasibility and cost effectiveness of transitioning the power generation industry to the public sector, as a means of better protecting our infrastructure, nuclear technology, and guarding against rising costs.

## Future Technology & Exploration

### Civilian Technology Research

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Department of Defense's initial budget was approximately \$721.5 billion. With reallocations, however, the budget is more likely to be in the range of \$934 billion. Considering the small size and weak power of other foreign militaries, coupled with the fact that millions of Americans are homeless, hungry, and without healthcare on a daily basis, we believe that the United States spends an appalling amount of money on war, and that we must do more to help our citizens rather than take foreign lives.

A key criticism of reducing the military budget in the past has been that many technologies that go on to help civilians greatly come from military research. We call on a portion of the money from the Department of Defense's budget to be reallocated to civilian technology research, so that the people can benefit from technological advances without having to fund the military-industrial complex and worry about their tax dollars being used to harm others.

### Subsidies & Grants

We do not believe that business owners should be getting wealthy with taxpayer dollars. We will put an end to the tens of billions of dollars that large, profitable companies get every year in corporate welfare, and we will instead put that money to good use in the service of taxpayers themselves. We will look to provide grants to state

agencies and non-profit organizations that seek to conduct research and develop products that will be given over to the public domain upon completion.

## Space Exploration

In 1961, the first human being went to space. While we have made progress in the realm of space technology since that time, we have not put those advances to good or practical use in many decades. Our party advocates for increasing funding for further scientific exploration of our solar system and what lies beyond, and generally supports efforts to colonize other celestial bodies within our solar system. We support the demilitarization and strictly peaceful use of space as part of our commitment to seeing outer space as the common legacy of the whole of humanity.

## Sustainable Economy

### Automation Tax

In order to make a Universal Basic Income policy operational, and also in order to account for the income tax that is lost every year to jobs replaced by automatons, we support enacting an automation tax. This is a tax that would be levied against employers to make up for the amount of income tax lost in the aforementioned way to ensure that the government can continue to provide for its residents even after jobs are lost to a changing economy.

### Rural Revitalization & Infrastructure

While urban centers are generally the center of much redevelopment attention, we believe that our rural communities deserve just as much care and attention. We propose developing an infrastructure replacement and expansion program that will help better connect our more rural communities with the nearest train and air hubs for increased mobility. We will also work on the state level to ensure that public universities are granting equal opportunities for development and education to those coming from rural regions.

### Ending Gentrification

In line with our belief in local rule, we believe that the people of each neighborhood in a given town or city should be responsible for determining the future of their immediate surroundings. We will work with local governments to ensure that their development projects respect the type of environment that the residents of any given neighborhood wish to cultivate, and we will discourage needless movement to cater towards middle-income families that are not in need of additional housing options.

## Producer-Responsible Recycling

We have become a country of mass consumption and waste, but our party aspires to greater ends. We support utilizing extended producer recycling (EPR) as a means of enforcing greater environmental standards on all purchased products and packaging. EPR is a legal requirement dictating that the producers of any product are financially responsible for the disposal of that produced material. This change in our recycling system would encourage production companies to create items that are more easily recyclable and it encourages a total decreased use in packaging, ultimately leading to a more eco-friendly marketplace.

## Right to Private Business

We affirm an individual's right to seek private services in instances where a public option is provided, such as in our education and health care systems.

## Transportation

### High-Speed Rail

The right to travel freely is one that we hold very dear, and we believe it is the role of the government to protect that right and to make the exercise of that right all the easier. To that end, we will invest in high-speed rail systems between all major cities. This rail system will be publicly-owned and the tickets for the system will be largely subsidized to ensure easy access for all residents. We will also reinvest in our highways, working to incorporate renewable energy technologies where we can and making key expansions to help alleviate traffic pressures that have long plagued our interstate system.

### Transit-Oriented Development

We need to not only develop walkable communities; we seek to develop communities that have widespread access to systems of transit. We seek to invest monies for new housing in areas that will support access to public transportation.