

## **2024 Hot Springs County Democratic Platform**

### **Land Acknowledgment**

Hot Springs County Democrats acknowledge that Hot Springs County occupies lands historically inhabited by the Eastern Shoshone, Sioux, Cheyenne, and Crow tribes. We acknowledge these lands carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity. We recognize Elders past and present as peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the land. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous self-governance history, experiences, and resiliency of the Native people who are still here today.

### **Platform**

Wyoming is known as the Equality State and Hot Springs County Democrats believe that means ensuring equality for all persons, regardless of race, religion, age, national origin, mental or physical ability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the retention, accessibility and maintenance of public lands for the benefit and use of all. We believe public lands are one of the cornerstones of the Wyoming way of life.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe high-quality education is fundamental to a vigilant democracy and a strong economy. Further, public schools bring together families of diverse experiences, abilities, and backgrounds for the common purpose of learning. We support a well-funded public education system and local control rather than the influence of outside entities.

Hot Springs County Democrats support protecting and strengthening voting rights that provide fair and transparent elections that are accessible to all citizens. We support the implementation of ranked-choice voting in Wyoming elections.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the LGBTQIA+ community through policies which elevate equality and support their needs, including access to gender affirming care regardless of age.

Hot Springs County Democrats support Second Amendment rights, the responsible ownership and safe use of firearms, strict background checks, appropriate training and permitting, and mandatory waiting periods for all firearm purchases. We support gun-free safe zones.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the rights of Hot Springs County citizens to practice their faith without government interference. We oppose all efforts to undermine the separation of church and state. We oppose all efforts to align public policy with the teachings of a specific religion, or to discriminate against citizens based on religious doctrine.

Hot Springs County Democrats support improved cooperation among federal, state, local, and tribal officials. We acknowledge the sovereignty of the Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone Nations.

Hot Springs County Democrats support efforts to address the issues of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and human trafficking.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the rights of all people to make personal health care decisions. We believe in the freedom of every woman to be able to access and choose quality, reproductive health care based on medical and scientific evidence, including safe, legal abortion, and for these rights to be codified into law in Wyoming and nationally.

Local infrastructure issues are nearing a point of crisis, and the Hot Springs County Democrats believe the State of Wyoming should institute studies of the relative state of roads, sewers, water, sanitation, and internet connectivity. Based on the results, Wyoming's tax structure should be amended to provide local governments with the tools to upgrade the condition of their infrastructure.

Hot Springs County Democrats support public libraries because they provide access to critical services for people in our communities. Furthermore, public libraries are the foundation of securing the freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe agriculture is a vital part of the lives of all Americans and directly impacts the health and security of the nation. It is a fundamental piece of the United States economy and an important cultural asset. We support protecting family farms and ranches and their ability to make a living off the land and successfully compete on a fair playing field with large agribusiness corporations, and other nations.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the right of workers to organize unions without employer intimidation or interference, including both a ban on coerced "captive audience" meetings and the repeal of Wyo. Stat. § 27-7-109 (Right to Work).

Hot Springs County Democrats support criminal justice reform, emphasizing prevention, rehabilitation, and proactive over punitive punishment, along with increasing equal access to effective legal representation. We oppose privatization of correctional facilities.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe that the United States must continue to stand as a beacon of hope for those yearning for freedom and opportunity around the world. We are proud of America's history and tradition as a nation of immigrants and believe it essential to our vitality and character that we maintain our openness and our welcoming spirit to those from every walk of life who come seeking the promise for which our country stands.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe society and government should treat all families equally, whether traditional or non-traditional, and support them to build stronger communities.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe that all Americans should have the opportunity to pursue life, liberty and happiness. However, we recognize that systematic discrimination continues to plague our country and support efforts to remedy it.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the freedom to invest in companies that promote diversity, environmental goals, and social equality.

Hot Springs County Democrats support a living wage in order to retain our county's youth and ability to attract a strong workforce.

Hot Springs County Democrats support Medicaid Expansion in Wyoming and equal access to the full continuum of healthcare in Hot Springs County. We believe affordable healthcare is essential to quality of life and to economic growth and sustainability.

Hot Springs County Democrats support senior care and facilities in Hot Springs County, including the Pioneer Home, Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center, and the Senior Citizens Center.

Hot Springs County Democrats support our first responders and the sacrifices they make to keep our community safe.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the men and women who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Services. We will continue to seek to improve and promote programs for those who have defended our freedoms.

Hot Springs County Democrats support business and community organizations dedicated to improving, supporting, and advancing the economic growth and well-being of the county.

Hot Springs County Democrats support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana, in a manner similar to that of alcohol and tobacco. We also support fresh start legislation for non-violent offenders of current marijuana laws.

Hot Springs County Democrats support all programs that work to mitigate serious social issues facing our county, such as those that address poverty, mental health care, domestic violence, suicide, health care, and alcohol and substance abuse. We advocate for programs that support those who are disproportionately at risk.

Hot Springs County Democrats support access to affordable housing, including subsidized housing. We support Canyon Village Hot Springs Apartments as one such provider.

Hot Springs County Democrats support responsible energy policies that prioritize cleanup and reclamation of existing energy developments, advocate for climate conscious development and promote policies reducing energy consumption and increasing renewable energy options.

Hot Springs County Democrats believe that taxes in Wyoming should be responsibly shared by everyone in the state and that we should no longer rely on energy companies as the primary provider of public funds.