



WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1922 | *From the Right to Vote...the Power to Lead*

POSITIONS IN BRIEF

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WNDC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
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Our Mission

The Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC) is the meeting place for Democrats, Independents, and Progressives in the nation's capital. We serve as a forum for writers, scholars, and Democratic and progressive leaders, and we engage our members and guests—women and men—in discussions and advocacy for public policy that advances our nation's democratic values.

Positions in Brief

WNDC's Public Policy Committee publishes *Positions in Brief* at regular intervals to highlight our views on a wide range of issues. This year, in the midst of our nation's 2016 presidential elections, we outline our views on key issues while rededicating ourselves to the Democratic values and principles of one of our key patrons, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who was the driving force behind the creation the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see page 3).

Committee for Public Policy and Political Action

Karen Pataky, Chair

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) is the political arm of the Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC). It develops and advocates for positions on a broad range of national and international importance through its several task forces. The chair of the committee is the WNDC Vice President for Public Policy and Political Action, Karen Pataky.

Task Forces

DC Statehood, MaryEva Candon, *Chair*

Education/Children's Issues, Maria Ross, *Chair*

Earth and Environment, Jean Stewart, *Chair*

Election Reform/Voting Rights, Gail Gottlieb, *Chair*

Faith and Values, Kristin Cabral, *Chair*

Global Women, Veena Trehan, *Chair*

Gun Policy, Gail Gottlieb, *Chair*

Health Care, Karen Pataky, *Chair*

Social and Economic Justice, Veena Trehan, *Chair*

EDITOR: Elizabeth Joyce, *Vice President for Communications*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights— *An Inspiration for the Ages*

“We [the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations] have found that the conditions of our contemporary world require...certain protections which the individual must have if he is to acquire a sense of **security** and **dignity** in his own person. **Men cannot live by bread alone.**”

– ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, April 1948

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with 48 nations in favor and eight abstentions. After the delegates from 34 countries testified to the importance of this document, Eleanor Roosevelt—who with great skill and diplomacy had represented the United States since the first UN conference in London in early 1946—received a standing ovation tribute.

From the beginnings of the Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs, Mrs. Roosevelt (my great-grandmother) was assigned to that committee—a position that Vandenberg, a Republican Senator and isolationist, assumed would marginalize the former First Lady. However, her first committee task involved settling over one million displaced war refugees. Pushing back against the USSR, she won approval from the Latin American bloc and others to carry the vote.

Two and a half years of such geopolitical maneuvering resulted in thirty Articles of the Declaration of Human Rights, which have since become a moral beacon, especially for those nations emerging in the post-colonial world. Beyond the halls of government, the Universal Declaration guides us in settings that reflect the “small places” that Mrs. Roosevelt spoke of in her last address to the UN.*

*“Where after all,
do universal human rights begin?
In small places, close to home—
so close and small that they cannot be
seen on any map of the world.”

Because Mrs. Roosevelt was the first Democratic First Lady to wholeheartedly support the Woman’s National Democratic Club in its early decades, we at the Club feel a moral imperative to consider the principles expressed in the Declaration. At the end of a lifetime of promoting human rights, Mrs. Roosevelt considered this her most important accomplishment, and through our actions and writings—including the 2016 Positions in Brief—we shall honor that work.

Anna Eleanor Fierst, *President*

Woman’s National Democratic Club

Core Values

A public education has been one of the cornerstones of American democracy since the early days of the Republic. In 1785, then President John Adams wrote, "the whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it." The role of public education, historically, has been to advance the "common good," teaching students knowledge, skills and values.

The term "public" refers to an educational system that is "publicly funded, tuition-free, accountable to public authorities, and accessible to all students." We believe a quality public education is a basic, universal American right. An informed citizenry is vital to a democracy, and quality public education is essential to America's competitive, democratic society.

We believe in the civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in educational institutions on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status, and national origin. In addition, we support Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: Schools receiving federal funding may not discriminate based on the students' perceived gender identity, transgender status, or gender transition.

Accordingly, we support:

Quality Education

- Equal access to a high-quality public education for all students without regard to their economic, religious, racial/ ethnic background, or gender preference/orientation.
- High-quality public schools in every neighborhood, offering strong pre-K-12 education with graduates well prepared to enter college or careers.
- High-quality early childhood education for all families.
- High-quality standards for teachers, including the hiring of teachers with bachelor's degrees in early childhood education, providing small class size, and low adult-to-child ratios.
- The development of girls through educational and leadership opportunities across the globe—through the expansion of initiatives to help girls around the world to go to school and stay in school in order to be educated and empowered.

Optimum School Environment

- Schools and teachers that foster a safe and nurturing (non-punitive) environment in which all students are respected for their individual strengths
- Initiatives to prevent bullying, sexual harassment, and electronically-based aggression in our schools.

- Changes in school climate and discipline that prepare the schools to have appropriate emergency plans that promote safety and diminish violence, as well as policies that consider the impact and legal implications of suspending and expelling emotionally stressed children.
- Expansion of culturally competent mental health services in schools and communities to address the socio-emotional needs of all students.
- Comprehensive school health services with culturally diverse nurses.
- Providing equity through family- school partnerships; family engagement strategies as a tool to promote educational equity; and building the capacity of educators and families to work collaboratively.
- Teachers' leadership, greater diversity of teaching staff, and incentives to teachers for creative and outstanding contributions.

Educational Funding and Oversight

- Every Student Succeeds Act, which improves upon the No Child Left Behind law, giving the states more flexibility in developing programs to close the achievement gap, improve the quality of teaching, and develop their own assessment for what does and does not work for their specific school system.
- Oversight in how states spend monies allocated for children's programs.
- Expansion of the Affordable College Education Act, which will measure college performance through a new rating system and ensure that students and families have information to select schools that provide the best value for their needs. The plan seeks to promote innovation and competition, ensure student debt is affordable, pay for college based on student performance, reward colleges for results with a Pell bonus and demand that students be responsible for academic performance.

Higher Education

- The expansion of publicly supported, tuition-free community colleges for those students who are motivated to learn and maintain a 2.5 average throughout high school.
- Private universities creating transitions and financial support to students who want to continue their education after receiving a community college degree.

Core Values

All human beings have a right to clean air, clean water, healthy and sufficient food, decent shelter, healthy surroundings, and security in the event of circumstances beyond one's control. These cannot be had, however, in conditions of growing climate instability and industrial and agricultural practices that release pollutants and toxic substances into the air, water, and soil. Adverse environmental conditions and events disproportionately affect poorer nations and communities.

Accordingly, we support:

Global Initiatives

- Immediate action by all signatories of the 2015 Paris Climate Accord to meet the goal of limiting the increase in global temperature in the next 20 years to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid catastrophic and irreversible disruption of the global climate.
- Serious and immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide and methane, and robust plans, including financial aid to poorer countries, to mitigate the harmful results of climate destabilization now taking place (e.g., sea level rise, increases in violent storms, floods, drought) affecting the most vulnerable nations and regions.
- Continuing and increasing educational and action initiatives worldwide to raise the awareness of citizens and policy makers of the changes in human behavior required for the planet to continue to be habitable.
- U.S. leadership of and cooperation with other nations and international organizations (including provision of financial resources) to reduce air and water pollution, sponsor more responsible farming methods and water conservation, and protect and increase natural resources (e.g., marine life and fisheries, fertile soil, biodiversity).
- Cleanup of the environmental devastation caused by war.
- Planning to manage mass migrations of climate refugees.

Domestic Initiatives

- Exposure of false "science" used to counter the overwhelming evidence of the radical changes taking place in earth's ecosystems.
- Election of environment-friendly candidates for public office at all levels of government; opposition to elected officials, the fossil fuel industry, and its supporting interest groups and other organizations that deny the reality of human-driven climate change.
- Action on climate destabilization and environmental degradation as a crucial component of national security.

- Adoption by all states of the Clean Power Plan (CPP), which provides standards for greatly reducing carbon emissions from U.S. power plants.
- Adequate funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address changing environmental conditions and clean energy production, and to protect every community from air and water pollution and other exposure to toxins.
- Truly sustainable energy alternatives and more environmentally friendly and socially responsible biofuels, and elimination of policies, including the Renewable Fuel Standard, that support the production of environmentally harmful biofuels.
- Strengthening and requiring strict enforcement of relevant laws (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act).
- Transitioning to 100% use of sustainable and clean energy sources for electric power and transportation.
- Holding federal, state, and local government agencies accountable for failures to provide clean water to communities; greater oversight of water, soil, and atmospheric pollution.
- Environmental justice for all people: specifically, protection of lower-income areas from exposure to waste dumps and toxic emissions from manufacturing and mining.
- Regulations on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the short term to reduce its adverse health, environmental, and economic impacts; a ban on fracking within the next 10 years.
- Retaining 80% of fossil fuel reserves in the ground.
- Methods of public land management and offshore areas that focus on conservation, preservation of biodiversity, and the health and well-being of nearby human populations.
- Ending use of pesticides implicated in massive loss of honey bee colonies.
- Complete and clear labeling of food including GMOs.
- Sustainable, organic, and humane farming methods.
- Rejection of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement because of the potential impact of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) rulings on the ability of governments to regulate environmental matters.

Core Values

The amount of money flowing into the election process and the secrecy that often surrounds it have corrupted the political process and undermined the public's faith in representative government. To restore such faith, our country must reduce the influence of large contributions and encourage our leaders to fairly serve the needs of all members of the electorate.

Accordingly, we support:

- Election reform that can serve multiple purposes, including reducing the power of special interests; increasing the diversity of elected leaders in gender, race, economic, and other indicators; freeing candidates from the burden and indignity of intense fundraising; increasing competition among candidates; and fostering broader voter participation;
- Universal public financing of election campaigns to eliminate the outsize sway of large donations and the advantage enjoyed by wealthy candidates capable of financing their own campaigns
- Interim measures to protect the democratic process, given that, at present, universal public funding is not politically feasible.
- Judicial or legislative reversal of the Supreme Court's decisions in *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Citizens United v. FEC*, *McCutcheon v. FEC*, and their progeny, which collectively conferred on corporations and unions the right to make unlimited independent political expenditures as though they were individual natural citizens.
- Curbing the donation of unlimited amounts to political parties ("soft money") by bolstering the provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform ("McCain–Feingold") Act of 2002.
- Legislation to stop the misuse by "social welfare" organizations and trade associations of sections [501\(c\)\(4\)](#) and [501\(c\)\(6\)](#), respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code to conduct political activity while shielding themselves from the obligation to publicly disclose their contributors or their expenditures and to limit the amounts of the donations they receive. We support:
 - Specifically, enforcement of the requirement that organizations attempting to influence elections register as political organizations under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code and that they comply with all contribution and disclosure requirements of that section.
 - The right of shareholders and members of unions and other organizations to know what political donations such entities are making.
- The exploration of alternate means of financing campaigns to incentivize a broader base of campaign donors, by steps that include:
 - Providing limited tax deductibility of small donations.
 - Providing each voter with funds to donate the candidate(s) of their choosing.
 - Providing matching funds for small donations.

- A fresh reconsideration of the Electoral College and alternatives to it.
- Reinvigorating the Federal Elections Commission so that it is fully staffed, fully funded, politically neutral, and effective, including through the appointment of an odd-number of Commissioners or other measures to prevent chronic gridlock.
- Vigorous enforcement through such measures as mandatory minimum fines to prevent the laundering of campaign contributions, improper coordination between outside groups and candidates, and other illegalities and improprieties.
- Requiring that media outlets donate a specified amount of coverage to candidates and that they adopt measures to ensure that political campaigns are able to purchase air time at the same expense as commercial customers
- A prospective assessment of the selection and roles of Democratic convention delegates;
- Closed Democratic primaries as opportunities only for registered Democrats to determine their nominees.

Core Values

Freedom of belief is a fundamental human right. At the heart of our democracy, shaping personal decisions and public policy, are values. These values are often shaped by our faith. Even in a secular society, our ways of worship often determine how we see the world. All religions have a basis in justice, peace, and sustainability. We seek to illuminate these connections when choosing priorities for our nation and the world.

Accordingly, we support:

- The dignity of work and the respect that is due to labor, which should be rewarded with a living wage and necessary benefits for healthy living.
- Healthcare over warfare because peace is the key to survival.
- Equal rights for women and thus the elevation of the status of women in society as a communal value (regardless of what particular religions espouse).
- Making food, clothing, shelter, and clean potable water accessible to all;
- Clean water, air, and soil as a human and civil right.
- The reform of financial and governmental systems that fail to care for not only the basic needs of all but the commons as well;
- The communal care of our most vulnerable— such as our children, seniors, and those with disabilities— through well-funded government programs.
- The need for more government revenues through tax reform.
- Responsible action by corporations with the civic virtues of care, community, accountability, and transparency.
- The enactment of civil rights under law by governments to protect minorities and the powerless and keep sectarian passions in check.
- Sustainability and environmentalism as a way of protecting the earth.
- Diplomacy over military action and intervention.
- Immigration reform as vital during this time of heightened migrations.
- Reform of the criminal justice system in the U.S. and around the world, given that over-incarceration, militarization of the police, lack of judicial budgets, and the death penalty are hurting the human dignity of real people. An ethic of care, so often sprung of faith, as essential for creating a civil society.

Core Values

Women face a world of rising educational and job attainment. Yet one in three experience physical or sexual violence. Discrimination is rampant, and gender-based violence is prevalent in much entertainment. The Woman's National Democratic Club seeks to promote equity, social justice, and peace by enshrining the social, civil, economic, and environmental rights of women.

Accordingly, we support:

Global Initiatives

- Securing Senate ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), now called "The Treaty for the Rights of Women."
- Increasing the participation of women in global peace talks.
- Protecting against gender-based violence in refugee camps and detention centers and accountability for crimes.
- Community- and union-based models and advocacy to promote a "just and favourable conditions of work" and a standard of living supporting the "health and wellbeing" of herself and her family, "including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control" with "rest and leisure" time, per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly in many female-dominated industries often lacking such protections.

Domestic Initiatives

- Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.
- Providing equal pay for equal work through the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- Providing affordable, high-quality childcare for working women.
- Requiring colleges to survey students on rates of campus sexual assault; campus culture; exposure to "entertainment" including gender based violence; the satisfaction of students with college sexual assault response services; and the provision of this information to prospective students, their parents, and other stakeholders.
- The provision of information to stakeholders describing the investigation of sexual assaults on campus. This includes the processing of cases with outcomes for each step of the campus adjudication process.
- Educating primary and secondary public school students about bodily autonomy; sexual education including the definition of affirmative consent; what healthy, unhealthy, and unsafe relationships look like; the content, effects, and use of pornography; and options for services around assault and harassment.
- Researching the effects of porn and other gender- based violence as entertainment.
- Strengthening government policies to prevent the trafficking of women and girls, and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.
- Criminalizing the purchase of sexual services, but not their sale.

Core Values

The United States is the nation with the most guns, gun injuries, and gun deaths, with over 12,000 people killed and almost 25,000 injured in 2015. Although the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution as conferring a right to individual ownership of arms, that right—like any other right—must be subject to reasonable restrictions to protect the public. In addition to our society’s moral obligation to institute practical measures to mitigate the harm wrought by widespread gun ownership, we have a moral obligation to support a culture that values peaceful resolution of disputes rather than glorification of violence.

Accordingly, we support:

- Greater cooperation among the federal government and state governments in preventing gun violence, including in such areas as conducting background checks, tracking stolen weapons, and reporting the use of a weapon in a crime.
- Waiting periods and universal licensing and background checks in all weapons transfers to prevent access to guns by dangerous people, including those who are violently mentally ill or suicidal, subject to restraining orders, or suspected of involvement in terrorist or hate activity, in accordance with appropriate court or administrative oversight.
- Specifically, legislation to require that all states and territories provide information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System on individuals who are committed to a mental institution or who express a threat of violence to a mental health professional.
- Closing loopholes:
 - By which gun dealers who lose their dealer licenses can convert their entire inventory to a “personal inventory” in order to sell it without conducting background checks.
 - That exempt firearms transactions conducted at gun shows from requiring criminal background checks.
 - Whereby individuals convicted of hate crimes at the misdemeanor level are allowed to purchase firearms.
- Banning firearms on public property, including schools and universities, except when authorized for law enforcement purposes or hunting.
- Repeal of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005 (which protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable when crimes have been committed with their products) to encourage manufacturers to use “smart gun” technology such as proximity and biometric sensors; discourage reckless, violence-themed marketing of weapons; encourage manufacturers to authorize sale of their products only by sellers who meet strict standards; and otherwise more closely align gun commerce with public safety needs.
- Banning civilian access to assault weapons, high capacity magazines, and any military-style weapon.
- Prohibiting the manufacture and sale of realistic gun replicas.

- Prohibiting “Stand Your Ground” and similar laws that raise the acceptance of violence in our society.
- Safe-and-secure gun storage laws and other measures to prevent children’s access to weapons, whether in their homes or elsewhere.
- The expansion of mentoring, job readiness, and afterschool programs that divert young people from the lure of societal violence.
- Training of law enforcement officers to respond to suspects without deadly force whenever feasible, with special attention to mentally ill or emotionally disturbed individuals.
- Repealing of blanket restrictions on publicly funded research into gun violence as a public health, women’s, civil rights, or economic issue.
- Gun policy that recognizes the heightened risks of gun violence to certain vulnerable populations, including women, children, the mentally ill, and members of racial, sexual, religious, or social minorities; and
- An ethos of de-escalation and nonviolent conflict resolution in America’s public and private spheres.

Core Values

Health care is a basic human right. Every human being has the right to the full range of science-based health care services regardless of race, sex, skin color, religion, gender identity, or ability to pay. Health care must be universal and encompass all life stages from birth to death and include prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation.

The primacy and privacy of the doctor-patient relationship (or the relationship between other licensed health care providers and their patients) must be unconditional. There is no place for religious, governmental, or profit-motivated intrusion into any areas of medical decision making.

Accordingly, we support:

- Full funding in all areas of surveillance and treatment standards by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) into all causes of morbidity and mortality including workplace hazards, gun violence, and environmental toxins.
- Opposing legislation that might authorize or enable any health care provider to refuse care to any patient for any reason.
- Legislation protecting health care providers from being forced to disclose health care information—with the exception of reportable infectious diseases, workplace hazards, or the possibility of injury by patients to self or other potential victims—to government officials.
- A “legal wall” that would prevent healthcare information known to an insurance company or government entity from being given to any patient’s employers.
- Expansion of community- based health care services to increase patient access to all needed care.
- Full funding for safe environmental infrastructure replacement and maintenance to guarantee clean potable water for every citizen, all farm animals, and all crops.

Children and Schools

- Continued full funding of Medicaid services for all children whose health care is not provided by a family via the Affordable Care Act. These Medicaid services include preventive and remedial child care, as standardized by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) from newborn to age 25.
- Full funding of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP provides monies for the health care of children whose families do not qualify for Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act.
- Full funding for lifetime Medicaid coverage of health care specifically for children with elevated blood lead levels.
- The requirement that every public school staff include a nurse to collaborate with appropriate community-based services.

Veterans and Older Americans

- Full federal funding of complete lifetime care for veterans, their spouses, and their children.
- A lowered age at which Medicare and Social Security are available to seniors, in view of current research showing stark decreases in lifespans of working poor, some middle class workers, and people with disabilities—as compared to those of more affluent citizens.
- Creating a Medicare “buy in” system for citizens 52 years and older whose employment does not offer adequate health care.
- Expansion of Public Health Nursing services in the care of homebound patients.
- A ten-year cap on pharmaceutical and medical device patents and supports the federal government’s negotiating lower prices for these products.

Standards of Care and Other Requirements

- American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) standards of care for all women of reproductive age to include the full range of contraceptive services, prenatal care, or termination of pregnancy as decided on by each woman and her physician.
- Staffing levels in medical offices, clinics, surgical centers, and hospitals that are determined by physicians, nurses and other licensed health care providers for maximum patient and medical personnel safety.
- A requirement that CDC-mandated isolation procedures and personal protective equipment (PPE) be immediately available for all first responders, vehicles, and hospital emergency rooms.
- Mandating that every hospital have an additional secure isolation area, PPE and adequate personnel to immediately provide safe care for infectious patients as well as health care providers, according to CDC protocols

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Core Values

Social and economic justice involves applying moral principles to create institutions that shape how people earn a living, exchange goods, and otherwise provide for economic sustenance and social well-being. Right now, billions worldwide lack access to clean drinking water, nutritious food, clean air, and/or safe and dignified work. Nationally, Americans suffer from rapidly declining health, as poverty becomes endemic with our shrinking middle class. The allocation of resources reflects these inequities: the top 1/10th of 1 percent of Americans have almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent, with the top 1 percent globally having almost as much as the bottom 99 percent.

Powerful multinational corporations have had a major role in creating such injustice. They have undermined regulation that serves the public interest and used oligarchical power to promote predatory practices. Our models should enshrine the rights embodied within the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. Particularly as global resources grow scarce with climate change and war, we must act to eliminate the severe deprivation, exploitation and inequality that rob global citizens of their dignity.

Accordingly, we support:

Domestic Policies

Banking and corporate practices in the public interest

- Promoting a robust consumer protection regimen—enacting and implementing laws and policies that target predatory banks and corporations; stop deceptive, unfair, and fraudulent practices by gathering complaints; investigate complaints; sue those who break the law; develop rules for a just marketplace; and educate consumers and businesses about their rights and responsibilities.
- Capping the maximum interest rates for banking, credit card, and predatory payday loans; and limiting late and other fees.
- Discouraging the use of mandatory arbitration clauses and class action waivers.
- Allowing civil asset forfeiture only after a finding of criminal guilt and adopting strong reporting requirements and other checks to prevent the unjustified seizure of assets.
- Providing strong enforcement of antitrust laws.
- Disclosing all fees and total costs charged for all services and products in a uniform manner.

Supportive labor practices

- Adopting a federal minimum wage of at least \$15 per hour.
- Expanding rights for unionization, collective bargaining, striking, and worker solidarity in the service of fair and living wages, safe work conditions, and regular work hours.

- Investing in rebuilding and maintaining the transportation, education, and housing infrastructure of the United States.
- Providing robust government jobs programs for many youth and adults who are underemployed or unemployed.
- Supporting affordable and safe childcare.

Human rights

- Mandating affordable housing within each neighborhood to integrate living areas across ethnicity, race, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and to promote diverse schools.
- Ending homelessness through subsidized, safe, healthy and affordable housing; decriminalizing homelessness.
- Providing safe, clean, sufficient, accessible, and affordable drinking water to every American.
- Providing information and programs to assist Americans in moving toward local, sustainable, humane, organic, and just model of farming.
- Providing affordable, quality education from pre-kindergarten through college.
- Reducing police brutality by more carefully defining the reasonable use of force and establishing oversight by independent civilian oversight agencies.
- Providing access to affordable, universal, health care.
- Evaluating all chemicals and ingredients within products placed in contact with the human body, to include cosmetics and sanitary supplies, by independently (non-industry) funded group(s).
- Supporting broad-based immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

Fair institutions and models of organizing society

- **Organizations** – Supporting the expanded use of alternate models of organizing work that include B corporations (for-profit companies with social and environmental standards) and cooperatives.
- **Banks** – Supporting the reimplementation of a modern-day Glass-Steagall Act, including breaking up the major financial institutions and increasing their regulation.
- **Banking services accessibility** – Offering consumer banking services in post offices.
- **Product labeling** – Backing a system of food (and product) labeling that provides transparency as to the risks of consuming the food or using the product.
- **Food standards** – Labeling genetically modified food and adopting higher standards for certification of organic foods and farm animal welfare.
- **Better prisons** – Ending for-profit jails, prisons and detention centers, and their use as a cheap form of labor for retailers.

- **Mass incarceration** – Reducing mass incarceration and emphasizing rehabilitation in prisons, ending the use of prisons to warehouse the mentally ill, and holding guards accountable for violence against prisoners.
- **Whistleblowing** – Protecting whistleblowers against all forms of discrimination through first-class due process rights that are enforced through court-based jury trials.
- **Protections against surveillance** – Adopting strong protections against mass surveillance by government agencies or corporations.
- **Public use of airwaves** – Supporting the use of the public airwaves to cover issues in the public interest including inequality, health, corporate predation, trade, climate, and labor issues.
- **Trade policy** – Reviewing, renegotiating, and redrafting trade deals to include strong food and product safety, labor, and environmental protections; documenting currency anti-manipulation rules and remedies; supporting transparency around worker pay and conditions and environmental impact throughout the supply chain.
- **New trade agreements** – Drafting new trade agreements and renegotiating existing ones to require action in accordance with internationally recognized climate goals.
- **Rejecting TPP** – Rejecting the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Fair, progressive government taxation

- **Tax haven transparency** – Providing transparency on and eliminating tax havens.
- **Individual vs. corporate taxation** – Reversing the shift to greater government reliance on individual income vs. corporate taxes.
- **Corporate taxation** – Ending corporate tax deferral on offshore profits and promoting the repatriation of taxes using existing tax rates or similar rates.
- **Equitable tax rates** – Supporting Clinton-era tax rates in cases where households earn \$250,000 to \$1 million, with the addition of steep new brackets for those earning more than \$1 million.
- **Taxing investment vs. work income** – Supporting equal tax rates for income gained from investment income and work.
- **Closing the carried interest loophole** to eliminate preferential treatment given to private equity and hedge fund managers.
- **Implementing a government tax on carbon pollution** that does not harm low-income families.
- **Establishing a financial transaction tax** to help finance infrastructure, education, renewable energy, and/or other domestic priorities; and to decrease financial speculation.
- **CCC and EITC** – Expanding the Child Care Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- **Fossil fuel subsidies** – Ending fossil fuel subsidies by getting rid of direct subsidies, loopholes, and tax breaks to the industry.

- **Social Security taxation** – Lifting the cap on the amount of income subject to Social Security tax, and maintaining it as a public program for the long-term health of Social Security—with no diversion of Social Security funds into private equities.
- **Mining laws** – Adopting new mining laws to ensure that sales, leases, and other activity on federal land bring fair compensation to the government.
- **Corporate subsidies** – Ending subsidies for companies that do not pay living wages or have sustainable or safe environmental and climate practices.

International Policies

- **Trade, international treaties and support** – Supporting trade and product transparency as described above.
- **Strengthening international organizations** that address humanitarian, social, and economic needs worldwide.
- **Ratifying international agreements**, including the [Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty](#), [Arms Trade Treaty](#), [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), [World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#), [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#), [Ottawa Treaty](#), and the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).
- **International aid on climate change** – Implementing an adequately, publicly funded program of financial support from developed countries to the nations most affected by climate change to assist with loss and damage.
- **International environmental standards for ships** – Strengthening international ship emissions standards and regulations for cruise ship waste and protection for international marine sanctuaries.
- **Diplomacy** – Emphasizing the use of diplomacy vs. military action.
- **Military force authorization** – Engaging in war and military actions only under a valid Authorization for Use of Military Force.
- **Freedom from nuclear weapons** – Promoting a nuclear weapon-free world and a nuclear free Middle East.
- **Guantanamo closure** – Closing the prison at Guantanamo and banning torture.
- **Arms reduction** – Reducing U.S. armaments provided overseas, adopting strong mechanisms for tracking them, providing greater accountability for “lost” weapons, and expanding the Leahy Law such that arms are not provided to governments or groups who violate human rights.
- **Weapons sales transparency** – Providing transparency around the sale and use of chemical weapons, cluster bombs, and other internationally condemned or outlawed forms of weaponry.
- **Refugees and migrants** – Providing basic services to refugees, processing them in accordance with international law, and more opportunities for their resettlement.
- **Israel and Palestine** – A two-state solution in the Middle East with an immediate end to the development of new settlements on Palestinian land, the timely rebuilding of Gaza, and the provision of basic rights in accordance with their occupied status.



Positions in Brief

The policies advocated in this document were approved by the Woman's National Democratic Club Board of Governors in June 2016. WNDC activism on these issues includes advocacy to Congress and the Administration, actively supporting candidates who support these views, coordination with the Democratic National Committee and like-minded organizations, further publications, media outreach, and regular alerts to our members and constituents about developments on these issues.

We urge our members and supporters to join us in these efforts. Contact information for members of Congress is available at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. The White House can be reached at www.whitehouse.gov.