

## **Chester County Democrats: Our Values and Issues in Summary**

The Democratic Party of Chester County believes we must clearly define our views, and present a vision for the future.

We believe we must acknowledge that people of all political persuasions care deeply about our country, as well as share many essential common values. Unfortunately, those shared values are often forgotten amidst the typically reactive nature of partisan rhetoric.

We believe that the foundation of all of our positions and actions must rest upon shared core values that allow us to work together to pursue a better physical, mental and social **quality of life** for all Chester County residents, as well as for all Americans. Those core values include respect for others, and the importance of maintaining the opportunity of the American dream.

The principles listed below reflect our belief in the core values of the American Dream: the opportunity for all to earn and receive respect, to enjoy the degree of privacy or public life that we choose, and to have a fair opportunity to achieve happiness and material well-being.

### **Make Democracy Representative Again: The Role of Government**

There is a delicate balance between government helping us when we need it and government impeding us from achieving our goals and potential. Government should reflect the best values this country has always stood for, encouraging all of us to join together to solve the problems that face us, bringing us together, not dividing us.

#### **Health care is a human right**

All Americans deserve access to affordable preventative and restorative health care that promotes wellness. Basic care should be available to every family and individual, regardless of wealth or status, whether for a child with asthma, a sibling with mental health issues, or a parent with dementia. Medical professionals and patients, not insurance companies or the government, should be free to choose the most suitable treatments.

#### **Quality Education for all**

Americans deserve a high level of public investment in quality education, both academic and vocational. Quality education creates fair opportunity, a better-educated workforce, and a potentially more discerning electorate. Additionally, our economy's competitive global advantage can only be achieved if we endeavor excellence at all levels of education.

Per the PA constitution: "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

**Equal Rights: Fairness applied to everyday life**

We must continue this country's founding principles of religious freedom and economic opportunity. We believe in fighting against discrimination in housing, education, employment, or law enforcement based on gender, age, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation/identity, or familial status. This country was founded on the beliefs of economic opportunity, and of freedom from state endorsed religion.

**Economic opportunity creates a fair and participatory society**

There has always been, and there will always be a level of inequality in wealth and access to opportunity. But the economic pressure on our shrinking middle class has strained families, as well as the stability of our overall economy.

The chasm between the very rich and everyone else has rarely been so great.

Economic injustice breeds social and political injustice and instability, but it also impedes the more steady and sustainable flow of money that helps to ensure a more stable economy.

Experience shows that tax breaks for powerful corporations and the wealthy do not result in new job creation. Trickle-down economics is a failed philosophy.

**A quality environment means a better quality of life**

Per the PA constitution: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

**The Four Freedoms enunciated by FDR in 1941 are still vital:**

Freedom of speech  
Freedom of worship  
Freedom from want  
Freedom from fear