

# REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

## RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE



Presented to the  
**2008 Democratic National Convention**  
by the  
**Platform Standing Committee**

*Governor Deval Patrick, Former Attorney General Patricia Madrid and Former  
Discovery Communications, Inc. CEO Judith McHale, Committee Chairs*

*(As Approved by the Platform Committee at its meeting August 9, 2008)*

August 13, 2008

Copyright © 2008 by the 2008 Democratic National Convention Committee, Inc.

For more information, contact: Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol St., SE  
Washington, DC 20003

202-863-8000  
[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

## Table of Contents

### **Renewing America's Promise**

#### **Preamble**

#### **I. Renewing the American Dream**

##### Introduction

Jumpstart the Economy and Provide Middle Class Americans Immediate Relief

Empowering Families for a New Era

- Affordable, Quality Health Care Coverage for All Americans
- Retirement
- Good Jobs with Good Pay
- Work and Family
- Poverty
- Opportunity for Women

Investing in American Competitiveness

- New American Energy
- A World Class Education for Every Child
  - *Early Childhood*
  - *K-12*
- Higher Education
- Science, Technology, and Innovation
- Invest in Manufacturing and Our Manufacturing Communities
- Creating New Jobs by Rebuilding American Infrastructure
- A Connected America
- Support Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Real Leadership for Rural America

Economic Stewardship

- Restoring Fairness to our Tax Code
- Housing
- Reforming Financial Regulation and Corporate Governance
- Consumer Protection
- Savings
- Smart, Strong, and Fair Trade Policies
- Fiscal Responsibility

## **II. Renewing American Leadership**

Introduction

Ending the War in Iraq

Defeating Al Qaeda and Combating Terrorism

- Win in Afghanistan
- Seek a New Partnership with Pakistan
- Combat Terrorism
- Secure the Homeland
- Pursue Intelligence Reform

Preventing the Spread and Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction

- A World without Nuclear Weapons
- Secure Nuclear Weapons and the Materials to Make Them
- End the Production of Fissile Material
- End Cold War Nuclear Postures
- Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons
- De-Nuclearize North Korea
- Biological and Chemical Weapons
- Stronger Cyber-Security

Revitalizing and Supporting Our Military, Keeping Faith with Veterans

- Expand the Armed Forces
- Recruit and Retain
- Rebuild the Military for 21st-Century Tasks
- Develop Civilian Capacity to Promote Global Stability and Improve Emergency Response
- Do Right by Our Veterans
- Lift Burdens on Our Troops and Their Families
- Restore the Readiness of the Guard and Reserve
- Allow All Americans to Serve
- Reform Contracting Practices and Make Contractors Accountable

Working for Our Common Security

- Support Africa's Democratic Development
- Recommit to an Alliance of the Americas
- Lead in Asia
- Strengthen Transatlantic Relations

- Stand with Allies and Pursue Diplomacy in the Middle East
- Deepen Ties With Emerging Powers
- Revitalize Global Institutions

#### Advancing Democracy, Development, and Respect for Human Rights

- Build Democratic Institutions
- Invest in Our Common Humanity
- Global Health
- Human Trafficking

#### Protecting our Security and Saving our Planet

- Establish Energy Security
- Lead to Combat Climate Change

#### Seizing the Opportunity

### **III. Renewing the American Community**

Service

Immigration

Hurricane Katrina

Preventing and Responding to Future Catastrophes

Stewardship of Our Planet and Natural Resources

Metropolitan and Urban Policy

Firearms

Faith

The Arts

Americans with Disabilities

Children and Families

Fatherhood

Seniors

Choice

Criminal Justice

A More Perfect Union

### **IV. Renewing American Democracy**

Open, Accountable and Ethical Government

Reclaiming Our Constitution and Our Liberties

Voting Rights

Partnerships with States

Invest in Social Innovation and Ideas that Work

District of Columbia

Tribal Sovereignty

Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands

## **Preamble**

We come together at a defining moment in the history of our nation – the nation that led the 20<sup>th</sup> century, built a thriving middle class, defeated fascism and communism, and provided bountiful opportunity to many. We Democrats have a special commitment to this promise of America. We believe that every American, whatever their background or station in life, should have the chance to get a good education, to work at a good job with good wages, to raise and provide for a family, to live in safe surroundings, and to retire with dignity and security. We believe that quality and affordable health care is a basic right. We believe that each succeeding generation should have the opportunity, through hard work, service and sacrifice, to enjoy a brighter future than the last.

But today, we are at a crossroads. As we meet, we are in the sixth year of a two-front war. Our economy is struggling. Our planet is in peril.

A great nation now demands that its leaders abandon the politics of partisan division and find creative solutions to promote the common good. A people that prizes candor, accountability, and fairness insists that a government of the people must level with them and champion the interests of all American families. A land of historic resourcefulness has lost its patience with elected officials who have failed to lead.

It is time for a change. We can do better.

And so, Democrats – through the most open platform process in history – are reaching out today to Republicans, Independents, and all Americans who hunger for a new direction a reason to hope. Today, at a defining moment in our history, the Democratic Party resolves to renew America's promise.

Over the past eight years, our nation's leaders have failed us. Sometimes they invited calamity, rushing us into an ill-considered war in Iraq. But other times, when calamity arrived in the form of hurricanes or financial storms, they sat back, doing too little too late, and too poorly. The list of failures of this Administration is historic.

The American Dream is at risk. Incomes are down and foreclosures are up. Millions of our fellow citizens have no health insurance while families working longer hours are pressed for time to care for their children and aging parents. Gas and home heating costs are squeezing seniors and working families alike. We are less secure and less respected in the world. After September 11, we could have built the foundation for a new American century, but instead we instigated an unnecessary war in Iraq before finishing a necessary war in Afghanistan. Careless policies, inept stewardship and the broken politics of this Administration have taken their toll on our economy, our security and our reputation.

But even worse than the conditions we find ourselves in are the false promises that brought us

here. The Republican leadership said they would keep us safe, but they overextended our military and failed to respond to new challenges. They said they would be compassionate conservatives, but they failed to rescue our citizens from the rooftops of New Orleans, neglected our veterans, and denied health insurance to children. They promised fiscal responsibility but instead gave tax cuts to the wealthy few and squandered almost a trillion dollars in Iraq. They promised reform but allowed the oil companies to write our energy agenda and the credit card companies to write the bankruptcy rules.

These are not just policy failures. They are failures of a broken politics –a politics that rewards self-interest over the common interest and the short-term over the long-term, that puts our government at the service of the powerful. A politics that creates a state-of-the-art system for doling out favors and shuts out the voice of the American people.

So, we come together not only to replace this President and his party –and not only to offer policies that will undo the damage they have wrought. Today, we pledge a return to core moral principles like stewardship, service to others, personal responsibility, shared sacrifice and a fair shot for all –values that emanate from the integrity and optimism of our Founders and generations of Americans since. Today, we Democrats offer leaders – from the White House to the State House – worthy of this country’s trust.

We will start by renewing the American Dream for a new era – with the same new hope and new ideas that propelled Franklin Delano Roosevelt towards the New Deal and John F. Kennedy to the New Frontier. We will provide immediate relief to working people who have lost their jobs, families who are in danger of losing their homes, and those who – no matter how hard they work – are seeing prices go up more than their income. We will invest in America again –in world-class public education, in our infrastructure, and in green technology –so that our economy can generate the good, high-paying jobs of the future. We will end the outrage of unaffordable, unavailable health care, protect Social Security, and help Americans save for retirement. And we will harness American ingenuity to free this nation from the tyranny of oil.

The Democratic Party believes that there is no more important priority than renewing American leadership on the world stage. This will require diplomatic skill as capable as our military might. Instead of refusing to confront our most pressing threats, we will use all elements of American power to keep us safe, prosperous, and free. Instead of alienating our nation from the world, we will enable America –once again –to lead.

For decades, Americans have been told to act for ourselves, by ourselves, on our own. Democrats reject this recipe for division and failure. Today, we commit to renewing our American community by recognizing that solutions to our greatest challenges can only be rooted in common ground and the strength of our civic life. The American people do not want government to solve all our problems; we know that personal responsibility, character, imagination, diligence, hard work and faith ultimately determine individual achievement. But we also know that at every turning point in our nation’s history, we have demonstrated our love of



country by uniting to overcome our challenges—whether ending slavery, fighting two world wars for the cause of freedom or sending a man to the moon. Today, America must unite again—to help our most vulnerable residents get back on their feet and to restore the vitality of both urban centers and family farms—because the success of each depends on the success of the other. And America must challenge us again—to serve our country and to meet our responsibilities—whether in our families or local governments; our civic organizations or places of worship.

Americans have been promised change before. And too often we have been disappointed. We believe we must change not just our policies, but our politics as well. We cannot keep doing the same things and expect to get different results. That is why today we come together not only to prevent a third Bush term. Today, we pledge to renew American democracy by promoting the use of new technologies to make it easier for Americans to participate in their government. We will shine a light on government spending and Washington lobbying—so that every American is empowered to be a watchdog and a whistle blower. We are the party of inclusion and respect differences of perspective and belief. And so, even when we disagree, we will work together to move this country forward. There can be no Republican or Democratic ideas, only policies that are smart and right and fair and good for America—and those that aren't. We will form a government as decent, candid, purposeful and compassionate as the American people themselves.

This is the essence of what it means to be a patriot: not only to declare our love of this nation, but to show it—by our deeds, our priorities, and the commitments we keep.

If we choose to change, just imagine what we can do. What makes America great has never been its perfection, but the belief that it can be made better. And that people who love this country can change it. This is the country of Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, and Rosa Parks—people who had the audacity to believe that their country could be a better place, and the courage to work to make it so. And this Party has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose.

We have a choice to make. We can choose to stay the current failed course. Or we can choose a path that builds upon the best of who and what we are, that reflects our highest values. We can have more of the last eight years, or we can rise together and create a new kind of government. The time for change has come, and America must seize it.

## **I. Renewing the American Dream**

For months the state of our economy has dominated the headlines—and the news has not been good. The sub-prime lending debacle has sent the housing market into a tailspin, and many Americans have lost their homes. By early August, the economy had shed 463,000 jobs over

seven straight months of job loss. Health, gas and food prices are rising dramatically.

But the problem goes deeper than the current crisis. Families have seen their incomes go down even as they have been working longer hours and as productivity has grown. At the same time, health costs have risen while companies have shed health insurance coverage and pensions. Worse yet, too many Americans have lost confidence in the fundamental American promise that our children will have a better life than we do.

We are living through an age of fundamental economic transformation. Technology has changed the way we live and the way the world does business. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the advance of capitalism have vanquished old challenges to America's global leadership, but new challenges have emerged. Today, jobs and industries can move to any country with an Internet connection and willing workers.

Leadership on these issues has been sorely lacking these past eight years. In the 1990s, under Bill Clinton's leadership, employment and incomes grew and we built up a budget surplus. However, our current President pursued misguided policies, missed opportunities, and maintained a rigid, ideological adherence to discredited ideas. Our surplus is now a deficit, and almost a decade into this century, we still have no coherent national strategy to compete in a global economy. The price tag for these failures is being passed on to our families.

From the mother working two jobs to pay the bills and the couple struggling to care for young children and aging parents, to the tens of millions of Americans without health insurance and the workers who have seen their jobs shipped overseas, too many Americans have been invisible to our current President and his party for too long. The people who do the work in America have never been invisible to the Democratic Party. It is time to make the American Dream real for them again.

We need a government that stands up for the hopes, values, and interests of working people, and gives everyone willing to work hard the chance to make the most of their God-given potential.

In platform hearings around the country, Americans reaffirmed our belief that this great nation can compete—and succeed—in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but only if we take a new approach. One that is both innovative and faithful to the basic economic principles that made this country great. We Democrats want—and we hereby pledge—a government led by Barack Obama that looks out for families in the new economy with health care, retirement security, and help, especially in bad times. Investment in our country—in energy, education, infrastructure, science. A ladder of opportunity for all. Democrats see these as the pillars of a more competitive and fair economy that will allow all Americans to take advantage of the opportunities of our new era.

### **Jumpstart the Economy and Provide Middle Class Americans Immediate Relief**

We will provide an immediate energy rebate to American families struggling with the record

price of gasoline and the skyrocketing cost of other necessities – to spend on those basic needs and energy efficient measures. We will devote \$50 billion to jumpstarting the economy, helping economic growth, and preventing another one million jobs from being lost. This will include assistance to states and localities to prevent them from having to cut their vital services like education, health care, and infrastructure. We will quickly implement the housing bill recently passed by Congress and ensure that states and localities that have been hard-hit by the housing crisis can avoid cuts in vital services. We support investments in infrastructure to replenish the highway trust fund, invest in road and bridge maintenance and fund new, fast-tracked projects to repair schools. We believe that it is essential to take immediate steps to stem the loss of manufacturing jobs. Taking these immediate measures will provide good jobs and will help the economy today. But generating truly shared prosperity is only possible if we also address our most significant long-run challenges like the rising cost of health care, energy, and education.

### **Empowering Families for a New Era**

Many Americans once worked 40 hours a week for 40 years for a single employer who provided pay to support a family, health insurance, and a pension. Today, Americans change jobs more frequently than ever and compete against workers around the world for pay and benefits.

The face of America's families is also changing, and so are the challenges they confront. Today, in the majority of families, all parents work. Millions of working Americans are also members of a new "sandwich generation," playing dual roles as working parents and working children, responsible not only for their kids but for their aging mothers and fathers. They are working longer hours than ever, while at the same time having to meet a new and growing set of caregiving responsibilities.

Our government's policies—many designed in the New Deal era—have not kept up with the new economy and the changing nature of people's lives. Democrats believe that it is time for our policies and our expectations to catch up. From health care to pensions, from unemployment insurance to paid leave, we need to modernize our policies in order to provide working Americans the tools they need to meet new realities and challenges.

### **Affordable, Quality Health Care Coverage for All Americans**

If one thing came through in the platform hearings, it was that Democrats are united around a commitment that every American man, woman, and child be guaranteed affordable, comprehensive healthcare. In meeting after meeting, people expressed moral outrage with a health care crisis that leaves millions of Americans—including nine million children—without health insurance and millions more struggling to pay rising costs for poor quality care. Half of all personal bankruptcies in America are caused by medical bills. We spend more on health care than any other country, but we're ranked 47th in life expectancy and 43rd in child mortality. Our nation faces epidemics of obesity and chronic diseases as well as new threats like pandemic flu and bioterrorism. Yet despite all of this, less than four cents of every health care

dollar is spent on prevention and public health.

The American people understand that good health is the foundation of individual achievement and economic prosperity. Ensuring quality, affordable health care for every single American is essential to children's education, workers' productivity and businesses' competitiveness. We believe that covering all is not just a moral imperative, but is necessary to making our health system workable and affordable. Doing so would end cost-shifting from the uninsured, promote prevention and wellness, stop insurance discrimination, help eliminate health care disparities, and achieve savings through competition, choice, innovation, and higher quality care. While there are different approaches within the Democratic Party about how best to achieve the commitment of covering every American, with everyone in and no one left out, we stand united to achieve this fundamental objective through the legislative process.

"I worked for a manufacturer for over fifteen years. My wages stayed the same for six years as I found myself paying more and more for health care. Co-pays went up, deductibles went up. In late 2006, the company sent my production job to Mexico and China and I was laid off. I could not afford COBRA premiums. I am two years away from Medicare and unemployed and on the "faith based" healthcare system— meaning I just pray I don't get sick. Oh yeah, and I'm a cancer survivor and I haven't done the yearly checkup in three years." – quoted at *Listening to America* National Hearing

We therefore oppose those who advocate policies that would thrust millions of Americans out of their current private employer-based coverage without providing them access to an affordable, comprehensive alternative, thereby subjecting them to the kind of insurance discrimination that leads to excessive premiums or coverage denials for older and sicker Americans. We reject those who have steadfastly opposed insurance coverage expansions for millions of our nation's children while they have protected overpayments to insurers and allowed underpayments to our nation's doctors. Our vision of a strengthened and improved health care system for all Americans stands in stark contrast to the Republican Party's and includes:

*Covering All Americans and Providing Real Choices of Affordable Health Insurance Options.* Families and

individuals should have the option of keeping the coverage they have or choosing from a wide array of health insurance plans, including many private health insurance options and a public plan. Coverage should be made affordable for all Americans with subsidies provided through tax credits and other means.

*Shared Responsibility.* Health care should be a shared responsibility between employers, workers, insurers, providers and government. All Americans should have coverage they can afford; employers should have incentives to provide coverage to their workers; insurers and providers should ensure high quality affordable care; and the government should ensure that health insurance is affordable and provides meaningful coverage. As affordable coverage is made available, individuals should purchase

"I am self-employed and have always managed to have health insurance, but am about to lose my coverage, and can't find any company in Arizona that will insure anyone with type I diabetes. It's not that I can't afford health insurance, or that I have huge medical bills —it's simply that I have a disease that they decide makes me uninsurable. It's a terrible situation to be in, and I'm still much better off than most." -*Listening to America* participant, Lucia, Tucson, AZ

health insurance and take steps to lead healthy lives.

*An End to Insurance Discrimination.* Health insurance plans should accept all applicants and be prohibited from charging different prices based on pre-existing conditions. They should compete on the cost of providing health care and the quality of that care, not on their ability to avoid or over-charge people who are or may get sick. Premiums collected by insurers should be primarily dedicated to care, not profits.

*Portable Insurance.* No one should have to worry about losing health coverage if they change or lose their job.

*Meaningful Benefits.* Families should have health insurance coverage similar to what Members of Congress enjoy. They should not be forced to bear the burden of skyrocketing premiums, unaffordable deductibles or benefit limits that leave them at financial risk when they become sick. We will finally achieve long-overdue mental health and addiction treatment parity.

*An Emphasis on Prevention and Wellness.* Chronic diseases account for 70 percent of the nation's overall health care spending. We need to promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention and management especially with health promotion programs at work and physical education in schools. All Americans should be empowered to promote wellness and have access to preventive services to impede the development of costly chronic conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. Chronic-care and behavioral health management should be assured for all Americans who require care coordination. This includes assistance for those recovering from traumatic, life-altering injuries and illnesses as well as those with mental health and substance use disorders. We should promote additional tobacco and substance abuse prevention.

*A Modernized System That Lowers Cost and Improves the Quality of Care.* As Americans struggle with increasing health care costs, we believe a strengthened, uniquely American system should provide the highest-quality, most cost-effective care. This should be advanced by aggressive efforts to cut costs and eliminate waste from our health system, which will save the typical family up to \$2,500 per year. These efforts include driving adoption of state-of-the-art health information technology systems, privacy-protected electronic medical records, reimbursement incentives, and an independent organization that reviews drugs, devices, and procedures to ensure that people get the right care at the right time. By working with the medical community to improve quality, these reforms will have the added benefit of reducing the prevalence of lawsuits related to medical errors. We should increase competition in the insurance and drug markets; remove some of the cost burden of catastrophic illness from employers and their employees; and lower drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prices, permitting importation of safe medicines from other developed countries, creating a generic pathway for biologic drugs, and increasing use of generics in public programs.

*A Strong Health Care Workforce.* Through training and reimbursement incentives, there must be a commitment to sufficient and well-qualified primary care physicians and nurses as well as direct care workers.

*Commitment to the Elimination of Disparities in Health Care.* We must end health care disparities among minorities, American Indians, women, and low-income people through better research and better funded community-based health centers. We will make our health care system culturally sensitive and accessible to those who speak different languages. We will support programs that diversify the health care workforce to ensure culturally effective care. We will also address the social determinants that fuel health disparities, and empower the communities most impacted by providing them the resources and technical assistance to be their own agents of wellness. We will speed up and improve reimbursements by the Indian Health Service.

*Public Health and Research.* Health and wellness is a shared responsibility among individuals and families, school systems, employers, the medical and public health workforce and government at all levels. We will ensure that Americans can benefit from healthy environments that allow them to pursue healthy choices. Additionally, as childhood obesity rates have more than doubled in the last 30 years, we will work to ensure healthy environments in our schools.

We must fight HIV/AIDS in our country and around the world. We support increased funding into research, care and prevention of HIV/AIDS. We support a comprehensive national strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS and a Ryan White Care Act designed and funded to meet today's epidemic, that ends ADAP waiting lists and that focuses on the communities such as African Americans and Latino Americans who are disproportionately impacted through an expanded and renewed minority HIV/AIDS initiative, and on new epicenters such as the Southern part of our nation. We support providing Medicaid coverage to more low-income HIV-positive Americans.

Health care reform must also provide adequate incentives for innovation to ensure that Americans have access to evidence-based and cost-effective health care. Research should be based on science, not ideology. For the millions of Americans and their families suffering from debilitating physical and emotional effects of disease, time is a precious commodity, and it is running out. Yet, over the past eight years, the current Administration has not only failed to promote biomedical and stem cell research, it has actively stood in the way of that research. We cannot tolerate any further inaction or obstruction. We need to invest in biomedical research and stem cell research, so that we are at the leading edge of prevention and treatment. This includes adequate funding for research into diseases such as heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, breast cancer, diabetes, autism and other common and rare diseases, and disorders. We will increase funding to the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Cancer Institutes.

*A Strong Partnership with States, Local Governments, Tribes, and Territories.*

Recognizing that considerable progress in health care delivery has been pioneered by state and local governments, necessary nationwide reform should build on successful state models of care.

*A Strong Safety-Net.* Achieving our health goals requires strengthening the safety-net programs, safety-net providers, and public health infrastructure to fill in gaps and ensure public safety in times of disease outbreak or disaster.

*Empowerment and Support of Older Americans and People with Disabilities.* Seniors and people with disabilities should have access to quality affordable long-term care services, and those services should be readily available at home and in the community. Americans should not be forced to choose between getting care and living independent and productive lives.

*Reproductive Health Care.* We oppose the current Administration's consistent attempts to undermine a woman's ability to make her own life choices and obtain reproductive health care, including birth control. We will end health insurance discrimination against contraception and provide compassionate care to rape victims. We will never put ideology above women's health.

*Fiscal Responsibility.* As we improve and strengthen our health care system, we must do so in a fiscally responsible way that ensures that we get value for the dollars that are invested.

### **Retirement and Social Security**

We will make it a priority to secure for hardworking families the part of the American Dream that includes a secure and healthy retirement. Individuals, employers, and government must all play a role. We will adopt measures to preserve and protect existing public and private pension plans. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Americans also need better ways to save for retirement. We will automatically enroll every worker in a workplace pension plan that can be carried from job to job and we will match savings for working families who need the help. We will make sure that CEOs can't dump workers' pensions with one hand while they line their own pockets with the other. At platform hearings, Americans made it clear they feel that's an outrage, and it's time we had leaders who treat it as an outrage. We will ensure all employees who have company pensions receive annual disclosures about their pension fund's investments, including full details about which projects have been invested in, the performance of those investments and appropriate details about probable future investments strategies. We also will reform corporate bankruptcy laws so that workers' retirements are a priority for funding and workers are not left with worthless IOU's after years of service. Finally, we will eliminate all federal income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 per year. Lower- and middle-income seniors already have to worry about high health care and energy costs; they should not have to worry about tax burdens as well.

We reject the notion of the presumptive Republican nominee that Social Security is a disgrace; we believe that it is indispensable. We will fulfill our obligation to strengthen Social Security and to make sure that it provides guaranteed benefits Americans can count on, now and in future

generations. We will not privatize it.

### **Good Jobs with Good Pay**

In the platform hearings, Americans expressed dismay that people who are willing to study and work cannot get a job that pays enough to live on in the current economy. Democrats are committed to an economic policy that produces good jobs with good pay and benefits. That is why we support the right to organize. We know that when unions are allowed to do their job of making sure that workers get their fair share, they pull people out of poverty and create a stronger middle class. We will strengthen the ability of workers to organize unions and fight to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. We will restore pro-worker voices to the National Labor Relations Board and the National Mediation Board and we support overturning the NLRB's and NMB's many harmful decisions that undermine the collective bargaining rights of millions of workers. We will ensure that federal employees, including public safety officers who put their lives on the line every day, have the right to bargain collectively, and we will fix the broken bargaining process at the Federal Aviation Administration. We will fight to ban the permanent replacement of striking workers, so that workers can stand up for themselves without worrying about losing their livelihoods. We will continue to vigorously oppose "Right-to-Work" Laws and "paycheck protection" efforts whenever they are proposed. Suspending labor protections during national emergencies compounds the devastation from the emergency. We opposed suspension of Davis-Bacon following Hurricane Katrina, and we support broad application of Davis-Bacon worker protections to all federal projects. We will stop the abuse of privatization of government jobs. We will end the exploitative practice of employers wrongly misclassifying workers as independent contractors.

The Bush Administration Department of Labor has failed in its obligation to stand up and protect American workers. Our Department of Labor will restore and expand overtime rights for millions of Americans, and will actively enforce wage and hour laws. The Bush Administration is the only administration that has never voluntarily issued a significant final standard for workplace safety. Our Occupational Safety and Health Administration will adopt and enforce comprehensive safety standards. Right now, far too many workers – especially those in the construction and mining industries-risk their lives every day just by going to work.

In America, if someone is willing to work, he or she should be able to make ends meet and have the opportunity to prosper. To that end, we will raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation, and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit so that workers can

"My husband and I are just squeaking by. We both have good jobs. We make decent money, not great. But we never expected this to happen. Our pays just don't make it, and we're the middle class. Politicians keep talking, but I just don't think they know how it feels if you're choosing between gas and groceries. I watch the news at night, and there's often tips on TV on how to save. Conserve gas. Don't eat out. Don't buy coffees or lattes. I already don't do these things. This election matters a lot to me. I really try and make sure I make the right decision this year. I am a registered Independent, and I am supporting Senator Obama. We simply cannot go another year with Republican leadership. I don't see how anything the Republicans are doing right now is helping the middle class at all." -Marcie Wozniak, Pittsburgh area, PA (*Listening to America* National Hearing)



support themselves and their families. We will modernize the unemployment insurance program to close gaps and extend benefits to the workers who now fall outside it.

### **Work and Family**

Over the last few decades, fundamental changes in the way we work and live have trapped too many American families between an economy that's gone global and a government that's gone AWOL. It's time we stop just talking about family values, and start pursuing policies that truly value families. We will expand the Family and Medical Leave Act to reach millions more workers than are currently covered, and we will enable workers to take leave to care for an elderly parent, address domestic violence and sexual assault, or attend a parent-teacher conference. Today 78 percent of the workers who are eligible for leave cannot take it because it's unpaid, so we will work with states and make leave paid. We will also ensure that every American worker is able earn up to seven paid sick days to care for themselves or an ill family member. And we will encourage employers to provide flexible work arrangements—with the federal government leading by example. We will expand the childcare tax credit, provide every child access to quality, affordable early childhood education, and double funding for after-school and summer learning opportunities for children. We will provide assistance to those who need long-term care and to the working men and women of this country who do the heroic job of providing care for their aging relatives. All Americans who are working hard and taking responsibility deserve the chance to do right by their loved ones. That's the America we believe in.

### **Poverty**

When Bobby Kennedy saw the shacks and poverty along the Mississippi Delta, he asked, "How can a country like this allow it?" Forty years later, we're still asking that question. The most American answer we can give is: "We won't allow it." One in eight Americans lives in poverty today all across our country, in our cities, in our suburbs, and in our rural communities. Most of these people work but still can't pay the bills. Nearly thirteen million of the poor are children. We can't allow this kind of suffering and hopelessness to exist in our country. It's not who we are.

Working together, we can cut poverty in half within ten years. We will provide all our children a world-class education, from early childhood through college. We will develop innovative transitional job programs that place unemployed people into temporary jobs and train them for permanent ones. To help workers share in our country's productivity, we'll expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation. The majority of adults in poverty are women, and to combat poverty we must work for fair pay, support for mothers, and policies that promote responsible fatherhood. We'll start letting our unions do what they do best again—organize and lift up our workers. We'll make sure that every American has affordable health care that stays with them no matter what happens. We will assist American Indian communities, since 10 of the 20 poorest counties in the United States are on Indian lands. We'll bring businesses back to our inner-cities, increase the supply of affordable housing, and establish "promise neighborhoods" that provide comprehensive services in areas

of concentrated poverty. These will be based on proven models, such as the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, which seeks to engage all residents with tangible goals such as attendance at parenting schools, retention of meaningful employment, college for every participating student, and strong physical and mental health outcomes for children. The Democratic Party believes that the fight against poverty must be national priority. Eradicating poverty will require the sustained commitment of the President of the United States, and we believe that the White House must offer leadership and resources to advance this agenda.

### **Opportunity for Women**

We, the Democratic Party, are the party that has produced more women Governors, Senators, and Members of Congress than any other. We have produced the first woman Secretary of State, the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives, and, in 2008, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first woman in American history to win presidential primaries in our nation. We believe that our daughters should have the same opportunities as our sons; our party is proud that we have put eighteen million cracks in the highest glass ceiling. We know that when America extends its promise to women, the result is increased opportunity for families, communities, and aspiring people everywhere.

When women still earn 76 cents for every dollar that a man earns, it doesn't just hurt women; it hurts families and children. We will pass the "Lilly Ledbetter" Act, which will make it easier to combat pay discrimination; we will pass the Fair Pay Act; and we will modernize the Equal Pay Act. We will invest in women-owned small businesses and remove the capital gains tax on start-up small businesses. We will support women in math and science, increasing American competitiveness by retaining the best workers in these fields, regardless of gender. We recognize that women still carry the majority of childrearing responsibilities, so we have created a comprehensive work and family agenda. We recognize that women are the majority of adults who make the minimum wage, and are particularly hard-hit by recession and poverty; we will protect Social Security, increase the minimum wage, and expand programs to combat poverty and improve education so that parents and children can lift themselves out of poverty. We will work to combat violence against women.

We believe that standing up for our country means standing up against sexism and all intolerance. Demeaning portrayals of women cheapen our debates, dampen the dreams of our daughters, and deny us the contributions of too many. Responsibility lies with us all.

### **Investing in American Competitiveness**

At a critical moment of transition like this one, Americans understand that, more than anything else, success will depend on the dynamism, determination, and innovation of the American people. But success also depends on national leadership that can move this country forward with confidence and a common purpose. In platform hearings, Americans called on their government to "invest back" in them and their country. That's what Lincoln did when he pushed for a transcontinental railroad, incorporated our National Academy of Sciences, passed the Homestead Act and created the land grant colleges. That's what Franklin Delano Roosevelt

did in creating the Tennessee Valley Authority, electrifying rural America and investing in an Arsenal of Democracy. That's the kind of leadership we intend to provide.

### **New American Energy**

In the local platform hearings, Americans talked about the importance of energy to the economy, to national security, and to the health of our planet. Speaking loud and clear, they said that America needs a new bold and sustainable energy policy to meet the challenges of our time. In the past, America has been stirred to action when faced with new threats to our national security, or new competitive conditions that undercut our economic leadership. The energy threat we face today may be less immediate than threats from dictators, but it is as real and as dangerous. The dangers are eclipsed only by the opportunities that would come with change. We know that the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be created in developing new energy solutions. The question is whether these jobs will be created in America, or abroad. We should use government procurement policies to incentivize domestic production of clean and renewable energy. Already, we've seen countries like Germany, Spain and Brazil reap the benefits of economic growth from clean energy. But we are decades behind in confronting this challenge.

For the sake of our security—and for every American family that is paying the price at the pump—we will break our addiction to foreign oil. In platform hearings around the country, Americans called for a Manhattan or Apollo Project-level commitment to achieve energy independence. We hear that call and we Democrats commit to fast-track investment of billions of dollars over the next ten years to establish a green energy sector that will create up to five million jobs. Good jobs, like those in Pennsylvania where workers manufacture wind turbines, the ones in the factory in Nevada producing components for solar energy generation plants, or the jobs that will be created when plug-in hybrids start rolling off the assembly line in Michigan. This transition to a clean-energy industry will also benefit low-income communities: we'll create an energy-focused youth job program to give disadvantaged youth job skills for this emerging industry.

It will not be easy, but neither was getting to the moon. We know we can't drill our way to energy independence and so we must summon all of our ingenuity and legendary hard work and we must invest in research and development, and deployment of renewable energy technologies—such as solar, wind, geothermal, as well as technologies to store energy through advanced batteries and clean up our coal plants. And we will call on businesses, government, and the American people to make America 50 percent more energy efficient by 2030, because we know that the most energy efficient economy will also gain the competitive edge for new manufacturing and jobs that stay here at home. We will help pay for all of it by dedicating a portion of the revenues generated by an economy-wide cap and trade program— a step that will also dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and jumpstart billions in private capital investment in a new energy economy.

We'll dramatically increase the fuel efficiency of automobiles, and we'll help auto manufacturers and parts suppliers convert to build the cars and trucks of the future and their

key components in the United States. And we will help workers learn the skills they need to compete in the green economy. We are committed to getting at least 25 percent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Building on the innovative efforts of the private sector, states, cities, and tribes across the country, we will create new federal-local partnerships to scale the success and deployment of new energy solutions, install a smarter grid, build more efficient buildings, and use the power of federal and military purchasing programs to jumpstart promising new markets and technologies. We'll invest in advanced biofuels like cellulosic ethanol which will provide American-grown fuel and help free us from the tyranny of oil. We will use innovative measures to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings.

To lower the price of gasoline, we will crack down on speculators who are driving up prices beyond the natural market rate. We will direct the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice to vigorously investigate and prosecute market manipulation in oil futures. And we will help those who are hit hardest by high energy prices by increasing funding for low-income heating assistance and weatherization programs, and by providing energy assistance to help middle-class families make ends meet in this time of inflated energy prices.

This plan will safeguard our economy, our country, and the future of our planet. This plan will create good jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. With these policies, we will protect our country from the national security threats created by reliance on foreign oil and global insecurity due to climate change. And this is how we'll solve the problem of four-dollar-a-gallon gas — with a comprehensive plan and investment in clean energy.

### **A World Class Education for Every Child**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where the most valuable skill is knowledge, countries that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. In the platform hearings, Americans made it clear that it is morally and economically unacceptable that our high-schoolers continue to score lower on math and science tests than most other students in the world and continue to drop-out at higher rates than their peers in other industrialized nations. We cannot accept the persistent achievement gap between minority and white students or the harmful disparities that exist between different schools within a state or even a district. Americans know we can and should do better.

The Democratic Party firmly believes that graduation from a quality public school and the opportunity to succeed in college must be the birthright of every child—not the privilege of the few. We must prepare all our students with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they need to succeed by progressing to a new era of mutual responsibility in education. We must set high standards for our children, but we must also hold ourselves accountable—our schools, our teachers, our parents, business leaders, our community and our elected leaders. And we must come together, form partnerships, and commit to providing the resources and reforms necessary to help every child reach their full potential.

### *Early Childhood*

We will make quality, affordable early childhood care and education available to every American child from the day he or she is born. Our Children's First Agenda, including increases in Head Start and Early Head Start, and investments in high-quality Pre-K, will improve quality and provide learning and support to families with children ages zero to five. Our Presidential Early Learning Council will coordinate these efforts.

### *K-12*

We must ensure that every student has a high-quality teacher and an effective principal. That starts with recruiting a new generation of teachers and principals by making this pledge—if you commit your life to teaching, America will commit to paying for your college education. We'll provide better preparation, mentoring and career ladders. Where there are teachers who are still struggling and underperforming we should provide them with individual help and support. And if they're still underperforming after that, we should find a quick and fair way—consistent with due process—to put another teacher in that classroom.

“Strong public schools are the foundation of democratic community life. With the intention of helping all children to succeed, we must facilitate improved education, including vocational and special education programs” —*Listening to America* participant, Denver, CO

To reward our teachers, we will follow the lead of school districts and educators that have pioneered innovative ways to increase teacher pay that are developed with teachers, not imposed on them. We will make an unprecedented national investment to provide teachers with better pay and better support to improve their skills, and their students' learning. We'll reward effective teachers who teach in underserved areas, take on added responsibilities like mentoring new teachers, or consistently excel in the classroom.

We will fix the failures and broken promises of No Child Left Behind—while holding to the goal of providing every child access to a world-class education, raising standards, and ensuring accountability for closing the achievement gap. We will end the practice of labeling a school and its students as failures and then throwing our hands up and walking away from them without having provided the resources and supports these students need. But this alone is not an education policy. It's just a starting point. We will work with our nation's governors and educators to create and use assessments that will improve student learning and success in school districts all across America by including the kinds of critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills that our children will need. We will address the dropout crisis by investing in intervention strategies in middle schools and high schools and we will invest in after-school programs, summer school, alternative education programs, and youth jobs.

We will promote innovation within our public schools—because research shows that resources alone will not create the schools that we need to help our children succeed. We need to adapt curricula and the school calendar to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; reform the schools of education that produce most of our teachers; promote public charter schools that are accountable; and streamline the certification process for those with valuable skills who want to

shift careers and teach.

We will also meet our commitment to special education and to students who are English Language Learners. We support full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. We also support transitional bilingual education and will help Limited English Proficient students get ahead by supporting and funding English Language Learner classes. We support teaching students second languages, as well as contributing through education to the revitalization of American Indian languages.

We know that there is no program and no policy that can substitute for parents who are involved in their children's education from day one—who make sure their children are in school on time, help them with their homework, and attend those parent-teacher conferences; who are willing to turn off the TV once in a while, put away the video games, and read to their children. Responsibility for our children's education has to start at home. We have to set high standards for them, and spend time with them, and love them. We have to hold ourselves accountable.

### **Higher Education**

We believe that our universities, community colleges, and other institutions of higher learning must foster among their graduates the skills needed to enhance economic competitiveness. We will work with institutions of higher learning to produce highly skilled graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines who will become innovative workers prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

At community colleges and training programs across the country, we will invest in short-term accelerated training and technical certifications for the unemployed and under-employed to speed their transition to careers in high-demand occupations and emerging industries. We will reward successful community colleges with grants so they can continue their good work. We support education delivery that makes it possible for non-traditional students to receive support and encouragement to obtain a college education, including Internet, distance education, and night and weekend programs.

We must also invest in training and education to prepare incumbent job-holders with skills to meet the rigors of the new economic environment and provide them access to the broad knowledge and concrete tools offered by apprenticeships, internships, and postsecondary education. We need to fully fund joint labor-management apprenticeship programs and reinvest in our industrial crafts programs to train the next generation of skilled American craft workers.

We recognize the special value and importance of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority serving institutions in meeting the needs of our increasingly diverse society and will work to ensure their viability and growth.

We will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit to ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans. In exchange for the credit, students will be expected to perform community service. We will continue to support programs, especially the Pell Grant program, that open the doors of college opportunity to low-income Americans. We will enable families to apply for financial aid simply by checking a box on their tax form.

Our institutions of higher education are also the economic engines of today and tomorrow. We will partner with them to translate new ideas into innovative products, processes and services.

### **Science, Technology and Innovation**

America has long led the world in innovation. But this Administration's hostility to science has taken a toll. At a time when technology helps shape our future, we devote a smaller and smaller share of our national resources to research and development.

It is time again to lead. We took a critical step with the America Competes Act and we will start by implementing that Act — then we will do more. We will make science, technology, engineering, and math education a national priority. We will double federal funding for basic research, invest in a strong and inspirational vision for space exploration, and make the Research and Development Tax Credit permanent. We will invest in the next generation of transformative energy technologies and health IT and we will renew the defense R&D system. We will lift the current Administration's ban on using federal funding for embryonic stem cells—cells that would have otherwise have been discarded and lost forever—for research that could save lives. We will ensure that our patent laws protect legitimate rights while not stifling innovation and creativity. We will end the Bush Administration's war on science, restore scientific integrity, and return to evidence-based decision-making.

In sum, we will strengthen our system, treat science and technology as crucial investments, and use these forces to ensure a future of economic leadership, health well-being and national security.

### **Invest in Manufacturing and Our Manufacturing Communities**

We will invest in American jobs and finally end the tax breaks that ship jobs overseas. We will create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund to provide for our next generation of innovators and job creators; we will expand the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and create new job training programs for clean technologies. We will bring together government, private industry, workers, and academia to turn around the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy and

"I work in the maintenance department at General Electric in Bloomington, Indiana. Our plant is closing in a year and, we hear, going to Mexico. With one year left before I can retire, I could end up losing my pension. I'm two years away from my retirement, but I'm not going to quite make it. They tell me I can go to another factory, but I'd start out at lower pay and at the bottom of the rung. I feel like I'd be throwing everything away I've worked for over the last 24 years. The closest factory is three hours away. I've never really been interested in elections before. And honestly, the first time I ever voted was in the primary of this year. But everything seems more important to me this year. I've decided to get more involved. It's not the time to sit and watch the world go by. I know this year, with the economy, we've got to elect Senator Obama." —David Landrum, Bloomington, Indiana (*Listening to America* National Hearing)

provide assistance to automakers and parts companies to encourage retooling of facilities in this country to produce advanced technology vehicles and their key components. We will support efforts like the recently proposed Senate Appropriations measure that gives manufacturers access to low-interest loans to help convert factories to build more fuel-efficient vehicles. And we will invest in a clean energy economy to create up to five million new green-collar jobs.

Our manufacturing communities need immediate relief. And we will help states and localities whose budgets are strained in times of need. We will modernize and expand Trade Adjustment Assistance. We will help workers build a safety net, with health care, retirement security, and a way to stay out of crippling debt. We will partner with community colleges and other higher education institutions, so that we're training workers to meet the demands of local industry, including environmentally-friendly technology.

### **Creating New Jobs by Rebuilding American Infrastructure**

A century ago, Teddy Roosevelt called together leaders from business and government to develop a plan for the next century's infrastructure. It falls to us to do the same. Right now, we are spending less than at any time in recent history and far less than our international competitors on this critical component of our nation's strength. We will start a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank that can leverage private investment in infrastructure improvements, and create nearly two million new good jobs. We will undertake projects that maximize our safety and security and ability to compete, which we will fund as we bring the war in Iraq to a responsible close. We will modernize our power grid, which will help conservation and spur the development and distribution of clean energy. We need a national transportation policy, including high-speed rail and light rail. We can invest in our bridges, roads, and public transportation so that people have choices in how they get to work. We will ensure every American has access to highspeed broadband and we will take on special interests in order to unleash the power of the wireless spectrum.

### **A Connected America**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our world is more intertwined than at any time in human history. This new connectedness presents us with untold opportunities for innovation, but also new challenges. We will protect the Internet's traditional openness and ensure that it remains a dynamic platform for free speech, innovation, and creativity. We will implement a national broadband strategy (especially in rural areas, and our reservations and territories) that enables every American household, school, library, and hospital to connect to a world-class communications infrastructure. We will rededicate our nation to ensuring that all Americans have access to broadband and the skills to use it effectively. In an increasingly technology-rich, knowledge-based economy, we understand that connectivity is a key part of the solution to many of our most important challenges: job creation, economic growth, energy, health care, and education. We will establish a Chief Technology Officer for the nation, to ensure we use technology to enhance the functioning, transparency, and expertise of government, including establishing a national interoperable public safety communications network to help first responders at the local, state and national level communicate with one another during a crisis.



We will toughen penalties, increase enforcement resources, and spur private sector cooperation with law enforcement to identify and prosecute those who exploit the Internet to try to harm children. We will encourage more educational content on the Web and in our media. We will give parents the tools and information they need to manage what their children see on television and the Internet – in ways fully consistent with the First Amendment. We will strengthen privacy protections in the digital age and will harness the power of technology to hold government and business accountable for violations of personal privacy. We will encourage diversity in the ownership of broadcast media, promote the development of new media outlets for expression of diverse viewpoints, and clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters who occupy the nation’s spectrum.

### **Support Small Business and Entrepreneurship**

Encouraging new industry and creating jobs means giving more support to American entrepreneurs. We will exempt all start-up companies from capital gains taxes and provide them a tax credit for health insurance. We will provide a new tax credit for small businesses that offer quality health insurance to their employees. We will help small businesses facing high energy costs. We will work to remove bureaucratic barriers for small and start-up businesses—for example, by making the patent process more efficient and reliable. Our Small Business Administration will recognize the importance of small business to women, people of color, tribes, and rural America and will work to help nurture entrepreneurship. We will create a national network of public-private business incubators and technical support.

### **Real Leadership for Rural America**

Rural America is home to 60 million Americans. The agricultural sector is critical to the rural economy and to all Americans. We depend on those in agriculture to produce the food, feed, fiber, and fuel that support our society. Thankfully, American farmers possess an unrivaled capacity to produce an abundance of these high-quality products.

“I am a farmer that grows corn, wheat, soybeans 100 percent, full time, no till to help protect the resources. I work seven days a week the year round to pay my bills. We, the American farmer, have the ability, the enthusiasm, the skills, the tools, and the fierce sense of patriotism to win the war on foreign oil and still provide the food and fiber in a safe manner for not only for this country, but for the rest of the world. However, we are threatened by a climate that brings us droughts one year nationwide and then, this year, floods of historic biblical proportion. Because of the high cost of farming, because of the risk and the stress, no longer are the young people of rural America wanting to stay on the farm.” –Ray McCormick, Southwestern Indiana (*Listening to America* National Hearing)

In return, we will provide a strong safety net for family farms, a permanent disaster relief program, expansion of agriculture research, and an emphasis on agricultural trade. We will promote economic development in rural and tribal communities by investing in renewable energy, which will transform the rural economy and create millions of new jobs, by upgrading technological and physical infrastructure, by addressing the challenges faced by public schools in rural areas, including forest county schools,

supporting higher education opportunities and by attracting quality teachers, doctors and

nurses through loan forgiveness programs and other incentive programs. All Americans, urban and rural, hold a shared interest in preserving and increasing the economic vitality of family farms. We will continue to develop and advance policies that promote sustainable and local agriculture, including funding for soil and water conservation programs.

### **Economic Stewardship**

Since the time of our Founders, we have struggled to balance the same forces that confronted Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson—self-interest and community; markets and democracy; the concentration of wealth and power, and the necessity of transparency and opportunity for each and every American. Throughout our history, Americans have pursued their dreams within a free market that has been the engine of America's progress. It's a market that has created a prosperity that is the envy of the world, and opportunity for generations of Americans. A market that has provided great rewards to the innovators and risk-takers who have made America a beacon for science, technology, and discovery.

But the American experiment has worked in large part because we have guided the market's invisible hand with a higher principle. Our free market was never meant to be a free license to take whatever you can get, however you can get it. That is why we have put in place rules of the road to make competition fair, open, and honest. We have done this not to stifle—but rather to advance – prosperity and liberty.

In this time of economic transformation and crisis, we must be stewards of this economy more than ever before. We will maintain fiscal responsibility, so that we do not mortgage our children's future on a mountain of debt. We can do this at the same time that we invest in our future. We will restore fairness and responsibility to our tax code. We will bring balance back to the housing markets, so that people do not have to lose their homes. And we will encourage personal savings, so that our economy remains strong and Americans can live well in their retirements.

### **Restoring Fairness to Our Tax Code**

We must reform our tax code. It's thousands of pages long, a monstrosity that high-priced lobbyists have rigged with page after page of special interest loopholes and tax shelters. We will shut down the corporate loopholes and tax havens and use the money so that we can provide an immediate middle-class tax cut that will offer relief to workers and their families. We'll eliminate federal income taxes for millions of retirees, because all seniors deserve to live out their lives with dignity and respect. We will not increase taxes on any family earning under \$250,000 and we will offer additional tax cuts for middle class families. For families making more than \$250,000, we'll ask them to give back a portion of the Bush tax cuts to invest in health care and other key priorities. We will end the penalty within the current Social Security system for public service that exists in several states. We will expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans can do their taxes in less than five minutes.

## **Housing**

The housing crisis has been devastating for many Americans. Minorities have been hit particularly hard—in 2006, more than 40 percent of the home loans made to Hispanic borrowers were subprime, while more than half of those made to African Americans were subprime. We will ensure that the foreclosure prevention program enacted by Congress is implemented quickly and effectively so that at-risk homeowners can get help and hopefully stay in their homes. We will work to reform bankruptcy laws to restore balance between lender and homeowner rights. Because we have an obligation to prevent this crisis from recurring in the future, we will crack down on fraudulent brokers and lenders and invest in financial literacy. We will pass a Homebuyers Bill of Rights, which will include establishing new lending standards to ensure that loans are affordable and fair, provide adequate remedies to make sure the standards are met, and ensure that homeowners have accurate and complete information about their mortgage options. We will support affordable rental housing, which is now more critical than ever. We will implement the newly created Affordable Housing Trust Fund to ensure that it can start to support the development and preservation of affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods throughout the country, restore cuts to public housing operating subsidies, and fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program. We will work with local jurisdictions on the problem of vacant and abandoned housing in our communities. We will work to end housing discrimination and to ensure equal housing opportunity. We will combat homelessness and target homelessness among veterans in particular by expanding proven programs and launching innovative preventive services.

## **Reforming Financial Regulation and Corporate Governance**

We have failed to guard against practices that all too often rewarded financial manipulation instead of productivity and sound business practices. We have let the special interests put their thumbs on the economic scales. We do not believe that government should stand in the way of innovation, or turn back the clock to an older era of regulation. But we do believe that government has a role to play in advancing our common prosperity: by providing stable macroeconomic and financial conditions for sustained growth; by demanding transparency; and by ensuring fair competition in the marketplace. We will reform and modernize our regulatory structures and will work to promote a shift in the cultures of our financial institutions and our regulatory agencies. We will ensure shareholders have an advisory vote on executive compensation, in order to spur increased transparency and public debate over pay packages. To make our communities stronger and more livable, and to meet the challenges of increasing global competitiveness, America will lead innovation in corporate responsibility to create jobs and leverage our private sector entrepreneurial leadership to help build a better world.

## **Consumer Protection**

We will establish a Credit Card Bill of Rights to protect consumers and a Credit Card Rating System to improve disclosure. Americans need to pay what they owe, but they should pay what's fair. We'll reform our bankruptcy laws to give Americans in debt a second chance. If people can demonstrate that they went bankrupt because of medical expenses, they will be able

to relieve that debt and get back on their feet. We will ban executive bonuses for bankrupt companies. We will crack down on predatory lenders and make it easier for low-income families to buy homes. We will require all non-home-based child care facilities to be lead-safe within five years. We must guarantee that consumer products coming in from other countries are truly safe, and will call on the Federal Trade Commission to ensure vulnerable consumer populations, such as seniors, are addressed.

### **Savings**

The personal saving rate is at its lowest since the Great Depression. Currently, 75 million working Americans—roughly half the workforce—lack employer-based retirement plans. That’s why we will create automatic workplace pensions. People can add to their pension, or can opt out at any time; the savings account will be easily transferred between jobs; and people can control it themselves if they become self-employed. We will ensure savings incentives are fair to all workers by matching half of the initial \$1000 of savings for families that need help; and employers will have an easy opportunity to match employee savings. We believe this program will increase the saving participation rate for low- and middle-income workers from its current 15 percent to 80 percent. We support good pensions, and will adopt measures to preserve and protect existing public and private pension plans. We will require that employees who have company pensions receive annual disclosures about their pension fund’s investments. This will put a secure retirement within reach for millions of working families.

### **Smart, Strong, and Fair Trade Policies**

We believe that trade should strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs, while also laying a foundation for democratic, equitable, and sustainable growth around the world. Trade has been a cornerstone of our growth and global development, but we will not be able to sustain this growth if it favors the few rather than the many. We must build on the wealth that open markets have created, and share its benefits more equitably.

Trade policy must be an integral part of an overall national economic strategy that delivers on the promise of good jobs at home and shared prosperity abroad. We will enforce trade laws and safeguard our workers, businesses, and farmers from unfair trade practices—including currency manipulation, lax consumer standards, illegal subsidies, and violations of workers’ rights and environmental standards. We must also show leadership at the World Trade Organization to improve transparency and accountability, and to ensure it acts effectively to stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and non-tariff barriers on U.S. exports.

We need tougher negotiators on our side of the table—to strike bargains that are good not just for Wall Street, but also for Main Street. We will negotiate bilateral trade agreements that open markets to U.S. exports and include enforceable international labor and environmental standards; we pledge to enforce those standards consistently and fairly. We will not negotiate bilateral trade agreements that stop the government from protecting the environment, food

safety, or the health of its citizens; give greater rights to foreign investors than to U.S. investors; require the privatization of our vital public services; or prevent developing country governments from adopting humanitarian licensing policies to improve access to life-saving medications. We will stand firm against bilateral agreements that fail to live up to these important benchmarks, and will strive to achieve them in the multilateral framework. We will work with Canada and Mexico to amend the North American Free Trade Agreement so that it works better for all three North American countries. We will work together with other countries to achieve a successful completion of the Doha Round Agreement that would increase U.S. exports, support good jobs in America, protect worker rights and the environment, benefit our businesses and our farms, strengthen the rules-based multilateral system, and advance development of the world's poorest countries.

Just as important, we will invest in a world-class infrastructure, skilled workforce, and cutting-edge technology so that we can compete successfully on high-value-added products, not sweatshop wages and conditions. We will end tax breaks for companies that ship American jobs overseas, and provide incentives for companies that keep and maintain good jobs here in the United States. We will also provide access to affordable health insurance and enhance retirement security, and we will update and expand Trade Adjustment Assistance to help workers in industries vulnerable to international competition, as well as service sector and public sector workers impacted by trade, and we will improve TAA's health care benefits. The United States should renew its own commitment to respect for workers' fundamental human rights, and at the same time strengthen the ILO's ability to promote workers' rights abroad through technical assistance and capacity building.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

Our agenda is ambitious—particularly in light of the current Administration's policies that have run up the national debt to over \$4 trillion. Just as America cannot afford to continue to run up huge deficits, so too can we not afford to short-change investments. The key is to make the tough choices, in particular enforcing pay-as-you-go budgeting rules. We will honor these rules by our plan to end the Iraq war responsibly, eliminate waste in existing government programs, generate revenue by charging polluters for the greenhouse gases they are releasing, and put an end to the reckless, special interest driven corporate loopholes and tax cuts for the wealthy that have been the centerpiece of the Bush Administration's economic policy. We will not raise taxes on people making less than \$250,000, and we will eliminate federal income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000. We recognize that Social Security is not in crisis and we should do everything we can to strengthen this vital program, including asking those making over \$250,000 to pay a bit more. The real long-run fiscal challenge is rooted in the rising spending on health care, but we cannot address this in a way that puts our most vulnerable families in jeopardy. Instead, we must strengthen our public programs by bringing down the cost of health care and reducing waste while making strategic investments that emphasize quality, efficiency, and prevention. In the name of our children, we reject the proposals of those who want to continue George Bush's disastrous economic policies.

## **II. Renewing American Leadership**

At moments of great peril in the last century, American leaders such as Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John F. Kennedy managed both to protect the American people and to expand opportunity for the next generation. They ensured that America, by deed and example, led and lifted the world—that we stood for and fought for the freedoms sought by billions of people beyond our borders. They used our strengths to show people everywhere America at its best. Just as John Kennedy said that after Hoover we needed Franklin Roosevelt, so too after our experience of the last eight years we need Barack Obama.

Today, we are again called to provide visionary leadership. This century's threats are at least as dangerous as, and in some ways more complex than, those we have confronted in the past. They come from weapons that can kill on a mass scale and from violent extremists who exploit alienation and perceived injustice to spread terror. They come from rogue states allied to terrorists and from rising powers that could challenge both America and the international foundation of liberal democracy. They come from weak states that cannot control their territory or provide for their people. They come from an addiction to oil that helps fund the extremism we must fight and empowers repressive regimes. And they come from a warming planet that will spur new diseases, spawn more devastating natural disasters, and catalyze deadly conflicts.

We will confront these threats head on while working with our allies and restoring our standing in the world. We will pursue a tough, smart, and principled national security strategy. It is a strategy that recognizes that we have interests not just in Baghdad, but in Kandahar and Karachi, in Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia and Bamako. It is a strategy that contends with the many disparate forces shaping this century, including: the fundamentalist challenge to freedom; the emergence of new powers like China, India, Russia, and a united Europe; the spread of lethal weapons; uncertain supplies of energy, food, and water; the persistence of poverty and the growing gap between rich and poor; and extraordinary new technologies that send people, ideas, and money across the globe at ever faster speeds.

Barack Obama will focus this strategy on seven goals: (i) ending the war in Iraq responsibly; (ii) defeating Al Qaeda and combating violent extremism; (iii) securing nuclear weapons and materials from terrorists; (iv) revitalizing and supporting our military; (v) renewing our partnerships to promote our common security; (vi) advancing democracy and development; and (vii) protecting our planet by achieving energy security and combating climate change.

### **Ending the War in Iraq**

To renew American leadership in the world, we must first bring the Iraq war to a responsible end. Our men and women in uniform have performed admirably while sacrificing immeasurably. Our civilian leaders have failed them. Iraq was a diversion from the fight against the terrorists who struck us on 9-11, and incompetent prosecution of the war by civilian leaders compounded

the strategic blunder of choosing to wage it in the first place.

We will re-center American foreign policy by responsibly redeploying our combat forces from Iraq and refocusing them on urgent missions. We will give our military a new mission: ending this war and giving Iraq back to its people. We will be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in. We can safely remove our combat brigades at the pace of one to two per month and expect to complete redeployment within sixteen months. After this redeployment, we will keep a residual force in Iraq to perform specific missions: targeting terrorists; protecting our embassy and civil personnel; and advising and supporting Iraq's Security Forces, provided the Iraqis make political progress.

At the same time, we will provide generous assistance to Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. We will launch a comprehensive regional and international diplomatic surge to help broker a lasting political settlement in Iraq, which is the only path to a sustainable peace. We will make clear that we seek no permanent bases in Iraq. We will encourage Iraq's government to devote its oil revenues and budget surplus to reconstruction and development. This is the future the American people want. This is the future that Iraqis want. This is what our common interests demand.

### **Defeating Al Qaeda and Combating Terrorism**

The central front in the war on terror is not Iraq, and it never was. We will defeat Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where those who actually attacked us on 9-11 reside and are resurgent.

### **Win in Afghanistan**

Our troops are performing heroically in Afghanistan, but as countless military commanders and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff acknowledge, we lack the resources to finish the job because of our commitment to Iraq. We will finally make the fight against Al Qaeda and the Taliban the top priority that it should be.

We will send at least two additional combat brigades to Afghanistan, and use this commitment to seek greater contributions—with fewer restrictions—from our NATO allies. We will focus on building up our special forces and intelligence capacity, training, equipping and advising Afghan security forces, building Afghan governmental capacity, and promoting the rule of law. We will bolster our State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Teams and our other government agencies helping the Afghan people. We will help Afghans educate their children, including their girls, provide basic human services to their population, and grow their economy from the bottom up, with an additional \$1 billion in non-military assistance each year—including investments in alternative livelihoods to poppy-growing for Afghan farmers—just as we crack down on trafficking and corruption. Afghanistan must not be lost to a future of narco-terrorism—or become again a haven for terrorists.

### **Seek a New Partnership with Pakistan**

The greatest threat to the security of the Afghan people—and the American people—lies in the tribal regions of Pakistan, where terrorists train, plot attacks, and strike into Afghanistan and move back across the border. We cannot tolerate a sanctuary for Al Qaeda. We need a stronger and sustained partnership between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and NATO—including necessary assets like satellites and predator drones—to better secure the border, to take out terrorist camps, and to crack down on cross-border insurgents. We must help Pakistan develop its own counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency capacity. We will invest in the long-term development of the Pashtun border region, so that the extremists' program of hate is met with an agenda of hope.

We will ask more of the Pakistani government, rather than offer a blank check to an undemocratic President. We will significantly increase non-military aid to the Pakistani people and sustain it for a decade, while ensuring that the military assistance we provide is actually used to fight extremists. We must move beyond an alliance built on individual leaders, or we will face mounting opposition in a nuclear-armed nation at the nexus of terror, extremism, and the instability wrought by autocracy.

### **Combat Terrorism**

Beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan, we must forge a more effective global response to terrorism. There must be no safe haven for those who plot to kill Americans. We need a comprehensive strategy to defeat global terrorists—one that draws on the full range of American power, including but not limited to our military might. We will create a properly resourced Shared Security Partnership to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation with countries around the world, including through information sharing as well as funding for training, operations, border security, anti-corruption programs, technology, and targeting terrorist financing.

We will pursue policies to undermine extremism, recognizing that this contest is also between two competing ideas and visions of the future. A crucial debate is occurring within Islam. The vast majority of Muslims believe in a future of peace, tolerance, development, and democratization. A small minority embrace a rigid and violent intolerance of personal liberty and the world at large. To empower forces of moderation, America must live up to our values, respect civil liberties, reject torture, and lead by example. We will make every effort to export hope and opportunity—access to education, that opens minds to tolerance, not extremism; secure food and water supplies; and health care, trade, capital, and investment. We will provide steady support for political reformers, democratic institutions, and civil society that is necessary to uphold human rights and build respect for the rule of law.

### **Secure the Homeland**

Here at home, we will strengthen our security and protect the critical infrastructure on which the entire world depends. We will fully fund and implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 9-11 Commission. We will spend homeland security dollars on the basis of risk. This means investing more resources to defend mass transit, closing the gaps in our aviation security by



screening all cargo on passenger airliners and checking all passengers against a reliable and comprehensive watch list, and upgrading plant security and port security by ensuring that cargo is screened for radiation. To ensure that resources are targeted, we will establish a Quadrennial Review at the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a top to bottom assessment of the threats we face and our ability to confront them. And we will develop a comprehensive National Infrastructure Protection Plan that draws on both local know-how and national priorities. We will ensure direct coordination with state, local, and tribal jurisdictions so that first responders are always resourced and prepared.

### **Pursue Intelligence Reform**

To succeed, our homeland security and counter-terrorism actions must be linked to an intelligence community that deals effectively with the threats we face. Today, we rely largely on the same institutions and practices that were in place before 9-11. Barack Obama will depoliticize intelligence by appointing a Director of National Intelligence with a fixed term, create a bipartisan Consultative Group of congressional leaders on national security, and establish a National Declassification Center to ensure openness. To keep pace with highly adaptable enemies, we need technologies and practices that enable us to efficiently collect and share information within and across our intelligence agencies. We must invest still more in human intelligence and deploy additional trained operatives with specialized knowledge of local cultures and languages. And we will institutionalize the practice of developing competitive assessments of critical threats and strengthen our methodologies of analysis.

### **Preventing the Spread and Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

We will urgently seek to reduce dramatically the risks from three potentially catastrophic threats: nuclear weapons, biological attacks, and cyber warfare. In an age of terrorism, these dangers take on new dimensions. Nuclear, biological, and cyber attacks all pose the potential for large-scale damage and destruction to our people, to our economy and to our way of life. The capacity to inflict such damage is spreading not only to other countries, but also potentially to terrorist groups.

### **A World Without Nuclear Weapons**

America will seek a world with no nuclear weapons and take concrete actions to move in this direction. We face the growing threat of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or the materials to make them, as more countries seek nuclear weapons and nuclear materials remain unsecured in too many places. As George Shultz, Bill Perry, Henry Kissinger, and Sam Nunn have warned, current measures are not adequate to address these dangers. We will maintain a strong and reliable deterrent as long as nuclear weapons exist, but America will be safer in a world that is reducing reliance on nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminates all of them. We will make the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide a central element of U.S. nuclear weapons policy.

### **Secure Nuclear Weapons and the Materials to Make Them**

We will work with other nations to secure, eliminate, and stop the spread of nuclear weapons

and materials to dramatically reduce the dangers to our nation and the world. There are nuclear weapons materials in 40 countries, and we will lead a global effort to work with other countries to secure all nuclear weapons material at vulnerable sites within four years. We will work with nations to increase security for nuclear weapons. We will convene a summit in 2009 (and regularly thereafter) of leaders of Permanent Members of the U.N. Security Council and other key countries to agree on implementing many of these measures on a global basis.

### **End the Production of Fissile Material**

We will negotiate a verifiable global ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. We will work to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology so that countries cannot build—or come to the brink of building—a weapons program under the guise of developing peaceful nuclear power. We will seek to double the International Atomic Energy Agency’s budget, support the creation of an IAEA-controlled nuclear fuel bank to guarantee fuel supply to countries that do not build enrichment facilities, and work to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

### **End Cold War Nuclear Postures**

To enhance our security and help meet our commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we will seek deep, verifiable reductions in United States and Russian nuclear weapons and work with other nuclear powers to reduce global stockpiles dramatically. We will work with Russia to take as many weapons as possible off Cold War, quick-launch status, and extend key provisions of the START Treaty, including its essential monitoring and verification requirements. We will not develop new nuclear weapons, and will work to create a bipartisan consensus to support ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which will strengthen the NPT and aid international monitoring of nuclear activities.

### **Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons**

The world must prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. That starts with tougher sanctions and aggressive, principled, and direct high-level diplomacy, without preconditions. We will pursue this strengthened diplomacy alongside our European allies, and with no illusions about the Iranian regime. We will present Iran with a clear choice: if you abandon your nuclear weapons program, support for terror, and threats to Israel, you will receive meaningful incentives; so long as you refuse, the United States and the international community will further ratchet up the pressure, with stronger unilateral sanctions; stronger multilateral sanctions inside and outside the U.N. Security Council, and sustained action to isolate the Iranian regime. The Iranian people and the international community must know that it is Iran, not the United States, choosing isolation over cooperation. By going the extra diplomatic mile, while keeping all options on the table, we make it more likely the rest of the world will stand with us to increase pressure on Iran, if diplomacy is failing.

### **De-Nuclearize North Korea**

We support the belated diplomatic effort to secure a verifiable end to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program and to fully account for and secure any fissile material or weapons North

Korea has produced to date. We will continue direct diplomacy and are committed to working with our partners through the six-party talks to ensure that all agreements are fully implemented in the effort to achieve a verifiably nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

### **Biological and Chemical Weapons**

We will strengthen U.S. intelligence collection overseas to identify and interdict would-be bioterrorists before they strike. We will also build greater capacity to mitigate the consequences of bio-terror attacks, ensuring that the federal government does all it can to get citizens the information and resources they need to help protect themselves and their families. We will accelerate the development of new medicines, vaccines, and production capabilities, and lead an international effort to detect and diminish the impact of major infectious disease epidemics. And we will fully fund our contribution to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and work to ensure that remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons are destroyed swiftly, safely, and securely.

### **Stronger Cyber-Security**

We will work with private industry, the research community and our citizens, to build a trustworthy and accountable cyber-infrastructure that is resilient, protects America's competitive advantage, and advances our national and homeland security.

### **Revitalizing and Supporting the Military, Keeping Faith With Veterans**

To renew American leadership in the world, we must revitalize our military. A strong military is, more than anything, necessary to sustain peace.

Ending the war in Iraq will be the beginning, but not the end, of addressing our defense challenges. We will use this moment both to rebuild our military and to prepare it for the missions of the future. We must retain the capacity to swiftly defeat any conventional threat to our country and our vital interests. But we must also become better prepared to take on foes that fight asymmetrical and highly adaptive campaigns on a global scale.

We will not hesitate to use force to protect the American people or our vital interests whenever we are attacked or imminently threatened. But we will use our armed forces wisely, with others when we can, unilaterally when we must. When we send our men and women into harm's way, we must clearly define the mission, listen to the advice of our military commanders, objectively evaluate intelligence, and ensure that our troops have the strategy, resources, and support they need to prevail.

We believe we must also be willing to consider using military force in circumstances beyond self-defense in order to provide for the common security that underpins global stability—to support friends, participate in stability and reconstruction operations, or confront mass atrocities. But when we do use force in situations other than self-defense, we should make every effort to garner the clear support and participation of others. The consequences of forgetting that lesson in the context of the current conflict in Iraq have been grave.

**Expand the Armed Forces**

We support plans to increase the size of the Army by 65,000 troops and the Marines by 27,000 troops. Increasing our end strength will help units retrain and re-equip properly between deployments and decrease the strain on military families.

**Recruit and Retain**

A nation of 300 million people should not struggle to find additional qualified personnel to serve. Recruitment and retention problems have been swept under the rug, including by applying inconsistent standards and using the “Stop Loss” program to keep our servicemen and women in the force after their enlistment has expired. We will reach out to youth, as well as to the parents, teachers, coaches, and community and religious leaders who influence them, and make it an imperative to restore the ethic of public service, whether it be serving their local communities in such roles as teachers or first responders, or serving in the military and reserve forces or diplomatic corps that keep our nation free and safe.

**Rebuild the Military for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Tasks**

We will rebuild our armed forces to meet the full spectrum needs of the new century. We will strongly support efforts to: build up our special operations forces, civil affairs, information operations, engineers, foreign area officers, and other units and capabilities that remain in chronic short supply; invest in foreign language training, cultural awareness, human intelligence, and other needed counter-insurgency and stabilization skill sets; and create a specialized military advisor corps, which will enable us to better build up local allies’ capacities to take on mutual threats. We also will ensure that military personnel have sufficient training time before they are sent into battle. This is not the case at the moment, when American forces are being rushed to Iraq and Afghanistan, often with less individual and unit training than is required.

**Develop Civilian Capacity to Promote Global Stability and Improve Emergency Response**

We will build the capacity of U.S. civilian agencies to deploy personnel and area experts where they are needed, so that we no longer have to ask our men and women in uniform to perform non-military functions. The creation of a volunteer Civilian Assistance Corps of skilled experts (e.g., doctors, lawyers, engineers, city planners, agriculture specialists, police) who are pre-trained and willing to aid in emergencies will involve more Americans in public service and provide our nation with a pool of talent to assist America in times of need at home and abroad.

**Do Right by Our Veterans and Their Families**

We believe that every servicemember is a hero who deserves our respect and gratitude, not just on Veterans Day or Memorial Day, but every day. When they put on their uniforms, these servicemembers all become all of our daughters and all of our sons, and it is time we started treating them as such. As the shameful events at Walter Reed hospital and the recent reports on growing numbers of homeless and unemployed veterans show, this Administration that has asked so much of them has not repaid their sacrifice.

We will build a 21<sup>st</sup> century Department of Veterans Affairs that reflects the reality of America's all volunteer military and has the resources, without returning every year to

fight the same battles, to uphold America's sacred trust with our veterans. We will make sure that members of our Armed Forces have a fair shot at the American Dream by implementing the new GI Bill. We will ensure that every veteran has access to quality health care for injuries both physical and mental, and we will require that health professionals screen all servicemembers upon their return from combat. We will aggressively address Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. We will work to ensure that every veteran receives the benefits he or she has earned and the assistance he or she needs by making the disability benefits process more fair, efficient, and equitable. We will dramatically reduce the backlog of disability claims. We will combat homelessness, unemployment, and underemployment among veterans and improve the transition for servicemen between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. We will continue to honor our promises to all veterans, including the Filipino veterans, especially with regards to citizenship and family reunification.

"Americans are frustrated with our continued involvement in the War and Middle East involvement. We feel too much money has been spent on a war that is not needed. Many young lives have been lost, and too many of our brave heroes are coming home wounded, both physically and psychologically, to a veteran hospital system unequipped to adequately care for them." -*Listening to America* participant, Tell City, IN

### **Lift Burdens on Our Troops and Their Families**

We must better support those families of whom we are asking so much. We will create a Military Families Advisory Board to help identify and develop practical policies to ease the burden on spouses and families.

We will protect our military families from losing their homes to foreclosure. We will work for pay parity so that compensation for military service is more in line with that of the private sector. We will end the stop-loss and reserve recall policies that allow an individual to be forced to remain on active duty well after his or her enlistment has expired, and we will establish regularity in deployments so that active duty and reserve troops know what they must expect and their families can plan for it.

### **Support the Readiness of the Guard and Reserve**

Democrats will provide the National Guard with the equipment it needs for foreign and domestic emergencies and provide time and support to restore and refit between deployments. We will also ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment, health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration. We will do this by adequately funding reintegration programs to assist returning service members and by enforcing the Service Members Civil Relief Act and the Uniformed Service Employment Rights and Readjustment Act, laws too often observed in the breach today. To ensure that the concerns of our citizen soldiers reach the level they mandate, Democrats will elevate the Chief of the National Guard to be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### **Allow All Americans to Serve**

We will also put national security above divisive politics. More than 12,500 service men and women have been discharged on the basis of sexual orientation since the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy was implemented, at a cost of over \$360 million. Many of those forced out had special skills in high demand, such as translators, engineers, and pilots. At a time when the military is having a tough time recruiting and retaining troops, it is wrong to deny our country the service of brave, qualified people. We support the repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” and the implementation of policies to allow qualified men and women to serve openly regardless of sexual orientation

### **Reform Contracting Practices and Make Contractors Accountable**

We believe taxpayer dollars should be spent to invest in our fighting men and women, not to fatten the pockets of private companies. We will instruct the Defense and State Departments to develop a strategy for determining when contracting makes sense, and when certain functions are “inherently governmental” and should not be contracted out. We will establish the legal status of contractor personnel, making possible prosecution of any abuses committed by private military contractors, and create a system of improved oversight and management, so that government can restore honesty, openness, and efficiency to contracting and procurement.

### **Working for Our Common Security**

To renew American leadership in the world, we will rebuild the alliances, partnerships, and institutions necessary to confront common threats and enhance common security. Needed reform of these alliances and institutions will not come by bullying other countries to ratify American demands. It will come when we convince other governments and peoples that they too have a stake in effective partnerships. It is only leadership if others join America in working toward our common security.

Too often, in recent years, we have sent the opposite signal to our international partners. In the case of Europe, we dismissed European reservations about the wisdom and necessity of the Iraq war and their concerns about climate change. In Asia, we belittled South Korean efforts to improve relations with the North. In Latin America, from Mexico to Argentina, we failed to address concerns about immigration and equity and economic growth. In Africa, we have allowed genocide to persist

for over five years in Darfur and have not done nearly enough to answer the United Nation’s call for more support to stop the killing. Under Barack Obama, we will rebuild our ties to our allies in Europe and Asia and strengthen our partnerships throughout the Americas and Africa.

“We believe in and demand a new era of civility and support in international affairs to promote decent living conditions, protect the environment, and support human rights.” -*Listening to America* participant, Poison, MT

### **Support Africa’s Democratic Development**

U.S. engagement with Africa should reflect its vital significance to the U.S. as well as its

emerging role in the global economy. We recognize Africa's promise as a trade and investment partner and the importance of policies that can contribute to sustainable economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation. We are committed to bringing the full weight of American leadership to bear in unlocking the spirit of entrepreneurship and economic independence that is sweeping across markets of Africa.

We believe that sustainable economic growth and development will mitigate and even help to reverse such chronic and debilitating challenges as poverty, hunger, conflict, and HIV/AIDS. We are committed to bringing the full weight of American leadership to bear to work in partnership with Africa to confront these crises. We will work with the United Nations and Africa's regional organizations to prevent and resolve conflict and to build the capacity of Africa's weak and failing states. We must respond effectively when there is a humanitarian crisis—particularly at this moment in Sudan where genocide persists in Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is threatened.

Many African countries have embraced democratization and economic liberalization. We will help strengthen Africa's democratic development and respect for human rights, while encouraging political and economic reforms that result in improved transparency and accountability. We will defend democracy and stand up for rule of law when it is under assault, such as in Zimbabwe.

### **Recommit to an Alliance of the Americas**

We recognize that the security and prosperity of the United States is fundamentally tied to the future of the Americas. We believe that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the U.S. must treat Latin America and the Caribbean as full partners, just as our neighbors to the south should reject the bombast of authoritarian bullies. Our relationship with Canada, our long-time ally, should be strengthened and enhanced. An alliance of the Americas will only succeed if it is founded on the bedrock of mutual respect and works to advance democracy, opportunity, and security from the bottom-up. We must turn the page on the arrogance in Washington and the anti-Americanism across the region that stands in the way of progress. We must work with close partners like Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia on issues like ending the drug trade, fighting poverty and inequality, and immigration. We must work with the Caribbean community to help restore stability and the rule of law to Haiti, to improve the lives of its people, and to strengthen its democracy. And we must build ties to the people of Cuba and help advance their liberty by allowing unlimited family visits and remittances to the island, while presenting the Cuban regime with a clear choice: if it takes significant steps toward democracy, beginning with the unconditional release of all political prisoners, we will be prepared to take steps to begin normalizing relations.

### **Lead in Asia**

We are committed to U.S. engagement in Asia. This begins with maintaining strong relationships with allies like Japan, Australia, South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines, and deepening our ties to vital democratic partners, like India, in order to create a stable and prosperous Asia. We must also forge a more effective framework in Asia that goes

beyond bilateral agreements, occasional summits, and ad hoc diplomatic arrangements.

“We need to be a ‘super smart power’ not a ‘super power.’ That means we need to be a world leader; not a world bully.” -  
*Listening to America*  
participant, Lebanon, PA

We need an open and inclusive infrastructure with the countries in Asia that can promote stability, prosperity, and human rights, and help confront transnational threats, from terrorist cells in the Philippines to avian flu in Indonesia. We will encourage China to play a responsible role as a growing power—to help lead in addressing the common

problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are committed to a "One China" policy and the Taiwan Relations Act, and will continue to support a peaceful resolution of cross-Straits issues that is consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Taiwan. It's time to engage China on common interests like climate change, trade, and energy, even as we continue to encourage its shift to a more open society and a market-based economy, and promote greater respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, uncensored use of the internet, and Chinese workers' right to freedom of association, as well as the rights of Tibetans.

### **Strengthen Transatlantic Relations**

Europe remains America's indispensable partner. We support the historic project to build a strong European Union that can be an even stronger partner for the United States. NATO has made tremendous strides over the last fifteen years, transforming itself from a Cold War security structure into a partnership for peace. But today, NATO's challenge in Afghanistan has exposed a gap between its missions and its capabilities. To close this gap, we will invest more in NATO's mission in Afghanistan and use that investment to leverage our NATO allies to contribute more resources to collective security operations and to invest more in reconstruction and stabilization capabilities. As we promote democracy and accountability in Russia, we must work with the country in areas of common interest—above all, in making sure that nuclear weapons and materials are secure. We will insist that Russia abide by international law and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors. We are committed to active Presidential leadership in the full implementation of the Irish Good Friday Agreement and St. Andrews Accords. We will seek to strengthen and broaden our strategic partnership with Turkey, end the division of Cyprus, and continue to support a close U.S. relationship with states that seek to strengthen their ties to NATO and the West, such as Georgia and Ukraine.

### **Stand with Allies and Pursue Diplomacy in the Middle East**

For more than three decades, Israelis, Palestinians, Arab leaders, and the rest of the world have looked to America to lead the effort to build the road to a secure and lasting peace. Our starting point must always be our special relationship with Israel, grounded in shared interests and shared values, and a clear, strong, fundamental commitment to the security of Israel, our strongest ally in the region and its only established democracy. That commitment, which requires us to ensure that Israel retains a qualitative edge for its national security and its right to self-defense, is all the more important as we contend with growing threats in the region—a strengthened Iran, a chaotic Iraq, the resurgence of Al Qaeda, the reinvigoration of Hamas and



Hezbollah. We support the implementation of the memorandum of understanding that pledges \$30 billion in assistance to Israel over the next decade to enhance and ensure its security.

It is in the best interests of all parties, including the United States, that we take an active role to help secure a lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a democratic, viable Palestinian state dedicated to living in peace and security side by side with the Jewish State of Israel. To do so, we must help Israel identify and strengthen those partners who are truly committed to peace, while isolating those who seek conflict and instability, and stand with Israel against those who seek its destruction. The United States and its Quartet partners should continue to isolate Hamas until it renounces terrorism, recognizes Israel's right to exist, and abides by past agreements. Sustained American leadership for peace and security will require patient efforts and the personal commitment of the President of the United States. The creation of a Palestinian state through final status negotiations, together with an international compensation mechanism, should resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees by allowing them to settle there, rather than in Israel. All understand that it is unrealistic to expect the outcome of final status negotiations to be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949. Jerusalem is and will remain the capital of Israel. The parties have agreed that Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations. It should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths.

### **Deepen Ties with Emerging Powers**

We also will pursue effective collaboration on pressing global issues among all the major powers—including such newly emerging ones as China, India, Russia, Brazil, Nigeria, and South Africa. With India, we will build on the close partnership developed over the past decade. As two of the world's great, multi-ethnic democracies, the U.S. and India are natural strategic allies, and we must work together to advance our common interests and to combat the common threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We believe it is in the United States' interest that all of these emerging powers and others assume a greater stake in promoting international peace and respect for human rights, including through their more constructive participation in key global institutions.

### **Revitalize Global Institutions**

To enhance global cooperation on issues from weapons proliferation to climate change, we need stronger international institutions. We believe that the United Nations is indispensable but requires far-reaching reform. The U.N. Secretariat's management practices remain inadequate. Peacekeeping operations are overextended. The new U.N. Human Rights Council remains biased and ineffective. Yet none of these problems will be solved unless America rededicates itself to the organization and its mission. We support reforming key global institutions — such as the U.N. Security Council and the G-8—so they will be more reflective of 21<sup>st</sup> century realities.

### **Advancing Democracy, Development, and Respect for Human Rights**

No country in the world has benefited more from the worldwide expansion of democracy than the United States. Democracies are our best trading partners, our most valuable allies, and the

nations with which we share our deepest values. The United States must join with our democratic partners around the world to meet common security challenges and uphold our shared values whenever they are threatened by autocratic practices, coups, human rights abuses, or genocide.

### **Build Democratic Institutions**

The Democratic Party reaffirms its longstanding commitment to support democratic institutions and practices worldwide. A more democratic world is a more peaceful and prosperous place. Yet democracy cannot be imposed by force from the outside; it must be nurtured with moderates on the inside by building democratic institutions.

The United States must be a relentless advocate for democracy and put forward a vision of democracy that goes beyond the ballot box. We will increase our support for strong legislatures, independent judiciaries, free press, vibrant civil society, honest police forces, religious freedom, equality for women and minorities, and the rule of law. In new democracies, we will support the development of civil society and representative institutions that can protect fundamental human rights and improve the quality of life for all citizens, including independent and democratic unions. In non-democratic countries, we pledge to work with international partners to assist the efforts of those struggling to promote peaceful political reforms. Ongoing funding to the National Endowment for Democracy and other U.S. government-funded democracy programs reflects American values and serves our interests.

### **Invest in Our Common Humanity**

To renew American leadership in the world, we will strengthen our common security by investing in our common humanity. In countries wracked by poverty and conflict, citizens long to enjoy freedom from want. Because extremely poor societies and weak states provide optimal breeding grounds for terrorism, disease, and conflict, the United States has a direct national security interest in dramatically reducing global poverty and joining with our allies in sharing more of our riches to help those most in need.

It is time to make the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which aim to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015, America's goals as well. We need to invest in building capable, democratic states that can establish healthy and educated communities, develop markets, and generate wealth. Such states would also have greater institutional capacities to fight terrorism, halt the spread of deadly weapons, and build health-care infrastructures to prevent, detect, and treat deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and avian flu.

We will double our annual investment in meeting these challenges to \$50 billion by 2012 and ensure that those new resources are directed toward worthwhile goals. We will work with philanthropic organizations and the private sector to invest in development and poverty reduction. But if America is going to help others build more just and secure societies, our trade deals, debt relief, and foreign aid must not come as blank checks. We will recognize the fragility of small nations in the Caribbean, the Americas, Africa, and Asia and work with them

to successfully transition to a new global economy. We will couple our support with an insistent call for reform, to combat the corruption that rots societies and governments from within. As part of this new funding, we will create a \$2 billion Global Education Fund that will bring the world together in eliminating the global education deficit with the goal of supporting a free, quality, basic education for every child in the world. Education increases incomes, reduces poverty, strengthens communities, prevents the spread of disease, improves child and maternal health, and empowers women and girls. We cannot hope to shape a world where opportunity outweighs danger unless we ensure that every child everywhere is taught to build and not to destroy.

Our policies will recognize that human rights are women's rights and that women's rights are human rights. Women make up the majority of the poor in the world. So we will expand access to women's economic development opportunities and seek to expand microcredit. Women produce half of the world's food but only own one percent of the land upon which it is grown. We will work to ensure that women have equal protection under the law and are not denied rights and therefore locked into poverty.

We will modernize our foreign assistance policies, tools, and operations in an elevated, empowered, consolidated, and streamlined U.S. development agency. Development and diplomacy will be reinforced as key pillars of U.S. foreign policy, and our civilian agencies will be staffed, resourced, and equipped to address effectively new global challenges.

American leadership on human rights is essential to making the world safer, more just, and more humane. Such leadership must begin with steps to undo the damage of the Bush years. But we also must go much further. We should work with others to shape human rights institutions and instruments tailored to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We must make the United Nations' human rights organs more objective, energetic, and effective. The U.S. must lead global efforts to promote international humanitarian standards and to protect civilians from indiscriminate violence during warfare. We will champion accountability for genocide and war crimes, ending the scourge of impunity for massive human rights abuses. We will stand up for oppressed people from Cuba to North Korea and from Burma to Zimbabwe and Sudan. We will accord greater weight to human rights, including the rights of women and children, in our relationships with other global powers, recognizing that America's long-term strategic interests are more likely to be advanced when our partners are rights-respecting.

### **Global Health**

Democrats will invest in improving global health. It is a human shame that many of the diseases which compound the problem of global poverty are treatable, but they are yet to be treated.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a massive human tragedy. It is also a security risk of the highest order that threatens to plunge nations into chaos. There are an estimated 33 million people across the planet infected with HIV/AIDS, including more than one million people in the U.S. Nearly 8,000 people die every day of AIDS. We must do more to fight the global HIV/AIDS

pandemic, as well as malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases. We will provide \$50 billion over five years to strengthen existing U.S. programs and expand them to new regions of the world, including Southeast Asia, India, and parts of Europe, where the HIV/AIDS burden is growing. We will increase U.S. contributions to the Global Fund to ensure that global efforts to fight endemic disease continue to move ahead.

We also support the adoption of humanitarian licensing policies that ensure medications developed with the U.S. taxpayer dollars are available off patent in developing countries. We will repeal the global gag rule and reinstate funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We will expand access to health care and nutrition for women and reduce the burden of maternal mortality.

We will leverage the engagement of the private sector and private philanthropy to launch Health Infrastructure 2020—a global effort to work with developing countries to invest in the full range of infrastructure needed to improve and protect both American and global health.

### **Human Trafficking**

We will address human trafficking—both labor and sex trafficking—through strong legislation and enforcement to ensure that trafficking victims are protected and traffickers are brought to justice. We will also address the root causes of human trafficking, including poverty, discrimination, and gender inequality, as well as the demand for prostitution.

### **Protecting our Security and Saving our Planet**

We must end the tyranny of oil in our time. This immediate danger is eclipsed only by the longer-term threat from climate change, which will lead to devastating weather patterns, terrible storms, drought, conflict, and famine. That means people competing for food and water in the next fifty years in the very places that have known horrific violence in the last fifty: Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. That could also mean destructive storms on our shores, and the disappearance of our coastline.

We understand that climate change is not just an economic issue or an environmental concern—this is a national security crisis.

### **Establish Energy Security**

Not since the 1970s has America's national security been so threatened by its energy insecurity, and, as we have learned the hard way over the past eight years, achieving energy security in the

"The health of our planet is at risk. We believe all citizens of our planet require us as Americans to make real changes in the way we consume our planet's limited resources, produce energy, and use energy."-*Listening to America* participant, Anne Arundel, MD

21<sup>st</sup> century requires far more than simply expending our economic and political resources to keep oil flowing steadily out of unstable and even hostile countries and regions.

Rather, energy security requires stemming the flow of money to oil rich regimes that are hostile to America and its allies; it requires combating climate change and preparing for its impacts

both at home and abroad; it requires making international energy markets work for us and not against us; it requires standing up to the oil companies that spend hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and political contributions; it requires addressing nuclear safety, waste, and proliferation challenges around the world; and more.

Democrats will halt this dangerous trend, and take the necessary steps to achieving energy independence. We will make it a top priority to reduce oil consumption by at least 35 percent, or ten million barrels per day, by 2030. This will more than offset the amount of oil we are expected to import from OPEC nations in 2030.

### **Lead to Combat Climate Change**

We will lead to defeat the epochal, man-made threat to the planet: climate change. Without dramatic changes, rising sea levels will flood coastal regions around the world. Warmer temperatures and declining rainfall will reduce crop yields, increasing conflict, famine, disease, and poverty. By 2050, famine could displace more than 250 million people worldwide. That means increased instability in some of the most volatile parts of the world.

Never again will we sit on the sidelines, or stand in the way of collective action to tackle this global challenge. Getting our own house in order is only a first step. We will invest in efficient and clean technologies at home while using our assistance policies and export promotions to help developing countries preserve biodiversity, curb deforestation, and leapfrog the carbon-energy-intensive stage of development.

We will reach out to the leaders of the biggest carbon emitting nations and ask them to join a new Global Energy Forum that will lay the foundation for the next generation of climate protocols. China has replaced America as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Clean energy development must be a central focus in our relationships with major countries in Europe and Asia. We need a global response to climate change that includes binding and enforceable commitments to reducing emissions, especially for those that pollute the most: the United States, China, India, the European Union, and Russia.

This challenge is massive, but rising to it will also bring new benefits to America. By 2050, global demand for low-carbon energy could create an annual market worth \$500 billion. Meeting that demand would open new frontiers for American entrepreneurs and workers.

### **Seizing the Opportunity**

It is time for a new generation to tell the next great American story. If we act with boldness and foresight, we will be able to tell our grandchildren that this was the time we confronted climate change and secured the weapons that could destroy the human race. This was the time we defeated global terrorists and brought opportunity to forgotten corners of the world. This was the time when we helped forge peace in the Middle East. This was the time when we renewed the America that has led generations of weary travelers from all over the world to find opportunity and liberty and hope on our doorstep.

It was not all that long ago that farmers in Venezuela and Indonesia welcomed American doctors to their villages and hung pictures of John F. Kennedy on their living room walls, when millions waited every day for a letter in the mail that would grant them the privilege to come to America to study, work, live, or just be free.

We can be this America again. This is our moment to renew the trust and faith of our people—and all people—in an America that battles immediate evils, promotes an ultimate good, and leads the world once more.

### **III. Renewing the American Community**

In local platform hearings around the country and the world, Americans talked of the need for compassion, empathy, a commitment to our values, and the importance of being united in order to take on the challenges and opportunities of the new century. They sounded the same themes we have heard since the campaign began, whether in town halls in Nevada, policy roundtables in Philadelphia, or online gatherings held by Democrats Abroad. They said that they valued Barack Obama's message that alongside Americans' famous individualism, there's another ingredient in the American saga: a belief that we are connected to each other. We could all choose to focus on our own concerns and live our lives in a way that tries to keep our individual stories separate from the larger story of America. But that is not who we are. That is not our American story. If there's a child on the south side of Chicago who can't read, that matters to us, even if it's not our child. Similarly, if there's a senior citizen in Elko, Nevada who has to choose between medicine and the rent, that makes our lives poorer, even if it's not our grandmother. Because it is only when we join together in something larger than ourselves that we can write the next great chapter in America's story.

#### **Service**

The future of our country will be determined not only by our government and our policies but through the efforts of the American people. That is why we will ask all Americans to be actively involved in meeting the challenges of the new century. In this young century, our military has answered the call to serve, even as that call has come too often. We must now make it possible for all citizens to serve. We will expand AmeriCorps, double the size of the Peace Corps, enable more to serve in the military, create new opportunities for international service, integrate service into primary education, and create new opportunities for experienced and retired persons to serve. And if you invest in America, America will invest in you: we will increase support for service-learning, establish tax incentives for college students who serve, and create scholarships for students who pledge to become teachers. We will use the Internet to better match volunteers to service opportunities. In these ways, we will unleash the power of service to meet America's challenges in a uniquely American way.

#### **Immigration**

America has always been a nation of immigrants. Over the years, millions of people have come here in the hope that in America, you can make it if you try. Each successive wave of immigrants has contributed to our country's rich culture, economy and spirit. Like the immigrants that came before them, today's immigrants will shape their own destinies and enrich our country.

Nonetheless, our current immigration system has been broken for far too long. We need comprehensive immigration reform, not just piecemeal efforts. We must work together to pass immigration reform in a way that unites this country, not in a way that divides us by playing on our worst instincts and fears. We are committed to pursuing tough, practical, and humane immigration reform in the first year of the next administration.

We cannot continue to allow people to enter the United States undetected, undocumented, and unchecked. The American people are a welcoming and generous people, but those who enter our country's borders illegally, and those who employ them, disrespect the rule of the law. We need to secure our borders, and support additional personnel, infrastructure, and technology on the border and at our ports of entry. We need additional Customs and Border Protection agents equipped with better technology and real-time intelligence. We need to dismantle human smuggling organizations, combating the crime associated with this trade. We also need to do more to promote economic development in migrant-sending nations, to reduce incentives to come to the United States illegally. And we need to crack down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants. It's a problem when we only enforce our laws against the immigrants themselves, with raids that are ineffective, tear apart families, and leave people detained without adequate access to counsel. We realize that employers need a method to verify whether their employees are legally eligible to work in the United States, and we will ensure that our system is accurate, fair to legal workers, safeguards people's privacy, and cannot be used to discriminate against workers.

We must also improve the legal immigration system, and make our nation's naturalization process fair and accessible to the thousands of legal permanent residents who are eager to become full Americans. We should fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy that hampers family reunification, the cornerstone of our immigration policy for years. Given the importance of both keeping families together and supporting American businesses, we will increase the number of immigration visas for family members of people living here and for immigrants who meet the demand for jobs that employers cannot fill, as long as appropriate labor market protections and standards are in place. We will fight discrimination against Americans who have always played by our immigration rules but are sometimes treated as if they had not.

For the millions living here illegally but otherwise playing by the rules, we must require them to come out of the shadows and get right with the law. We support a system that requires undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, pay taxes, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens. They are our neighbors, and we can help them become full tax-paying, law-abiding, productive members of society.

## **Hurricane Katrina**

For many in America, Hurricane Katrina conjures up the memory of a time when America's government failed its citizens. When the winds blew and the floodwaters came, we learned that for all of our wealth and power, something wasn't right with Washington. Our government's response during Hurricane Katrina is a national shame—and yet three years later, the government has still failed to keep its promise to rebuild.

The people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast are heroes for returning and rebuilding, and they shouldn't face these challenges alone. We will partner with the people of the Gulf Coast to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina and restore the region economically. We will create jobs and training opportunities for returning and displaced workers as well as contracting opportunities for local businesses to help create stronger, safer, and more equitable communities. We will increase funding for affordable housing and home ownership opportunities for returning families, workers, and residents moving out of unsafe trailers. We will reinvest in infrastructure in New Orleans: we will construct levees that work, fight crime by rebuilding local police departments and courthouses, invest in hospitals, and rebuild the public school system.

We also commit to the rebuilding and restoration of the Iowa communities affected by the floods of 2008.

## **Preventing and Responding to Future Catastrophes**

We will also work to prevent future catastrophic response failures, whether the emergency comes from hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, wild fires, drought, bridge collapses, or any other natural or man-made disaster. Maintaining our levees and dams is not pork barrel spending—it is an urgent priority. We will fix governmental agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, ensure that they are staffed with professionals, and create integrated communication and response plans. We will reform the Small Business Administration bureaucracy, and develop a real National Response Plan.

“Every American community and city is vulnerable, as recent floods in the Midwest and fires and earthquakes in California have reminded us. All citizens and elected leaders must understand that [today's crisis] could occur in your city today or tomorrow!” -*Women of the Storm*, a non-partisan grassroots civic organization made up of diverse women from metropolitan New Orleans and South Louisiana (*Listening to America* National Hearing)

We will develop a National Catastrophic Insurance Fund to offer an affordable insurance mechanism for high-risk catastrophes that no single private insurer can cover by itself for fear of bankruptcy. This will allow states and territories to deal comprehensively with the economic dislocation of natural disasters.

## **Stewardship of Our Planet and Natural Resources**

Global climate change is the planet's greatest threat, and our response will determine the very future of life on this earth. Despite the efforts of our current Administration to deny the science



of climate change and the need to act, we still believe that America can be earth's best hope. We will implement a market-based cap and trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary to avoid catastrophic change and we will set interim targets along the way to ensure that we meet our goal. We will invest in advanced energy technologies, to build the clean energy economy and create millions of new, good "Green Collar" American jobs. Because the environment is a truly global concern, the United States must be a leader in combating climate change around the world, including exporting climate-friendly technologies to developing countries. We will use innovative measures to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings, including establishing a grant program for early adopters and providing incentives for energy conservation. We will encourage local initiatives, sustainable communities, personal responsibility, and environmental stewardship and education nationwide.

We will help local communities in the American West preserve water to meet their fast growing needs. We support a comprehensive solution for restoring our national treasures—such as the Great Lakes, Everglades, and Chesapeake Bay—including expanded scientific research and protections for species and habitats there. We will reinvigorate the Environmental Protection Agency so that we can work with communities to reduce air and water pollution and protect our children from environmental toxins, and never sacrifice science to politics. We will protect Nevada and its communities from the high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, which has not been proven to be safe by sound science. We will restore the "polluter pays" principle to fund the cleanup of the most polluted sites, so that those who cause environmental problems pay to fix them.

### *Federal Lands*

We will create a new vision for conservation that works with local communities to conserve our existing publicly-owned lands while dramatically expanding investments in conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and wetlands across America for generations to come. Unlike the current Administration, we will reinvest in our nation's forests by providing federal agencies with resources to reduce the threat of wildland fires, promote sustainable forest product industries for rural economic development and ensure that national resources are in place to respond to catastrophic wildland fires. We will treat our national parks with the same respect that millions of families show each year when they visit. We will recognize that our parks are national treasures, and will ensure that they are protected as part of the overall natural system so they are here for generations to come. We are committed to conserving the lands used by hunters and anglers, and we will open millions of new acres of land to public hunting and fishing.

### **Metropolitan and Urban Policy**

We believe that strong cities are the building blocks of strong regions, and strong regions are essential for a strong America. To build vibrant and diverse cities and regions, we support equitable development strategies that create opportunities for those traditionally left behind by economic development efforts.

For the past eight years, the current Administration has ignored urban areas. We look forward

to greater partnership with urban America. We will strengthen federal commitment to cities, including by creating a new White House Office on Urban Policy and fully funding the Community Development Block Grant. We support community-based initiatives, such as micro-loans, business assistance centers, community economic development corporations, and community development financial institutions. To help regional business development we will double federal funding for basic research, expand the deployment of broadband technology, increase access to capital for businesses in underserved areas, create a national network of public-private business incubators, and provide grants to support regional innovation clusters. Since businesses can only function when workers can get to their place of employment, we will invest in public transportation including rail, expand transportation options for low-income communities, and strengthen core infrastructure like our roads and bridges. We will provide cities the support they need to perform public safety and national security functions, reinvest in Community Oriented Policing Services, and keep children off the streets by supporting expanded after-school and summer opportunities. Finally, we will work to make cities greener and more livable by training employees to work in skilled clean technologies industries, improving the environmental efficiency of city buildings, and taking smart growth principles into account when designing transportation.

### **Firearms**

We recognize that the right to bear arms is an important part of the American tradition, and we will preserve Americans' Second Amendment right to own and use firearms. We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation, but we know that what works in Chicago may not work in Cheyenne. We can work together to enact and enforce common-sense laws and improvements – like closing the gun show loophole, improving our background check system, and reinstating the assault weapons ban, so that guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals. Acting responsibly and with respect for differing views on this issue, we can both protect the constitutional right to bear arms and keep our communities and our children safe.

### **Faith**

We honor the central place of faith in our lives. Like our Founders, we believe that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith and the countless acts of justice and mercy it inspires. We believe that change comes not from the top-down, but from the bottom-up, and that few are closer to the people than our churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques. To face today's challenges—from saving our planet to ending poverty—we need all hands on deck. Faith-based groups are not a replacement for government or secular non-profit programs; rather, they are yet another sector working to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will empower grassroots faith-based and community groups to help meet challenges like poverty, ex-offender reentry, and illiteracy. At the same time, we can ensure that these partnerships do not endanger First Amendment protections – because there is no conflict between supporting faith-based institutions and respecting our Constitution. We will ensure that public funds are not used to proselytize or discriminate. We will also ensure that taxpayer dollars are only used on programs that actually work.

## **The Arts**

Investment in the arts is an investment in our creativity and cultural heritage, in our diversity, in our communities, and in our humanity. We support art in schools and increased public funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. We support the cultural exchange of artists around the world, spreading democracy and renewing

America's status as a cultural and artistic center.

"I was a college student when I became disabled and had to ready myself for the workforce. In spite of my grades, extra-curricular activities and achievements, I received no job offers after 30 initial interviews and 2 second round interviews. I know my story is like millions of other people with disabilities who desperately wish to work and are qualified to do so." -Carmen Jones, Solutions Marketing Group (*Listening to America* National Hearing)

## **Americans with Disabilities**

We will once again reclaim our role as world leaders in protecting the rights of people with disabilities. We will lead the United States in ratifying the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the first human rights treaty approved in the United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will ensure there is sufficient funding to empower Americans with disabilities to succeed in school and beyond. We will fully fund and increase staffing for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. We will restore dignity for Americans with disabilities by signing the

Community Choice Act into law, which will allow them the choice of living in their communities rather than being warehoused in nursing homes or other institutions.

## **Children and Families**

If we are to renew America, we must do a better job of investing in the next generation of Americans. For parents, the first and most sacred responsibility is to support our children: setting an example of excellence, turning off the TV, and helping with the homework. But we must also support parents as they strive to raise their children in a new era. We must make it easier for working parents to spend time with their families when they need to. We will make an unprecedented national investment to guarantee that every child has access to high-quality early education, including investments in Pre-K, Head Start, and Early Head Start, and we will help pay for child care. We will ensure that every child has health insurance, invest in playgrounds to promote healthy and active lifestyles, and protect children from lead poisoning in their homes and toys. Improving maternal health also improves children's health, so we will provide access to home visits by medical professionals to low-income expectant first-time mothers. We must protect our most vulnerable children, by supporting and supplementing our struggling foster care system, enhancing adoption programs for all caring parents, and protecting children from violence and neglect. Online and on TV, we will give parents tools to block content they find objectionable. We also must recognize that caring for family members and managing a household is real and valuable work.

## *Fatherhood*

Too many fathers are missing—missing from too many lives and too many homes. Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and are more likely to

commit crime, drop out of school, abuse drugs, and end up in prison. We need more fathers to realize that responsibility does not end at conception. We need them to understand that what makes a man is not the ability to have a child—it's the courage to raise one. We will support fathers by providing transitional training to get jobs, removing tax penalties on married families, and expanding maternity and paternity leave. We will reward those who are responsibly supporting their children by giving them a tax credit and we will crack down on men who avoid child support payments and ensure those payments go directly to families instead of bureaucracies.

### **Seniors**

We will protect and strengthen Medicare by cutting costs, protecting seniors from fraud, and fixing Medicare's prescription drug program. We will repeal the prohibition on negotiating prescription drug prices, ban drug companies from paying generic producers to refrain from entering drug markets, and eliminate drug company interference with generic competition—and we will dedicate all of the savings from these measures towards closing the donut hole. We will end special preferences for insurance companies and private plans like Medicare Advantage to force them to compete on a level playing field. We will address the challenges that older Americans who are not yet eligible for Medicare face in finding affordable and quality health insurance.

We will take steps to ensure that our seniors have meaningful long-term care options that are consistent with their individual needs, including the option of home care. We believe that we must pay caregivers a fair wage and train more nurses and health care workers so as to improve the availability and quality of long-term care. We must reform the financing of long-term care to ease the burden on seniors and their families. We will safeguard Social Security. We will develop new retirement plans and pension protections that will give Americans a secure, portable way to save for retirement. We will ensure a safe and dignified retirement. We will work to end abuse of the elderly. We will safeguard from discrimination those who choose to work past the age of 65.

### **Choice**

The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right.

The Democratic Party also strongly supports access to comprehensive affordable family planning services and age-appropriate sex education which empower people to make informed choices and live healthy lives. We also recognize that such health care and education help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and thereby also reduce the need for abortions.

The Democratic Party also strongly supports a woman's decision to have a child by ensuring access to and availability of programs for pre- and post-natal health care, parenting skills,

income support, and caring adoption programs.

### **Criminal Justice**

As Democrats, we are committed to being smart on crime. That means being tough on violent crime, funding strategic, and effective community policing, and holding offenders accountable, and it means getting tough on the root causes of crime by investing in successful crime prevention, including proven initiatives that get youth and nonviolent offenders back on track. We will support communities as they work to save their residents from the violence that plagues our streets. We will reverse the policy of cutting resources for the brave men and women who protect our communities every day. At a time when our nation's officers are being asked both to provide traditional law enforcement services and to help protect the homeland, taking police off of the street is neither tough nor smart; we reject this disastrous approach. We support and will restore funding to our courageous police officers and will ensure that they are equipped with the best technology, equipment, and innovative strategies to prevent and fight crimes.

We will end the dangerous cycle of violence, especially youth violence, with proven community-based law enforcement programs such as the Community Oriented Policing Services. We will reduce recidivism in our neighborhoods by supporting local prison-to-work programs. We will continue to fight inequalities in our criminal justice system. We believe that the death penalty must not be arbitrary. DNA testing should be used in all appropriate circumstances, defendants should have effective assistance of counsel. In all death row cases, and thorough post-conviction reviews should be available.

We must help state, local, and tribal law enforcement work together to combat and prevent drug crime and drug and alcohol abuse, which are a blight on our communities. We will restore funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and expand the use of drug courts and rehabilitation programs for first-time, non-violent drug offenders.

We support the rights of victims to be respected, to be heard, and to be compensated.

Ending violence against women must be a top priority. We will create a special advisor to the president regarding violence against women. We will increase funding to domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs. We will strengthen sexual assault and domestic violence laws, support the Violence Against Women Act, and provide job security to survivors. Our foreign policy will be sensitive to issues of aggression against women around the world.

### **A More Perfect Union**

We believe in the essential American ideal that we are not constrained by the circumstances of birth but can make of our lives what we will. Unfortunately, for too many, that ideal is not a reality. We have more work to do. Democrats will fight to end discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and disability in every corner of our country, because that's the America we believe in.

We all have to do our part to lift up this country, and that means changing hearts and changing minds, and making sure that every American is treated equally under the law. We will restore professionalism over partisanship at the Department of Justice, and staff the civil rights division with civil rights lawyers, not ideologues. We will restore vigorous federal enforcement of civil rights laws in order to provide every American an equal chance at employment, housing, health, contracts, and pay. We are committed to banning racial, ethnic, and religious profiling and requiring federal, state, and local enforcement agencies to take steps to eliminate the practice.

We are committed to ensuring full equality for women: we reaffirm our support for the Equal Rights Amendment, recommit to enforcing Title IX, and will urge passage of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. We will pursue a unified foreign and domestic policy that promotes civil rights and human rights, for women and minorities, at home and abroad. We will pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We will restore and support the White House Initiative on Asian-American and Pacific Islanders, including enforcement on disaggregation of Census data. We will make the Census more culturally sensitive, including outreach, language assistance, and increased confidentiality protections to ensure accurate counting of the growing Latino and Asian American, and Pacific Islander populations, and continue working on efforts to be more inclusive. We will sign the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and restore the original intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act. That is the America we believe in.

It is not enough to look back in wonder at how far we have come; those who came before us did not strike a blow against injustice only so that we would allow injustice to fester in our time. That means removing the barriers of prejudice and misunderstanding that still exist in America. We support the full inclusion of all families, including same-sex couples, in the life of our nation, and support equal responsibility, benefits, and protections. We will enact a comprehensive bipartisan employment non-discrimination act. We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue to divide us.

But it is no good to be able to ride the bus when you can't afford the bus fare. We will work to provide real opportunities for all Americans suffering from disadvantage; we will pioneer new policies and remedies against poverty and violence that address real human needs and we will close the achievement gap in education and provide every child a world-class education. We support affirmative action, including in federal contracting and higher education, to make sure that those locked out of the doors of opportunity will be able to walk through those doors in the future. As the late Ann Richards said, "We offer a vision where opportunity knows no race, no gender, no color, a glimpse of what can happen in government if we simply open the doors let the people in."

#### **IV. Renewing American Democracy**

Americans of every political stripe are hungry for a new kind of government. We want a government that favors common sense over ideology, honesty over spin, that worries less about losing the next election and more about winning the battles we owe to the next generation.

The over 30,000 Americans who attended 1645 local platform hearings demonstrated their commitment to reasserting government of, by, and for the people. So too did the millions of Americans who turned out in primaries and caucuses, and the record-breaking number of Americans abroad who participated – including men and the women who serve in our military. Democrats want to continue the momentum of the election. Only by doing so can we bring the change necessary to restore the promise of America.

The government we create will open up democracy to the people and protect our civil liberties. We'll invite the service and participation of American citizens, and use the tools of government and technology to lead us into a new era of connectedness, teamwork, and progress. A Barack Obama Administration will make it clear to the special interests that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over, because the American people are not the problem in the 21<sup>st</sup> century—they are the solution. We'll make every vote count, because in America, everyone's voice matters in the political process.

### **Open, Accountable, and Ethical Government**

In Barack Obama's Administration, we will open up the doors of democracy. We will use technology to make government more transparent, accountable, and inclusive. Rather than obstruct people's use of the Freedom of Information Act, we will require that agencies conduct significant business in public and release all relevant information unless an agency reasonably foresees harm to a protected interest.

We will lift the veil of secret deals in Washington by publishing searchable, online information about federal grants, contracts, earmarks, loans, and lobbyist contacts with government officials. We will make government data available online and will have an online video archive of significant agency meetings. We will put all non-emergency bills that Congress has passed online for five days, to allow the American public to review and comment on them before they are signed into law. We will require Cabinet officials to have periodic national online town hall meetings to discuss issues before their agencies.

Implementing our Party's agenda will require running competent, innovative, and efficient public agencies at all levels of government with the resources necessary to get results. We will develop a comprehensive management agenda to prevent operational breakdowns in government and ensure that government provides the level of service that the American people deserve. Because we understand that good government depends on good people, we will work to rebuild and reengage our federal workforce and encourage state and local governments to do the same. We will make government a more attractive place to work. Our hiring will be based only on qualification and experience, and not on ideology or party affiliation. We will pay for our new spending, eliminate waste in government programs, demand, and measure results, and

stop funding programs that don't work. We will not privatize public services for the sake of privatizing. We will use carefully crafted guidelines when determining whether to contract out any government service and whether a function is "inherently governmental." We will provide improved accountability, oversight, and management in the contracting process to protect the public.

We are committed to a participatory government. We will use the most current technology available to improve the quality of government decision-making and make government less beholden to special interest groups and lobbyists. We will enhance the flow of information between citizens and government—in both directions—by involving the public in the work of government agencies. We will not simply solicit opinions, but will also use new technology to tap into the vast expertise of the American citizenry, for the benefit of government and our democracy.

"We the people need to be citizen participants, not consumers of government."  
-Listening to America  
participant, Littleton, NH

Americans want real reform that will help them pay their medical bills and put the country on the path to energy independence. They are tired of lobbyists standing in their way. So we'll end the abuse of no-bid contracts by requiring nearly all contract orders over \$25,000 to be competitively awarded and tell the drug companies and the oil companies and the insurance industry that, while they may get a seat at the table in Washington, they don't get to buy every chair. We will institute a gift ban so that no lobbyist can curry favor with the Administration. We will close the revolving door that has allowed people to use their position in the Administration as a stepping-stone to further their lobbying careers. We support campaign finance reform to reduce the influence of moneyed special interests, including public financing of campaigns combined with free television and radio time. We will have the wisdom to put the public interest above special interests. As a national party, we will not take any contributions from Political Action Committees during this election.

### **Reclaiming Our Constitution and Our Liberties**

As we combat terrorism, we must not sacrifice the American values we are fighting to protect. In recent years, we've seen an Administration put forward a false choice between the liberties we cherish and the security we demand. The Democratic Party rejects this dichotomy. We will restore our constitutional traditions, and recover our nation's founding commitment to liberty under law.

We support constitutional protections and judicial oversight on any surveillance program involving Americans. We will review the current Administration's warrantless wiretapping program. We reject illegal wiretapping of American citizens, wherever they live.

We reject the use of national security letters to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime. We reject the tracking of citizens who do nothing more than protest a misguided war. We reject torture. We reject sweeping claims of "inherent" presidential power. We will revisit the Patriot Act and overturn unconstitutional executive decisions issued during the past eight



years. We will not use signing statements to nullify or undermine duly enacted law. And we will ensure that law-abiding Americans of any origin, including Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans, do not become the scapegoats of national security fears.

We believe that our Constitution, our courts, our institutions, and our traditions work.

In its operations overseas, while claiming to spread freedom throughout the world, the current Administration has tragically helped give rise to a new generation of potential adversaries who threaten to make America less secure. We will provide our intelligence and law enforcement agencies with the tools to hunt down and take out terrorists without undermining our Constitution, our freedom, and our privacy.

To build a freer and safer world, we will lead in ways that reflect the decency and aspirations of the American people. We will not ship away prisoners in the dead of night to be tortured in far-off countries, or detain without trial or charge prisoners who can and should be brought to justice for their crimes, or maintain a network of secret prisons to jail people beyond the reach of the law. We will respect the time-honored principle of habeas corpus, the seven century-old right of individuals to challenge the terms of their own detention that was recently reaffirmed by our Supreme Court. We will close the detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, the location of so many of the worst constitutional abuses in recent years. With these necessary changes, the attention of the world will be directed where it belongs: on what terrorists have done to us, not on how we treat suspects.

We recognize what leaders on the front lines of the struggle against terrorism have long known: to win this fight, we must maintain the moral high ground. When millions around the world see America living up to its highest ideals, we win friends and allies in this struggle for our safety and our lives, and our enemies lose ground.

For our Judiciary, we will select and confirm judges who are men and women of unquestionable talent and character, who firmly respect the rule of law, who listen to and are respectful of different points of view, and who represent the diversity of America. We support the appointment of judges who respect our system of checks and balances and the separation of power among the Executive Branch, Congress, and the Judiciary—and who understand that the Constitution protects not only the powerful, but also the disadvantaged and the powerless.

Our Constitution is not a nuisance. It is the foundation of our democracy. It makes freedom and self-governance possible, and helps to protect our security. The Democratic Party will restore our Constitution to its proper place in our government and return our Nation to our best traditions—including our commitment to government by law.

### **Voting Rights**

Voting rights are fundamental rights because they are protective of all other rights. We will work to fully protect and enforce the fundamental Constitutional right of every American vote—to

ensure that the Constitution's promise is fully realized. We will fully fund the Help America Vote Act and work to fulfill the promise of election reform, including fighting to end long lines at voting booths and ensuring that all registration materials, voting materials, polling places, and voting machines are truly accessible to seniors, Americans with disabilities, and citizens with limited English proficiency. We will call for a national standard for voting that includes voter-verified paper ballots. We will ensure that absentee ballots are accessible and accurately counted. We will vigorously enforce our voting rights laws instead of making them tools of partisan political agendas; we oppose laws that require identification in order to vote or register to vote, which create discriminatory barriers to the right to vote and disenfranchise many eligible voters; and we oppose tactics which purge eligible voters from voter rolls. We are committed to passing the Count Every Vote Act. Finally, we will enact legislation that establishes harsh penalties for those who engage in voter intimidation and creates a process for providing accurate information to misinformed voters so they can cast their votes in time.

### **Partnerships with States**

Given the economic crisis across the country, states, and territories today face serious difficulties. More than half of our states face a combined billions of dollars in shortfalls. As a result, states have had to innovate and take matters into their own hands—and they have done an extraordinary job. Yet they should not have to do it alone. We will provide significant and immediate temporary funding to state and local governments, as well as territories and tribes. We will give these governmental entities a partner in the federal government, and a president who understand that prosperity comes not only from Wall Street and Washington, but from the perseverance of the American people. County and municipal governments, as well as territories and tribes, are also key partners with the federal government. These partnerships need to be revitalized to address their critical needs.

### **Partnership with Civic Institutions**

Social entrepreneurs and leading nonprofit organizations are assisting schools, lifting families out of poverty, filling health care gaps, and inspiring others to lead change in their own communities. To support these results-oriented innovators, we will create a Social Investment Fund Network that invests in ideas that work, tests their impact, and expands the most successful programs. We will create an office to coordinate government and nonprofit efforts.

### **District of Columbia**

Our civil rights leaders and many Americans of every background have sacrificed too much for us to tolerate continuing denial to the nearly 600,000 residents of our nation's capital of the benefits of full citizenship, especially the vote, that are accorded to citizens of every state. We support equal rights to democratic self-government and congressional representation for the citizens of our nation's capital.

### **Tribal Sovereignty**

American Indian and Alaska Native tribes have always been sovereign, self-governing communities, and we affirm their inherent right to self-government as well as the unique

government-to-government relationship they share with the United States. In exchange for millions of acres of land, our nation pledged to provide certain services in perpetuity; we will honor our nation's treaty and trust obligations by increasing resources for economic development, health care, Indian education, and other important services. We will respect American Indian cultural rights and sacred places. We will reexamine the legal framework that allows extreme rates of violent crime in Indian country; we will create a White House advisor on Indian Affairs; and we will host an annual summit with Indian leaders.

We support the efforts for self-determination and sovereignty of Native Hawaiians, consistent with principles enumerated in the Apology Resolution and the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act. We will increase federal resources for economic development, education, health, and other important services. We will respect Native Hawaiian culture rights and sacred places.

### **Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands**

We recognize and honor the contributions and the sacrifices made in service of our country by the people living in Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We believe that the people of Puerto Rico have the right to the political status of their choice, obtained through a fair, neutral, and democratic process of self-determination. The White House and Congress will work with all groups in Puerto Rico to enable the question of Puerto Rico's status to be resolved during the next four years. We also believe that economic conditions in Puerto Rico call for effective and equitable programs to maximize job creation and financial investment. Furthermore, in order to provide fair assistance to those in greatest need, the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico should receive treatment under federal programs that is comparable to that of citizens in the States. We will phase-out the cap on Medicaid funding and phase-in equal participation in other federal health care assistance programs. Moreover, we will provide equitable treatment to the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico on programs providing refundable tax credits to working families. We believe that U.S. citizens in Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands should receive similar treatment.

We support full self-government and self-determination for the people of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands, and their right to decide their future status. We will seek input from Guam on relevant military matters and we acknowledge the unique health care challenges that Pacific Island communities face. For all those who live under our flag, we support strong economic development and fair and equitable treatment under federal programs.



## APPENDIX A

### Listening to America

#### *American Democracy in Action*

On July 8, 2008, the Obama for America Campaign and the Democratic National Committee unveiled “Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change,” a bold initiative to include ordinary Americans in our platform process.

In an unprecedented response, 1645 meetings were held with 30,000 in attendance from July 15 through August 8. Americans gathered in living rooms, community centers, churches, union halls, schools, and parks.

All 50 states participated, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Here is a state-by-state breakdown:

AK 1	IN 22	NH 17	VA 38
AL 12	KS 17	NJ 37	VI 1
AR 11	KY 19	NM 26	VT 8
AZ 30	LA 20	NV 10	WA 54
CA 263	MA 47	NY 132	WI 28
CO 55	MD 37	OH 39	WV 7
CT 24	ME 12	OK 9	WY 4
DC 32	MI 46	OR 38	PR 1
DE 7	MN 23	PA 57	
FL 69	MO 29	RI 9	
GA 47	MS 4	SC 20	
HI 13	MT 6	SD 1	
IA 11	NC 34	TN 23	
ID 10	ND 5	TX 90	
IL 68	NE 9	UT 13	

In addition, overseas meetings of Democrats were held in Shanghai, China, Dublin, Ireland, and Bangkok, Thailand, among other places.

Following is a sample of participants' comments from their Listening to America meetings.

*This was a great meeting and it included attendees from across the state. A woman from Pierre in the middle of the state drove four hours this morning . . . . Two college professors . . . drove three hours to attend the meeting. . . . I am thankful for this opportunity to have direct involvement with our nation's political process.* Brooking, South Dakota, July 26, 2008

*For many of our attendees, this was their first experience in active political discourse. All felt an overwhelming sense of empowerment and we are all very grateful for the opportunity to have our voices heard.* Oley, Pennsylvania, July 26, 2008.

*Our meeting was a great success. Each of us in attendance had never been a part of such an event before. We were all excited and energized by the opportunity to directly participate in the political process. As the host of the meeting, I recognize that our part in the 'big picture' of the November election is likely to be very small and perhaps even insignificant. However, the simple fact that the Obama campaign even took the time and energy to encourage ordinary citizens like me to take part in this process is extraordinary. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to share my views and even more excited about the chance to bring other people into the discussion. Beyond that, 3 out of the 10 attendees at our meeting were Republicans! Each of them shared in different ways the fact that they were ready for change in our country and that Barack Obama is the "man for the job." Auburn Hills, Michigan, July 25, 2008*

These reactions were the norm, not the exception. Indeed, a sizeable number of responders wanted the Listening to America program to continue under an Obama Administration.

Thank you to each and every person who opened their homes and took time out of their busy lives to participate in Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **THE ANNOTATED PLATFORM**

What follows is the framework of the Platform and material from the Listening to America Platform Meeting reports that directly relate to each of the sections of the Platform. Please note that some Platform sections are left blank because those sections were not addressed in sufficient detail in the Platform Meeting reports. The comments below are quotations from individual participants or Meeting reports.

#### **Preamble**

*Littleton, NH, 7/20.* We the people should be citizen participants, not consumers of government.

*Burlington, MA, 7/19.* The platform should make Democrats' strongest case for why we should win in 2008. It should be bold; it should connect the party's core values and historic leaders, such as FDR and JFK.

*Cuyahoga Falls, OH, 7/20.* When FDR ran for President, he was a centrist, but because circumstances called for it and the people demanded it, he implemented progressive programs such as WPA (Works Program Admin), the New Deal, and even Social Security – the same kinds of focus on the common good that we need our Democratic Party and President to do now. FDR, like Obama was inheriting a country in need of change, with a strong movement of the people demanding change.

#### **I. Renewing the American Dream**

##### **Introduction**

*Earlysville, VA, 7/21.* We see the economy as being the center of every major domestic and foreign policy issue that we discussed.

##### **Jumpstart the Economy and Provide Middle Class Americans Immediate Relief**

*Madison, TN, 7/18.* We need a starter plan that is thoughtful, fiscally responsible, and flexible since we are heading into a minefield of problems. We need to work the plan, and change it when it is wrong. We need to explain why we are changing it, without excuses, and keeping improving it until we get it right.

*Rocklin, CA, 7/23.* Give rebates and tax incentives for builders and homeowners.

*Houston, TX, 7/20.* We support stimulation of our economy by the creation of jobs for infrastructure repair and ensuring we keep our jobs here by promoting small businesses and fair trade, not free trade.

## **Empowering Families for a New Era**

- Affordable, Quality Health Care Coverage for All Americans

*Baton Rouge, LA, 7/27.* The American people believe that health care should be treated as a right, not a commodity.

*Marion, IL, 7/19.* The absence of a national health care plan drives up costs to employers who provide health care competing against companies who make their products in a country with national health care.

*Westmoreland, PA, 7/20.* We believe that we need to strengthen the Long-Term Care options to remove the bias toward institutional care and strengthen home care benefits.

*Denver, CO, 7/25.* We have to start working on an overall preventive and “health not sick” care system.

*South Bend, IN, 7/22.* Require the same level of healthcare coverage for physical and mental health.

- Retirement

*Huntsville, AL, 7/27.* Provide comfort and peace of mind to our seniors and retired persons.

*Roseville, CA, 7/24.* Do Not Privatize Social Security, Study long-term needs of Social Security, Protect pensions.

- Good Jobs with Good Pay

*Washington, DC, 7/19.* Workers continue to struggle to organize. They frequently face intimidation in their workplaces, are harassed for supporting unionization efforts and also face the possibility of being fired for their activities. All of these workers contribute to American society, their communities and to our economy and they deserve the right to organize without fear.

- Work and Family

*Larchmont, NY, 7/20.* America must develop economic policies that have at their core the interests of all Americans, and that recognize that providing opportunity and dignity to the middle and lower classes is at the core of the American way of life

*Atlanta, GA, 7/26.* To be among the working poor means you have to choose between medicine and paying your bills.

- Poverty

*Jacksonville, FL 7/28.* There is a need to develop programs that will bring individuals out of poverty and reduce crime.

*Indianapolis, IN.* We believe there should be no such thing as a “working poor.” We should ensure a living wage to all working citizens.

- Opportunity for Women

*Aurora, OH, 7/20.* The Democratic Party believes that every woman deserves fair and equal pay and equal treatment in the workplace (barring discrimination) at all levels from blue collar to senior management.

## **Investing in American Competitiveness**

- **New American Energy**

*Buzzards Bay, MA, 7/21.* All people, in all places, are entitled to adequate supplies of energy that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. To secure this end, the Democratic Party and its candidates will work for energy justice for all Americans and for all of the world's people. We shall support fuel assistance programs and energy conservation programs, programs for public transportation and adequate housing, and programs for the development of clean energy technology.

- **A World Class Education for Every Child**

*Kirkwood, MO, 7/15.* Schools can and should be the building blocks, not only of the next generation but of democracy itself.

- *Early Childhood Education*

*Omaha, NE.* The importance of early childhood development is beyond debate.

*Fishers, IN, 7/23.* We believe in the potential of every child and will not accept this underdevelopment of talent. An early start on childhood education is critical to ensure a desire for lifelong learning.

- *K-12*

*Queens, NY, 7/22.* The achievement gap between poor and more affluent students at every level of the education system threatens our future as a democratic nation and a viable competitor in a global economy.

*Idaho Falls, ID, 7/20.* We recommend emphasis and enhancement of math and science education for all students from elementary school level to college in order for the U.S. to be able to compete in the global market. This includes support for training and hiring qualified teachers, providing opportunities for advancement, and competitive compensation.

*Greenwood, SC, 7/19.* Stop forcing special needs children to mainstream without adequate resources.

*Tamarac, FL, 7/25.* Not everyone can go to college, we need to also focus on vocational schools.

*Cookeville, TN, 7/23.* We need accountability for teachers—pay for performance including 180 degree evaluations (parents, other teachers, etc., not just test or class performance).

*Independent, KS, 7/26.* We suggest that more activities (e.g. after-school programs, summer programs) for rural youth be initiated to relieve the boredom that rural youth experience often leading to juvenile delinquency.



- Higher Education

*Sandy, UT, 7/22.* Both the cost, and the necessity of a college education are going up everyday. The cost of tuition is putting that education out of reach of everyday Americans.

*Detroit, MI, 7/26.* We believe we can make financial aide available to every qualified student and over the long term create a profit for our government.

- Science, Technology, and Innovation

*Orange, CA, 7/23.* Federal support of university-level research has declined, and graduating students are facing insurmountable debts. Our education system at all levels is not focused on innovation: on the contrary a test-based system has taken creativity out of the classroom. We need innovation to solve critical environmental problems and to keep our economy moving forward.

*Atlanta, GA, 7/20.* We propose the development of a dedicated agency for research and development of renewable energy resources modeled after the design of NASA in the 1960's.

*The Netroots Platform.* We believe that we should invest in the Sciences. We support doubling federal funding for basic research, changing the posture of our federal government from being one of the most anti-science administrations in American history to one that embraces science and technology. This will foster homegrown innovation, help ensure the competitiveness of US technology-based businesses, and ensure that 21st century jobs can and will grow in America.

- Invest in Manufacturing and Our Manufacturing Communities

*Lincoln, MI, 7/23.* We believe in building a better economy by investing in America manufacturing.

*Newport, CA, 7/19.* Another suggestion to help improve the economy is to create new employment opportunities by creating new industries, such as environmental/alternative resource manufacturing.

*Owensboro, KY, 7/27.* Give tax incentives to companies who keep jobs inside the U.S.

- Creating New Jobs by Rebuilding American Infrastructure

*Flat Rock, MI, 7/23.* We also call for expanding financing for rebuilding our infrastructure at home, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges and our electrical grid system.

- A Connected America

*West Lafayette, OH, 7/25.* Broadband – For our children and ourselves, to grow our economy, and to create good jobs we need affordable high-speed broadband to every American family, business, and community. Just like we made sure that everyone has access to telephone service, we must make sure that everyone has access to high-speed Internet, the communications system of the 21st century. We cannot leave rural areas behind.

- Support Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
*Spring, TX, 7/26.* Those who had recent contact with the SBA expressed frustration in achieving positive support from that agency. All agreed that a new Democratic administration should scrutinize and expand SBA operations, but should feature SBA and its role in sparking domestic economy by assisting small business.
- Real Leadership for Rural America  
*Clarksville, IN, 7/25.* Limit farm commodity payments to large corporate farms while continuing to support family farms.

*Mercer, IL, 7/20.* Encourage co-ops and organic farming. Increase broadband penetration into rural areas. Develop municipal wi-fi systems.

*Fargo, ND, 7/24.* Sustainable agriculture must be promoted such that farms are more sensitive to the impact on the environment and meet defined standards.

## **Economic Stewardship**

- Restoring Fairness to our Tax Code  
*Winnetka, IL, 7/23.* The contrast must be drawn again and again with McCain who is actually proposing increasing taxes on the middle class while continuing to cut them for the wealthy.  
  
*Bridgewater, CT, 7/23.* Re-structure our tax policy to create a simplified and progressive tax code.  
  
*Omaha, NE.* The pressure on the middle class and the growing disparity between the rich and poor in the United States is a clear and present danger to our democracy.
- Housing  
*Everett, WA, 7/23.* Affordable Housing – The last great unsubsidized affordable housing is being pushed out by speculators and greedy land developers. Manufactured Home Parks are being sold to make way for costly town-houses or condos and the inhabitants of the parks are left with an eviction notice and no way to recoup their investment that in most cases amounts to their life savings. Overnight – a life of reasonable comfort after a life time of hard work is transformed into a nightmare of dependence on charity and subsidy. Please include some mention of this affordable housing issue in the National Democratic Platform of 2008.
- Reforming Financial Regulation and Corporate Governance  
*Midland, MI, 7/21.* We must restore credibility and regulation in the housing and financial industry.  
  
*Ellsworth, ME, 7/22.* Financial markets should be subject to effective oversight and regulation.
- Consumer Protection  
*Bellevue, WA, 7/26.* We urge that the Democratic Party restore the FDA as an independent and empowered regulatory agency.

*Hampton, VA, 7/27.* We would like to see trade standards improved, so that poisoned dog food, and lead based children's toys are more closely monitored.

- Savings

*Indio, CA, 7/19.* We must oppose privatizing social security, we need to raise the cap, possibly raising the retirement age, and other possible measures to make the program solvent into the future.

*Colorado Springs, CO, 7/21.* Require fully funded pension plans for vested employees; existing plans must be brought to full funding in a limited time or before declaring bankruptcy.

- Smart, Strong, and Fair Trade Policies

*Chloe, WV, 7/26.* We resolve that free trade should be fair trade, for workers and consumers in all countries.

*Portland, OR, 7/21.* All trade agreements and treaties must be reviewed with the well being of the citizens of the United States as the primary goal.

*Green Brook, NJ, 7/22.* We should be more willing to work with the global economy; at the same time, we should hold our trading partners to a higher standard.

- Fiscal Responsibility

*Bloomsburg, PA, 7/26.* Adopt rational and realistic tax and spending policies that address on-going deficit and national debt concerns balanced with the need to implement high priority concerns

*Lexington, NC, 7/27.* Instead of spending trillions more to fund the war in Iraq, our concentration will be to provide affordable college education, better pay for qualified teachers, and better academic programs for all students.

## **II. Renewing American Leadership**

### **Introduction**

*Brooklyn, NY, 7/16.* The United States President should not be afraid to talk to countries such as Iran, Syria, North Korea, and Cuba.

*Dearborn, MI, 7/27.* Abroad, we are deeply troubled by the degree to which a unilateral approach has left America more isolated, less respected, and less secure in a changing world.

### **Ending the War in Iraq**

*Prairie, KS, 7/20.* We recognize that contingencies and the opinions of military commanders and Iraqis may shorten or extend this [16-month] period.

*El Sobrante, CA, 7/19.* We believe strongly that the United States should end the War in Iraq and bring the soldiers home. We understand that this can not be done without thought and time.

## **Defeating Al Qaeda and Combating Terrorism**

- Win in Afghanistan  
*Spring, WI, 7/18.* War in Afghanistan: Develop a responsible winning strategy.  
  
*Paint Lick, KY, 7/22.* While we very much want to bring our troops home, we agreed that Afghanistan is a battleground we'll need to stay in even after coming out of Iraq.
- Seek a New Partnership with Pakistan
- Combat Terrorism  
*Leander, TX, 7/25.* Use all means of eliminating Terrorism, including; a UN sponsored International Anti-Terrorism Force, increased International Cooperation, and a new Agency devoted to attacking the causes of worldwide Terrorism.
- Secure the Homeland  
*Tavernier, FL, 7/15.* Improve United States port security by diverting funds currently used in prosecution of the 'War' in Iraq for vigorous inspection protocol, and advancement of new technologies for detection of dangerous materials and substances entering the nation's seaports.
- Pursue Intelligence Reform  
*Washington, DC, 7/19.* Federal agencies that should have been consulted on national security issues have either been ignored, as in the case of the State Department, or rebuked, as in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency.

## **Preventing the Spread and Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

- A World Without Nuclear Weapons  
*Chandler, AZ, 7/24.* We believe in eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide.
- Secure Nuclear Weapons and the Materials to Make Them
- End the Production of Fissile Material
- End Cold War Nuclear Postures
- Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons  
*Baltimore, MD, 7/21.* While taking no option off the table, sustained and aggressive diplomacy combined with tough sanctions should be our primary means to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons. Military options should only, and always, be the last option.
- De-Nuclearize North Korea
- Biological and Chemical Weapons
- Stronger Cyber-Security

## **Revitalizing the Military, Keeping Faith with Veterans**

- Expand the armed forces
- Recruit and Retain
- Rebuild the Military for 21st-Century Tasks
- Develop Civilian Capacity To Promote Global Stability and Improve Emergency Response
- Do Right by Our Veterans  
*Las Vegas, NV, 7/23.* Veteran care is inadequate and substandard, and fails to provide basic “reasonable and customary care” that is found in most other private health insurance systems.

*Tell City, IN, 7/22.* Many young lives have been lost, and too many of our brave heroes are coming home wounded, both physically and psychologically, to a veteran hospital system unequipped to adequately care for them.

- Lift Burdens on Our Troops and Their Families
- Restore the Readiness of the Guard and Reserve  
*Houlton, ME, 7/26.* Stop misuse of the National Guard.

*Arvada, CO.* We demand that the families of the National Guard and Reservists be compensated financially in order to maintain their life style while their family member is serving in an active capacity.

- Allow All Americans to Serve  
*Woodbury, MN, 7/19.* We will offer our young people the opportunity to join a peacetime national service program, to work in inner cities, rural communities and other underserved areas, to repair and maintain our national infrastructure, and to earn money for college while serving their country.
- Reform Contracting Practices and Make Contractors Accountable  
*Blairsville, GA, 7/23.* Eliminate No Bid Contracting Contracts should be available for public scrutiny.

## **Working for Our Common Security**

- Support Africa’s Democratic Development  
*Daytona, FL, 7/21.* The U.S. should make a firm commitment to aid African education and business communities.
- Recommit to an Alliance of the Americas  
*Santa Fe, NM, 7/27.* As US citizens we seek a general upgrade of US foreign policy with regard to Latin America and as it related to the sovereignty of Latin American nations.
- Lead in Asia
- Strengthen Transatlantic Relations

*Washington, DC.* A close partnership with America's allies in Europe is one of the most important bedrocks of U.S. foreign policy. The Democratic Party believes that countries on both sides of the Atlantic must reaffirm their traditional commitment to collective security, but must also collaborate to address 21st century challenges such as stabilization and peacekeeping operations, nuclear non-proliferation, energy security, climate change, drug trafficking and global poverty.

- Stand with Allies and Pursue Diplomacy in the Middle East  
*Lincoln, RI, 7/26.* Support a Two-State solution and encourage US policy that both assists and enables a Two-State solution.

*Flushing, NY, 7/15.* The meeting called for the unconditional support of a united Israel with its capital in an undivided Jerusalem.

- Deepen Ties With Emerging Powers  
*Lebanon PA, 7/15.* We need to be a “super smart power” NOT a “super power.” That means that we need to be a world leader; not a world bully.
- Revitalize Global Institutions  
*Chester, PA, 7/23.* In a global community, the Administration should, with the consensus of the American Public, embrace a policy of humanitarian and economic aid while, at the same time, allowing each culture to retain its diversity and self-chosen form of government.

*Nazareth, PA, 7/16.* as a leader in the United Nations, the U.S. must make serious efforts to support and improve the functionality and effectiveness of this vital institution. Our ever-growing connectedness demands that the U.N. be a primary force for global stability.

### **Advancing Democracy, Development and Respect for Human Rights**

*Eugene, OR, 7/18.* We must live the ideals of our Constitution and Declaration of Independence globally to be respected as a model of democracy and freedom.

- Build Democratic Institutions  
*Rochester, NY, 7/22.* Make human rights and human welfare a more central priority in U.S. foreign policy, with an ensuing course of action that serves as a model for the rest of the world.
- Invest in our Common Humanity  
*Somerville, MA, 7/26.* The United States of America is a global leader, and I know that I and we as a country should be doing more to help the women in children in developing countries.

*Laramie, WY, 7/20.* We believe that our foreign policy should encourage debt-forgiveness for the most impoverished nations.

*Decatur, AL, 7/26.* The Millennium Development Goals provide a path for ending extreme poverty, disease, and hunger for the poorest people in the world. It is possible

for us to accomplish this mission by 2015. In addition, we must continue responsible debt cancellation for Third World countries and support the promising innovation of microfinance.

*Polson, MT, 7/27.* We believe in and demand a new era of civility and support in international affairs to promote decent living conditions, protect the environment, and support human rights.

*Travis, TX 7/20.* We should do more to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, increase vaccination programs, start micro-financing programs, and help countries build sustainable agriculture programs

- Global Health

*Farmington, MI, 7/19.* The United States should work with the international community to find solutions to global health problems, particularly those, which are easy to solve through immunizations and cheap supplies.

- Human Trafficking

*Colorado Springs, CO, 7/25.* We condemn Human trafficking, a form of modern slavery.

## **Protecting Our Security and Saving Our Planet**

- Establish Energy Security

*Kent, OH, 7/17.* We call for a national policy directed toward the establishment of renewable energy to totally remove the nation from fossil fuel dependency.

*Flemington, NJ, 7/21.* The United States must embrace the imminent challenge of achieving energy independence the same way it has confronted so many challenges before: with leadership, innovation, and a strong belief in the limitless capacity of the American people to accomplish seemingly improbable feats.

- Lead to Combat Climate Change

*Seguin, TX, 7/23.* The challenge of global climate change to the survival of the human race, dwarfs all other challenges which face us in The U.S. and in the world . . . All of our human actions affect global climate and natural ecosystem change in an interconnected way.

- Seizing the Opportunity

*Orlando, FL, 7/26.* With good leadership, such as John F. Kennedy, the leadership can inspire great feats.

### **III. Renewing the American Community**

#### **Service**

*Bellwood, IL, 7/20.* Promote social programs that build and unite families by providing incentives to students entering in the social fields such as credits, scholarships for those volunteering their time to an understaffed and underfunded social system.

#### **Immigration**

*Alamosa, CO, 7/22.* Immigration reform must be done in a humane, rational, realistic manner.

*Wichita, KS, 7/22.* ICE should be given the resources needed to process visa applications in a timely manner.

*Studio City, CA, 7/15.* Need to enforce existing laws requiring employers to verify and hire only legal workers.

#### **Hurricane Katrina**

*New Orleans, LA, 7/20.* Fulfill the Post Katrina Promises to New Orleans and Louisiana.

#### **Preventing and Responding to Future Catastrophes**

*Sonoma, CA, 7/23.* Review and improve FEMA and to formulate a comprehensive Long term Disaster Plan for the country.

#### **Stewardship of Our Planet and Natural Resources**

*Little Rock, AK, 7/21.* The way we take care of our earth directly reflects our value system and respect for future generations.

*Mountain View, CA, 7/14.* We as a country have an obligation to future generations, to ourselves, and to the world to respect and care for the environment and natural resources.

*Missoula, MT, 7/20.* Public land and water should be managed according to sound science rather than political expediency; political interests should not censor science during policy making.

*Catonsville, MD, 7/20.* Green environmental/energy policies must be made a priority now by seizing on the country's interest in the subject and concern with increasing energy prices.

*Honolulu, HI, 7/20.* Conservation. It's not the solution but it will contribute as well as buy time. The cheapest barrel of oil is the one you don't buy!

#### **Partnership with States**

#### **Metropolitan and Urban Policy**

*Brooklyn, NY, 7/20.* The federal government should invest in urban infrastructure and devote the bulk of federal transportation resources to improving public transit, in the same manner that they supported the construction of roads and highways in the 1950s and 1960s.

#### **Firearms**

*Princeton, NJ, 7/27.* Fill a loop hole on gun control law through stepped up background checks of anyone buying guns at a gun show.



**Faith**

*Atlanta, GA, 7/22.* Strong families blessed with opportunity, guided by faith, and filled with dreams are the heart of a strong America.

**The Arts**

*Baltimore, MD, 7/23.* Art matters. It defines us as individuals, and as a people. By challenging the status quo, and bridging divides of culture, language, time, and place, the arts provoke positive change. Art is inherently democratic.

**Americans with Disabilities**

*Bessemer, AL, 7/24.* The federal, state and local government should become proactive in establishing policies that address the needs of the disabled.

*Murray, KY, 7/27.* We believe that the Americans with Disabilities Act be fully and properly enforced by the U.S. Justice Department.

**Children and Families**

*Kennesaw, GA, 7/19.* In order to invest in communities again, we must fund universal pre-k. All studies show that a child with the basics of education when entering kindergarten have a better opportunity of succeeding throughout their entire educational career.

**Fatherhood**

*San Luis Obispo, CA, 7/26.* Our priorities were . . . Maternity and Paternity Benefits equal to other developed nations.

**Seniors**

*Aurora, OH, 7/20.* There should be emphasis on the need for appropriate care, be it home health or long term care facilities for seniors. Seniors should not be forced out of their homes, into divorce, or into sub satisfactory facilities in order to receive the care needed in their last years.

*Hillsborough, CT, 7/20.* People are retiring earlier and finding they can't really afford it. Many want to return to work but it is difficult to find jobs after age 55. Age discrimination is prevalent although it is subtle.

**Choice**

*Fargo, ND, 7/24.* We support the reproductive rights of women as defended by Roe vs. Wade. We advocate for comprehensive sex education, family planning, and reimbursement of the costs of contraceptives. We encourage providing support for pregnant women such as pre-natal and post-natal care, counseling, and WIC programs.

**Criminal Justice**

*Madison, WI, 7/19.* We as a nation spend a great deal of money on the effects of violence. . . . As earlier noted, communities are devoting more of our economic means to combat the detrimental effects of family violence than we do for prevention. It is not a question of if we as a nation can afford to expand services, but if we can afford not to.

**A More Perfect Union**

*San Francisco, CA, 7/18.* The next Administration must support and further develop the Initiative and the Commission, which have worked to ensure that AAs and PIs can fully participate in all aspects of the federal government's operation.

*Fort Smith, AZ, 7/26.* We are committed to ensuring full equality for women.

*Chandler, AZ, 7/22.* Abolish the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. A person's sexual preference should be a non-issue.

*Tacoma, WA, 7/25.* Our celebration of diversity begins with a long past due appreciation of the Native American culture – whose ancient respect for nature is today’s wisdom.

*Manhattan, NY.* I feel a little selfish doing this, but I’m here to talk about me. 23.6 million people have diabetes in the U.S. and that’s talking about me, because I have diabetes. Nearly 1/3 of Latinos lack health insurance, and that’s me again, because I’m Latino.

#### **IV. Renewing American Democracy**

*San Juan, PR, 8/6.* If we as Democrats shall be the ones upon which history will thrust the reins of our government for the next four years, it will be our responsibility to ensure that the promise of change and a brighter future we are proposing for America becomes a reality for all citizens.

##### **Open, Accountable, and Ethical Government**

*Paddington, TX, 7/21.* The Declaration of Independence says we are all equal, but in our political system, we are decidedly unequal.

*Broken Arrow, OK, 7/26.* We believe the government needs a long-term commitment to consistency and transparency in fiscal operations.

*Fort Collins, CO.* Of course, shine the light on pork barrel spending and boldly educate Americans on the tools we have to get involved, stand up and stop it.

*Amarillo, TX, 7/17.* All political appointees MUST have education, professional and/or experiential credentials in the area in which they are being considered for appointment. For example, head of the OMB would have to have educational and professional experience and credentials in finance. The head of FEMA would have to have experience in emergency management. The head of FEMA should be required to watch the Weather Channel as part of his or her position.

##### **Reclaiming Our Constitution and Our Liberties**

*Los Angeles, CA, 7/21.* We believe in open government that is accessible and accountable to all citizens. The current administration has served as precisely the opposite; operating under a veil of secrecy and denial, hiding behind “Executive Privilege” and “National Security” to keep the public from knowing the scope of its activities.

*Fairbanks, AK, 7/24.* Government of, by, and for the people: We demand a return to the rule of law and rigorous adherence to the rights and liberties asserted in our Constitution.

**Voting Rights**

*Port Jefferson, NY, 7/21.* We will call for legislation that will fully protect and enforce the fundamental Constitutional right of every American to vote.

**Partnership with Civic Institutions**

*Palo Alto, CA, 7/20.* We believe that moving forward, we will need to create strategic partnerships with corporations, non-profits, government agencies, and private citizen groups to come up with these solutions. We believe that this should start by first analyzing successful programs, and providing a series of grants to replicate these programs nationwide.

**District of Columbia**

*Washington, DC, 7/27.* Grant Statehood for the District of Columbia w/full congressional representation.

**Tribal Sovereignty**

*Brookings, SD, 7/26.* We encourage the Obama administration to appoint an Indian Affairs advisor within the first 100 days of his administration. We encourage this advisor to meet with tribal leaders and hear their concerns within the first year of the Obama administration.

*Honolulu, HI, 7/26.* Support Federal recognition for Native Hawaiians.

**Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands**

*San Juan, PR, 8/6.* We must treat our seniors in Puerto Rico – with respect to Medicaid and other federal health care programs – just as we treat our fellow citizens in the States.



## APPENDIX C

### Platform Meetings (by state)

<u>State</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Name</u>
AK	Fairbanks	7/24	Help Set 2008 Democratic Party Platform	AZ	Oro Valley	7/19	Greater Oro Valley Area - Part II
AL	Altoona	7/27	Listening to America Platform Meeting	AZ	Patagonia	7/19	Patagonia Sonoita Area Platform Meeting
AL	Bessemer	7/24	Alabama Barack Team Bessemer: Democratic Platform For Change	AZ	Payson	7/23	Platform Meeting
AL	Birmingham	7/19	Together We Stand	AZ	Phoenix	7/15	LGBTQ Community Democratic Party Platform
AL	Birmingham	7/22	Platform meeting	AZ	Phoenix	7/15	Westside Phoenix, Arizona
AL	Birmingham	7/29	Democratic Party Listen to America Meeting	AZ	Phoenix	7/23	Platform Meeting
AL	Decatur	7/26	Morgan County Platform Meeting	AZ	Phoenix	7/26	Arizona Platform Meeting
AL	Huntsville	7/27	Listening to Huntsville	AZ	Phoenix	7/30	DFA-MC Platform Meeting
AL	Jacksonville	7/26	Coffee Break Platform Meeting	AZ	Phoenix	8/3	Platform Meeting - Meet Your Local Democrats!
AL	Mobile	7/20	Platform Meeting	AZ	Prescott Valley	7/19	Quad Cities Obama Platform Meeting
AL	Montgomery	7/23	Listen To America Meeting	AZ	Queen Creek	7/19	Let your voice be heard
AL	Toney	7/18	Small Town Alabama Issues	AZ	Scottsdale	7/21	Platform Issues Discussion
AR	Bentonville	7/24	Create the Future Platform Caucus	AZ	Scottsdale	7/22	Listening to America
AR	Eureka Springs	7/19	Eureka for Change	AZ	Sierra Vista	7/24	Voters of Cochise County, Platform Meeting
AR	Fort Smith	7/26	Fort Smith Platform Planning	AZ	Sun Lakes	7/24	Platform Meeting
AR	Garfield	7/22	It is our Duty	AZ	Tempe	7/27	Platform Meeting and Wine Tasting Party
AR	Hot Springs	7/26	Platform Meeting for Hot Springs, AR	AZ	Tucson	7/20	Pizza with a purpose
AR	Jonesboro	7/24	NEA for Obama Platform Meeting	AZ	Tucson	7/21	House Party to End Predatory Payday Loans @ Grijalva HQ
AR	Jonesboro	7/27	NEA for Obama Platform Meeting	AZ	Tucson	7/23	DNC Platform Mtg.
AR	Little Rock	7/19	Obama 101	AZ	Tucson	7/24	Can't Afford the Gas to Go to Denver
AR	Little Rock	7/21	Unity in Little Rock	AZ	Tucson	7/24	Change for Change!
AZ	Chandler	7/22	Chandler Platform Meeting	AZ	Tucson	7/24	Sam's Platform Meeting
AZ	Cottonwood	7/24	Platform Meeting	AZ	Tucson	7/27	Be a part of the process!
AZ	Flagstaff	7/25	Stand for Change	AZ	Tucson	8/22	Solar Power, Carpools, and Beers for Obama
AZ	Glendale	7/26	Platform Discussion	CA	Alameda	7/19	Listening To America: Democratic Party Platform
AZ	Gold Canyon	7/19	Gold Canyon Obama Listening Event	CA	Albany	8/2	Democratic Platform Pot Luck
AZ	Green Valley	7/24	Listening to America/Democratic Club of Santa Rita	CA	Arcata	7/23	West End Road Platform
AZ	Mesa	7/26	Bringing the voice of the East Valley to Denver	CA	Auburn	7/15	Take Back Our Country
AZ	Nogales	7/21	Listening to the People: by the People	CA	Benicia	7/28	Effecting the Democratic Platform

CA	Berkeley	7/15	Platform Meeting	CA	Discovery Bay	7/26	Morish and Cunningham Online Seniors and Social Security Retirement Platform Meeting
CA	Berkeley	7/20	Democratic Party Platform Meeting in Berkeley	CA	Elk Grove	7/25	Elk Grove Democratic Campaign HQ - Obama Platform Meeting
CA	Berkeley	7/20	Discussing Platform	CA	Encinitas	7/31	Democratic Values Event
CA	Berkeley	7/22	Global Marshall Plan	CA	Eureka	7/24	Eureka Platform Meeting
CA	Berkeley	7/24	Democratic Platform Strategy Session	CA	Eureka	7/24	Platform meeting
CA	Berkeley	7/25	Democratic Platform Meeting	CA	Fairfax	7/26	Marin County Obama Gathering
CA	Berkeley	7/26	Listening to America: Platform Development Meeting	CA	Fallbrook	7/26	Democratic Platform for Obama
CA	Berkeley	7/26	Creating Our Platform Party	CA	Felton	7/19	Felton platform meeting 4 Obama
CA	Berkeley	7/26	Explicating realistic policy platforms	CA	Folsom	7/30	Folsom Families for Barack - Platform Meeting
CA	Boulder Creek	7/27	SLV Platform Potluck	CA	Fort Bragg	7/21	Mendocino Coast Democrats for Obama Platform Meetings
CA	Burbank	7/27	It's Time 4 Change!	CA	Fresno	7/23	Technology Platform meeting - Help develop the position on technology issues
CA	Calabasas	7/19	Help Shape the Democratic Party Platform!	CA	Fullerton	7/27	Fullerton Platform Meeting
CA	Calabasas	7/23	Invitation to Make A Difference	CA	Glendale	7/23	Armenians for Obama Platform Meeting
CA	Camarillo	7/26	Platform Meeting	CA	Greenbrae	7/26	Platform Meeting - Greenbrae
CA	Canyon Lake	7/27	Obama meeting at Wally World	CA	Half Moon Bay	7/26	Platform Meeting on Energy Policy
CA	Carlsbad	7/19	Northcoast for Obama Platform	CA	Hawthorne	7/26	Dialogue for Unity
CA	Carmel	7/25	Listening Event-Platform Meeting	CA	Hayward	7/19	Hayward Training and Platform Meeting
CA	Castro Valley	8/3	East Bay Change We Can Believe In Platform Event	CA	Hercules	7/19	What do you want for America
CA	Cerritos	7/19	Social Action for Change	CA	Hollywood	7/31	Kane & Company, Jazz 4 Obama Platform Event
CA	Chico	7/23	Bring your voice	CA	Huntington Beach	7/27	Platform for Change -- Obama OC and the Democratic Club of West Orange County
CA	Chico	7/25	Chico Ideas for Platform	CA	Inglewood	7/25	Urban Electorate for Obama Platform Meeting
CA	Chino Hills	7/22	Chino Valley Platform Meeting & Concert!	CA	Joshua Tree	7/19	Democratic Party Plat form Meeting
CA	Chula Vista	7/14	Platform event	CA	Klamath	7/20	Requa Inn Platform Collaboration
CA	Chula Vista	7/20	Your Ideas Count - South County San Diego Platform	CA	La Jolla	7/31	Help Create a Specific Platform
CA	Chula Vista	7/25	Atencion a la comunidad Hispano-Hablante del condado de San Diego	CA	La Mesa	7/23	Healthcare
CA	Chula Vista	7/26	"We are the change we have been waiting for"	CA	Lafayette	7/27	Platform meeting
CA	Claremont	7/25	Voices for Change Platform Meeting	CA	Laguna Niguel	7/21	Aliso Viejo/Laguna Niguel Platform Meeting
CA	Clayton	7/26	Pot Luck Platform Meeting	CA	Lake Arrowhead	7/25	Lake Arrowhead Voice
CA	Cloverdale	7/16	Cloverdale for Obama general meeting about Democratic Platform issues	CA	Lake Elsinore	7/26	Evening Fireside Chat by the Pool&Barbeque
CA	Clovis	7/22	Weekly planning meeting - Fresno Platform Edition	CA	Lake Isabella	7/27	Kern Valley PAC Meeting
CA	Columbia	7/19	Bottoms up participation	CA	Lancaster	7/19	Democratic Party Platform Submissions
CA	Concord	7/26	America is listening. What will you say?	CA	Lemon Grove	7/22	Obama Supporters Making a Difference
CA	Concord	7/26	Listening to America - Crystyl Ranch	CA	Livermore	7/18	Dessert & coffee gathering
CA	Corte Madera	7/19	Corte Madera Obama 08- Platform for Major Change	CA	Lodi	7/16	Democratic Party Platform Meeting
CA	Corte Madera	7/21	Citizens' Input for the Democratic Party Platform 2008	CA	Long Beach	7/20	Having Your Say in the Democratic Party
CA	Corte Madera	7/21	Citizens' Input for the Democratic Party Platform 2008	CA	Los Altos	7/27	Global Development Plank of Democratic Platform
CA	Costa Mesa	7/27	Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Platform for Change	CA	Los Angeles	7/13	Westside for Obama Platform Meeting
CA	Cotati	7/26	Your Highest Priorities for the Democratic Platform for Change	CA	Los Angeles	7/18	Online Platform Meeting
CA	Crescent City	7/27	Del Norte County Platform Meeting	CA	Los Angeles	7/19	Helping to Build the Platform
CA	Dana Point	7/15	Dana Point Platform Meeting	CA	Los Angeles	7/19	CD 31 Platform Meeting
CA	Danville	7/22	Call-in/email-in response	CA	Los Angeles	7/20	Discussion for a Creative Platform
CA	Danville	7/22	Email -in suggestions for US Energy Policy	CA	Los Angeles	7/20	Campaign For Change Web Chat
CA	Davis	7/19	South Davis Obama Platform Meeting	CA	Los Angeles	7/21	Campaign For Change Web Chat
CA	Davis	7/20	The Davis People's Platform				
CA	Davis	7/23	Platform Meeting on Education				
CA	Diamond Bar	7/18	Diamond Bar and Communities for Change				

CA	Los Angeles	7/21	Campaign For Change Web Chat	CA	Oceanside	7/27	North County Democratic Platform Meetin g
CA	Los Angeles	7/22	Building Our Support	CA	Orinda	7/19	Coffee and Platform Discussion
CA	Los Angeles	7/23	Adding A Community Perspective on Health to the 2008 Democratic Platform	CA	Orinda	7/25	Gas-Efficient, Online Conversation to Develop Platform
CA	Los Angeles	7/23	Chat for Change Web Chat	CA	Orland	7/24	People Involved in Change
CA	Los Angeles	7/24	Westchester Democratic Club Platform Meeting	CA	Oxnard	7/26	Listening to Oxnard / Port Hueneme
CA	Los Angeles	7/24	Barack ... It's that Serious	CA	Palmdale	7/26	Vote on the Issues, Lets move America forward
CA	Los Angeles	7/24	When Obama Becomes President...	CA	Palo Alto	7/26	Make a Diff
CA	Los Angeles	7/26	Mentoring America's Potential: Volunteerism and Community Service	CA	Pasadena	7/22	Help write the Democratic Platform
CA	Los Angeles	7/26	Urban Platform	CA	Pasadena	7/22	Pasadena Poetry Jam Session and Platform Meeting
CA	Los Angeles	7/26	What do you want to see powerfully change in America?	CA	Pebble Beach	7/26	Discussing Democratic Platform
CA	Los Angeles	7/27	Platform Meeting	CA	Petaluma	7/20	Jenny & Peggy's Platform event for Petaluma!
CA	Los Angeles	7/27	Uh, we need to talk...	CA	Petaluma	7/23	Be a part of the process
CA	Los Angeles	7/29	Larchmont to Koreatown ObamaRama	CA	Pinole	7/29	US needs to change!
CA	Los Gatos	7/19	FISA, Faith Based Reform & Iraq	CA	Placerville	7/19	Greater Placerville Area Platform Meeting!
CA	Los Gatos	7/24	Los Gatos Mountains Residents Platform Meeting	CA	Placerville	7/27	Greater Placerville Area Platform Meeting!
CA	Madera	7/19	Madera 4 Obama - Platform Meeting	CA	Pleasanton	7/26	Help Shape The Democratic Party's Platform
CA	Manhattan Beach	7/26	El Porto Platform Meeting	CA	Poway	7/20	The change we've been waiting for
CA	Martinez	7/18	Nail Down Some Planks	CA	Rancho Cucamonga	7/19	Platform meeting & Obama Breakfast
CA	Mendocino	7/14	Mendocino Coast Democrats for Obama Platform Meetings	CA	Rancho Cucamonga	7/26	Platform meeting II & Obama Breakfast
CA	Mendocino	7/14	Platform Meeting	CA	Rancho Mirage	7/19	Democratic Party Platform Meeting
CA	Midpines	7/27	Drafting the People's Platform Potluck	CA	Redding	7/24	Democratic Voices of Shasta Co.
CA	Mill Valley	7/21	Mill Valley Senior for Peace Meeting	CA	Redlands	7/16	Platform Meeting
CA	Monrovia	7/24	Foothill Community Democrats	CA	Redlands	7/19	Listening to America
CA	Moreno Valley	7/19	Moreno Valley Party Platform Meeting	CA	Redlands	7/19	Issues That Bring Real Change
CA	Moreno Valley	7/26	Listening To America: Platform Meeting And Afternoon Fiesta	CA	Redondo Beach	7/22	Beach Cities Democratic Club
CA	Morro Bay	7/26	Platform Dive in Morro Bay	CA	Redondo Beach	7/27	Change starts with ethics
CA	Mountain View	7/14	Be the Change	CA	Redwood City	7/20	Your Opinion Matters!
CA	Mountain View	7/27	Mountain View Platform Meeting	CA	Reedley	7/23	Virtual Democratic Platform Meetings
CA	Napa	7/21	Listening to America: Democratic Platform for Change	CA	Reedley	7/24	Virtual Democratic Platform Meetings
CA	Newark	7/26	Tri-city (Newark/Fremont/Union City) for Change	CA	Rialto	7/26	Time For Change Platform Meeting
CA	Newhall	7/19	SCV Platform Breakfast	CA	Riverside	7/23	Obama Riverside Our Contribution to Change
CA	Newhall	7/22	SCV Platform Dinner	CA	Riverside	7/26	Listening to America: Riverside's Platform for Change
CA	Newport Beach	7/19	Listening to America: Orange County	CA	Rocklin	7/23	Our Hand in Shaping the Nation
CA	Newport Beach	7/21	Pick our planks	CA	Rocklin	7/29	Have your ideas heard!
CA	North Hollywood	7/27	Something is happening here...	CA	Roseville	7/24	Platform Meeting
CA	Northridge	7/20	Your Voice in the Democrat's Next Agenda	CA	Running Springs	7/27	Obama Listening to Our Mountain Concerns
CA	Oakland	7/16	Oakland united for Obama!	CA	Sacramento	7/21	Justice 4 All Includes Women of Color
CA	Oakland	7/25	Platform BBQ in Oakland	CA	Sacramento	7/22	Beyond Just Faith Dem Platform Meeting
CA	Oakland	7/26	Expressing Our Concerns For America	CA	Sacramento	7/23	Listening to Sacramento
CA	Oakland	7/26	Maxwell Park House Meeting	CA	Sacramento	7/24	Discussion on Education
CA	Oakland	7/28	Barack . . .	CA	Sacramento	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting
				CA	Sacramento	7/30	Contribute to the Democratic Platform
				CA	Saint Helena	7/20	Platform party

CA	San Anselmo	7/27	Make Your Voice Heard	CA	Santa Ana	7/23	Issue-Specific Meeting: The Economy & International Relations
CA	San Bernardino	7/28	Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change for San Bernardino County	CA	Santa Barbara	7/18	Home round table
CA	San Bernardino	7/28	Believe in Change!	CA	Santa Barbara	7/23	Provide Input into the Democratic Party Platform
CA	San Clemente	7/25	Sunset Dinner for Change & Dialogue	CA	Santa Cruz	7/20	Santa Cruz Public Platform Meeting
CA	San Diego	7/14	Platform meeting	CA	Santa Cruz	7/23	US Cuba policy platform discussion
CA	San Diego	7/19	Platform Meeting	CA	Santa Cruz	7/26	Downtown Democratic Platform Event
CA	San Diego	7/19	Platform Meeting	CA	Santa Maria	7/23	Help Shape the Democratic Platform!
CA	San Diego	7/24	San Diego Platform Meeting	CA	Santa Monica	7/23	Listening To America: Drinking Liberally/Venice for Obama platform discussion
CA	San Diego	7/24	Building Community Leadership for Change	CA	Santa Monica	7/27	Education, Health Care, Environment, Drug Law Reform
CA	San Diego	7/25	Obama Food Policy Platform	CA	Santa Rosa	7/20	DNC Platform Event
CA	San Diego	7/26	Our City. Our Voices. Our Country. Our Future.	CA	Santa Rosa	7/26	Santa Rosa Platform Meeting for DNC
CA	San Diego	7/27	Creating the future "One Small Group" at a time.	CA	Santa Rosa	8/10	Platform Meeting
CA	San Diego	7/27	Platform Meeting	CA	Sebastopol	7/19	Contribute to DNC platform
CA	San Diego	7/28	Pacific Beach For Obama	CA	Sebastopol	7/26	Sebastopol Creating our Platform Party
CA	San Diego	7/30	Penasquitos Platform meeting	CA	Sherman Oaks	7/19	Listening to America - Sherman Oaks, CA
CA	San Francisco	7/15	Participate-Democratic Platform	CA	Sherman Oaks	7/21	Education Reform
CA	San Francisco	7/17	High Speed Trains	CA	Sherman Oaks	7/27	If Not Now, WhenÖ
CA	San Francisco	7/19	Platform for Change	CA	Sherman Oaks	7/27	Finalize Platform Planks
CA	San Francisco	7/20	Listening to America	CA	Sonoma	7/20	Expect to Win
CA	San Francisco	7/20	AAP/ South Asian Platform for Change National Conference Call	CA	Soquel	7/20	Contribute to the Democratic Platform
CA	San Francisco	7/20	Maitri's Platform Meeting ACT 1: Foreign Policy	CA	South Pasadena	7/15	Meetings to provide input to Obama platform
CA	San Francisco	7/21	Maitri's Platform Meeting ACT 2: Domestic Policy	CA	Spring Valley	7/19	Plank by Plank a Platform is Built
CA	San Francisco	7/22	A Meeting to Discuss the Democratic Party's Platform for the 2008 Election Cycle	CA	Stockton	7/19	Meeting at Buck home
CA	San Francisco	7/22	Maitri's Platform Meeting ACT 3: Energy, Environment and Healthcare	CA	Stockton	7/23	Obama San Joaquin Platform meeting
CA	San Francisco	7/23	Maitri's Platform Meeting ACT 4: Government Accountability and Ethics	CA	Studio City	7/15	Got hope (Platform Meeting)
CA	San Francisco	7/23	Education and Environment Platform Meeting	CA	Studio City	7/27	Share your ideas
CA	San Francisco	7/26	Platform Chat in the Park (kid-friendly!)	CA	Sunnyvale	7/17	Book Group Platform Ideas
CA	San Francisco	7/27	Platform positions informed by core values, by TAG (The Alvarado Group)	CA	Temecula	7/26	Morning Coffee Platform Meeting
CA	San Francisco	7/27	Russian Hill Platform Meeting	CA	Thousand Oaks	7/27	Voices for Change in T.O.
CA	San Francisco	7/31	Shape the Technology Plank of the Obama Platform	CA	Tiburon	7/26	Help write the Democratic Party Platform
CA	San Jose	7/20	Chat for Change in the Park	CA	Torrance	7/20	Making sure our concerns are heard
CA	San Jose	7/24	Pragmatic Policy Platform	CA	Tujunga	7/20	Platform for Change
CA	San Juan Capistrano	7/15	Public Policy (Education)	CA	Ukiah	7/20	Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change
CA	San Leandro	7/19	San Leandro Platform Meeting	CA	Ukiah	7/21	Top ten issues for Ukiah's progressives
CA	San Luis Obispo	7/26	Let's Collaborate	CA	Upland	7/18	Democratic Platform Meeting/SanBWomen for Obama
CA	San Luis Obispo	7/27	Platform planning event	CA	Vacaville	7/27	Issues that matter, neighbors who care
CA	San Mateo	7/23	DNC platform peace plank - Iraq, Iran, and torture	CA	Vallejo	7/20	Obama Platform Meeting
CA	San Rafael	7/27	Listening to San Rafael: Platform for Change	CA	Ventura	7/23	Ventura Democratic Platform Meeting
CA	Santa Ana	7/21	Issue-Specific Meeting: The Environment & Healthcare	CA	Visalia	7/19	Listening to America: Visalia, CA
				CA	West Hollywood	7/26	Walking the Plank In West Hollywood
				CA	West Hollywood	7/26	What do you want to see powerfully change in America?
				CA	Windsor	7/19	Platform for Change
				CA	Woodland Hills	7/22	Defining Change

CO	Alamosa	7/19	Listening To America	CO	Denver	8/26	The Fabric of Community '08
CO	Arvada	7/19	Arvada Platform Meeting	CO	Elizabeth	7/28	Elbert County Obama Democratic Platform Meeting
CO	Arvada	7/26	Have a Voice in America's Future	CO	Englewood	7/13	Platform Meeting
CO	Avon	7/22	Platform Issues Discussion	CO	Englewood	7/25	Platform Meeting, Part 2
CO	Boulder	7/17	Unite for Change House meeting and action	CO	Evergreen	7/20	Lend Your Voice to Our Platform!
CO	Boulder	7/22	Webb House Democratic Party Platform Meeting	CO	Fort Collins	7/12	Unite for Change/Listening to America House Meeting
CO	Boulder	7/27	What Matters	CO	Fort Collins	7/20	Listening to America
CO	Boulder	7/27	Democratic Platform for Change	CO	Golden	7/19	Platform meeting
CO	Castle Rock	7/19	Plank positions and priorities	CO	Golden	7/21	Listening to Young Jeffco Dems
CO	Colorado Springs	7/21	Planks for Seniors, Social Security, Medicare	CO	Grand Junction	8/15	Help Decide the Democratic Platform
CO	Colorado Springs	7/21	Planks for Civil Liberties and Immigration	CO	Hotchkiss	7/27	Delta County Obama Platform Meeting
CO	Colorado Springs	7/21	Planks for Environment and Climate Change Policy	CO	Lafayette	7/22	Early Childhood Concerns
CO	Colorado Springs	7/22	Planks for Energy/Technology/Conservation	CO	Lakewood	7/26	You Have a Voice
CO	Colorado Springs	7/22	Planks for IRAQ and Veterans Issues	CO	Lakewood	7/26	Platform party
CO	Colorado Springs	7/22	Planks for Education and Service to Country	CO	Littleton	7/15	Voice in our Country
CO	Colorado Springs	7/23	Energy & the Environment Policy Meeting	CO	Livermore	8/9	Change NOW
CO	Colorado Springs	7/24	PFCD	CO	Longmont	7/16	Barrack Information Change Gala
CO	Colorado Springs	7/24	Planks for Economy, Jobs, Poverty Business, Fiscal Policy	CO	Longmont	7/23	Barack for Change Gala
CO	Colorado Springs	7/24	Planks for Energy/Technology/Conservation	CO	Longmont	7/23	Listening to Longmont
CO	Colorado Springs	7/24	Planks for Healthcare Policy	CO	Merino	7/20	Meet at Messex: Where Washington, Morgan and Logan Counties Come Together
CO	Colorado Springs	7/25	Planks for Domestic (Urban and Rural) Policy	CO	Pueblo	7/26	Solutions for Colorado
CO	Colorado Springs	7/25	Planks for Women's' Issues	CO	Pueblo	7/26	Solutions for Colorado Kickoff with Congressman John Salazar
CO	Colorado Springs	7/29	Platform Meeting	CO	Snowmass	7/24	Listening together
CO	Denver	7/19	Platform Meeting	CO	Steamboat Springs	7/27	Platform for Democratic Change
CO	Denver	7/20	Democracy in Action	CO	Windsor	7/26	Solutions for Colorado Kickoff with Senator Ken Salazar (Platform Meeting)
CO	Denver	7/20	Create a Platform for Change	CT	Bloomfield	7/24	1st CD Platform Meeting
CO	Denver	7/21	Let's Help Shape the Future	CT	Bridgeport	7/20	Energy & Climate solution
CO	Denver	7/23	PFCD	CT	Bridgewater	7/23	Democratic Platform Meeting
CO	Denver	7/24	Platform Meeting	CT	Canaan	7/25	Obama for America
CO	Denver	7/25	PFCD	CT	Canton	7/27	Barack's platform
CO	Denver	7/27	Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Poverty and other priorities	CT	Canton	7/27	Democratic Party Platform Meeting
CO	Denver	7/28	West of the Park Meeting	CT	Cromwell	7/19	Cromwell for Obama
CO	Denver	7/30	The World is Listening	CT	Glastonbury	7/27	Environment
CO	Denver	8/24	Environment	CT	Guilford	7/22	CT WFO Platform Meeting
				CT	Killingworth	7/20	KDTC Platform Meeting
				CT	Middlefield	7/15	Middlefield Platform Meeting
				CT	New Canaan	7/26	Platform Discussion
				CT	New Haven	7/26	New Haven Platform and Action Mtg
				CT	Norwich	7/22	Norwich Area Voices
				CT	Redding	7/24	Democratic Platform Meeting
				CT	Ridgefield	7/26	Listening to America Platform Meeting
				CT	Waterbury	7/21	Hispanic Forum on the Issues
				CT	Waterbury	7/22	Waterbury Speaks Out
				CT	West Hartford	7/18	Discussion over Wine & Cheese



CT	West Hartford	7/19	University of Hartford Platform Meeting	DE	Wilmington	7/25	"Together, Better!" Generation Change
CT	West Hartford	7/23	Moving Forward Platform Night	FL	Apollo Beach	7/20	Speak Up Now
CT	Weston	7/21	Weston Democratic Platform Group	FL	Biscayne Park	7/19	Biscayne Park for Obama Platform Meeting
CT	Woodstock	7/23	Help draft Democrats' platform	FL	Bradenton	7/22	Wetzel Platform Meeting
DC	Washington	7/12	Women's Unity Network: Coming together around the issues	FL	Brandon	7/18	E. Hillsborough County Speak-Up!
DC	Washington	7/19	The Labor Movement: Finding Our Place at the Table	FL	Brooker	7/25	Platform 4 Change
DC	Washington	7/19	National Security and Veterans	FL	Brooksville	7/22	Hernando is Obama Country
DC	Washington	7/19	Platform meeting to discuss energy policy	FL	Clearwater	7/24	Platform of Hope and Peace
DC	Washington	7/20	Farrah & Friends Platform Building	FL	Davenport	7/26	Main Street Voice
DC	Washington	7/22	FPPFO Middle East Platform Meeting	FL	Daytona Beach	7/21	Africa platform
DC	Washington	7/23	Women in [International] Development - WID	FL	Deland	7/31	Have A Say
DC	Washington	7/23	Armenians for Obama	FL	Delray Beach	7/22	Pot Luck
DC	Washington	7/23	Issues Hearing on Democratic Party Platform	FL	Deltona	7/15	West Volusia for change
DC	Washington	7/23	Be the Change You Want to See	FL	Doral	7/17	Democratize the USA now!
DC	Washington	7/23	Speed Matters	FL	Englewood	7/19	Obama Platform for America
DC	Washington	7/24	Creating a Nat'l Strategy for Sustainability Platform Meeting	FL	Estero	7/29	Reducing our use of oil for energy
DC	Washington	7/24	Energy: Sustainable Interdependence or Independence?	FL	FL	7/26	Issues facing North FL Democrats
DC	Washington	7/24	New Direction	FL	Fort Lauderdale	7/15	Fort Lauderdale Dems
DC	Washington	7/24	FPPFO -- Democracy & Human Rights Platform Meeting				
DC	Washington	7/24	FPPFO event: Obama and the Future of NATO	FL	Fort Walton Beach	7/23	Democratic Party Platform Conference
DC	Washington	7/24	FPPFO Platform Meeting on Challenges of African Development				
DC	Washington	7/25	Obamarama Martini Platform Happy Hour	FL	Fort Walton Beach	7/25	Democratic Party Platform Conference
DC	Washington	7/26	African Affairs platform				
DC	Washington	7/26	US Foreign Policy - Middle East	FL	Fort Walton Beach	7/25	Democratic Party Platform Meeting
DC	Washington	7/26	Oromo-Americans for Obama Foreign Policy Discussion: The Horn of Africa				
DC	Washington	7/27	Engaging the World: A Platform for Change Discussion	FL	Gainesville	7/25	Listening to America
DC	Washington	7/27	Change We Want to See	FL	Hernando	7/14	Democratic Platform Event
DC	Washington	7/27	Democratic Platform for Change Event at Busboys and Poets: A Community Forum	FL	Hialeah	7/19	Speak for Change
DC	Washington	7/27	Obama Pride Metro-DC LGBT Policy House Party	FL	Homestead	7/24	Platform discussion
DC	Washington	7/27	Metro-DC Trans Policy Platform House Party	FL	Hudson	7/26	Hudson For Obama
DC	Washington	7/27	FPPFO: Redefining America's Role in the World (Platform Meeting)	FL	Jacksonville	7/12	Healthcare: An American Crisis
DC	Washington	7/27	Solution Synod	FL	Jacksonville	7/27	Platform for change Jacksonville FL
DC	Washington	7/30	Policy Forum on US relations with Haiti and the Caribbean	FL	Jasper	8/16	Political Rally
DC	Washington	7/31	Talk About Issues for Barack	FL	Jennings	8/2	Political Rally
DC	Washington	8/1	Our shared HistoryÖ (Platform Meeting)	FL	Jensen Beach	7/15	Jensen Beach Platform Committee
DC	Washington	8/2	Discussion Forum: Obama's Presidency and the Eritrean-American Community	FL	Jupiter	7/25	Ideas for a Better America
DC	Washington	8/3	Election '08 Countdown Strategy Session	FL	Kissimmee	7/16	A winning agenda at Denver Convention
DC	Washington, DC	7/20	Platform Meeting	FL	Lady Lake	7/27	speak out and speak up!
DE	Bear	7/24	DE for Obama Listening to America Plank Building	FL	Lake Worth	8/12	Platform Meeting
DE	Dover	7/19	What type of change do we want?	FL	Leesburg	7/24	Lake County Speak Up!
DE	Dover	7/21	Taking America Back	FL	Melbourne	7/22	Party Platform Input Meeting
DE	Harrington	7/24	Listening to Delaware!!	FL	Miami	7/15	Our friends and their ideas
DE	New Castle	7/22	DNC Platform Listening Session	FL	Miami	7/23	Miami-Dade Hispanic Platform
DE	Newark	7/26	Grey's Platform Meeting	FL	Miami	8/9	Florida Talks Economy at Elizabeth's
				FL	Miami Shores	7/20	What do YOU want for America?
				FL	Milton	7/21	Santa Rosa County Platform Meeting

FL	North Miami Beach	7/13	Platform Meeting/Jam	GA	Atlanta	7/18	Mental Illness Is Real
FL	Ocala	7/26	Platform and organizational meeting	GA	Atlanta	7/19	Help Shape the Platform for Change
FL	Okeechobee	7/24	Renewable Energy Plan for America to Stop Climate Change	GA	Atlanta	7/19	July 19, 2008 7pm Platform for Change Meeting
FL	Orange Park	7/27	Democratic Plat form for Change Listening Meeting	GA	Atlanta	7/22	Helping Parents improve children's lives
FL	Orlando	7/23	Back To Reality	GA	Atlanta	7/26	Platform Meeting
FL	Orlando	7/23	Yalla Vote '08 Our Voice, Our Future	GA	Atlanta	7/26	Listening to America-Discussing the Issues
FL	Orlando	7/25	We the People Matter!	GA	Atlanta	7/27	Yes We Can Kirkwood!
FL	Orlando	7/29	Johnson's 4 Obama Platform Meeting	GA	Augusta	7/17	Setting the Course
FL	Orlando	8/13	Health Assurance	GA	Augusta	7/19	House Party to Discuss Issues
FL	Palm Harbor	7/20	Platform Meeting: Making It Happen Here 4	GA	Augusta	7/26	Dessert and Discussion
FL	Safety Harbor	7/22	Listening to Safety Harbor!	GA	Blairsville	7/23	Blairsville for Obama Platform by the People
FL	Saint Petersburg	7/15	Reactivate FDR's US Civilian Conservation Corps	GA	Conley	7/24	Listening to America
FL	Saint Petersburg	7/20	If the squeaking wheel gets the grease, let's start squeaking!	GA	Conyers	7/23	Listening to Rockdale: Platform Meeting
FL	Saint Petersburg	7/22	Pinellas Stonewall Platform Party	GA	Covington	7/19	Plan our agenda
FL	Sarasota	7/20	Sarasota for Change!	GA	Cumming	7/18	Cumming Neighborhood Meeting
FL	Sarasota	7/21	What Change?	GA	Dalton	7/19	North Georgia Democrats Platform Meeting
FL	Sarasota	7/25	Sarasota Platform Meeting	GA	Dublin	7/26	Laurens County Democrats Kick Off and Platform Meeting
FL	South Daytona	7/27	Platform for Change Meeting Daytona	GA	Ellijay	7/24	Camp Confusion for Change
FL	Stuart	7/20	Moroccan Congress Platform for Change	GA	Fayetteville	7/19	DNC Platform for Change
FL	Surfside	7/25	Education, Health, Foreign Affairs, Veterans	GA	Jackson	7/22	Listening to America: What Matters to You
FL	Tallahassee	7/20	Democratic Platform Plan	GA	Kennesaw	7/19	Education Forum
FL	Tallahassee	7/26	Tallahassee Progressive Change Event	GA	Lawrenceville	7/22	1ChanceOnly Unity Meeting
FL	Tallahassee	7/26	Volunteers for Obama Tallahassee Team	GA	Lawrenceville	7/27	D7 Platform Agenda 4 Change
FL	Tamarac	7/25	Kings Point Platform Meeting	GA	Lithonia	7/12	Meet And Greet
FL	Tampa	7/16	Wide aWoke Wednesday	GA	Lithonia	7/19	Listening in Lithonia
FL	Tampa	7/19	Listen to The Caribbean American	GA	Lizella	7/26	Obama for Change Fish Fry
FL	Tampa	7/20	Tampa's Youth Platform Project	GA	Macon	7/17	Believe Change is Possible!
FL	Tampa	7/20	Tampa Bay O-Train Virtual Platform Meeting	GA	Marietta	7/27	Listening to Georgians - Shaping the Platform for Change
FL	Tampa	7/20	Tampa Democrats for Progress Platform Meeting	GA	Morganton	7/25	Platform gathering
FL	Tampa	7/26	South Tampa for Obama	GA	Perry	7/15	Obama, Issues and Dessert!
FL	Tampa	7/29	New Tampa Democrats Platform Meeting	GA	Powder Springs	7/26	Bottom to the Top
FL	Tavernier	7/15	Platform Meeting	GA	Powder Springs	7/27	A New Democracy - Atlantans For Change
FL	West Palm Beach	7/15	West Palm for Obama	GA	Roswell	7/22	Let's be heard
FL	West Palm Beach	9/13	Speak Out for Change	GA	Saint Simons Island	7/17	Talk with Barack
FL	White Springs	8/9	Political Rally	GA	Savannah	7/20	Drinks and Discussion
GA	Albany	7/26	Ethics is the key	GA	Savannah	7/22	Drinks and Discussion II
GA	Alpharetta	7/26	Help for Small business	GA	Smyrna	7/20	Smyrna-Vinings Platform Meeting
GA	Alpharetta	7/27	Make Change Happen	GA	Smyrna	7/26	Let's Create Change for America
GA	Athens	7/24	Prescriptions for a Healthy America	GA	Statesboro	7/19	Healthcare Platform Meeting
GA	Atlanta	7/12	Unite for Change House Meeting - Buckhead/Pharr Rd.- Team 3	GA	Tyrone	7/27	Healthcare & Education Reform!
GA	Atlanta	7/13	Platform/Listening party	HI	Haiku	7/22	Education policy
GA	Atlanta	7/15	Rep Your Hood City Campaign	HI	Haleiwa	7/20	Obama Listening in the North Shore
				HI	Haleiwa	7/24	Platform Discussion Meeting
				HI	Honolulu	7/17	1st Cyber Platform Forum: Global English Language Online Virtual Meeting

HI	Honolulu	7/19	Listening to America I	IL	Chicago	7/24	Urban Policy in America
HI	Honolulu	7/26	Listening to America II	IL	Chicago	7/25	Platform Meeting
HI	Honolulu	7/26	Native Hawaiian and Democratic Party of Hawaii Platform Input to Platform for Change	IL	Chicago	7/26	Listening to America
HI	Kapa'a	7/19	It is time to be heard	IL	Chicago	7/26	Mental Healthcare & Unemployment Issues
HI	Kaunakakai	7/27	Listening for change	IL	Chicago	7/26	Democratic Platform Caucus
HI	Kihei	7/1	Obama Listens	IL	Chicago	7/26	Hey Kids, Let's Talk Policy
HI	Kihei	7/19	Obama Listens	IL	Chicago	7/26	Platform Meeting in Edgewater
HI	Lawai	7/19	Democratic Platform Input and Prioritization	IL	Chicago	7/27	LVT/LVC At Federal/State Levels
HI	Pukalani	7/25	Discuss party platform	IL	Chicago	7/27	Virtual Pilot Platform Meeting
IA	Ames	7/20	Obama Platform Meeting	IL	Chicago	7/28	Ending Homelessness Should Be in the Democratic Platform
IA	Cresco	7/19	Unity Starts with You! (Platform Meeting)	IL	Chicago	7/28	Low Key Platform Meeting in Lincoln Park
IA	Des Moines	7/22	Put Climate Justice on the Radar	IL	Chicago	7/29	Education Brainstorm
IA	Fairfield	7/26	Democratic Party Platform Review and Input	IL	Chicago	8/2	Park Manor-Chatham Platform Meeting
IA	Mason City	7/24	Ideas for Change	IL	Chicago	8/3	Greens for Obama Platform Meeting
IA	Mount Vernon	7/21	The O Party	IL	Cicero	7/27	Economy & health care
IA	Sioux City	7/15	Sioux City Democratic Platform Meeting	IL	Collinsville	7/22	Southwestern Illinois Democratic Platform Meeting
IA	Urbandale	7/29	And now for the Details...	IL	Country Club Hills	7/27	About Change '08
IA	Washington	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting!!	IL	Decatur	7/20	Actively Listening - Hopes for the election
IA	Waterloo	7/26	General Platform Development Meeting	IL	Deerfield	7/23	Tenth For Obama Platform Meeting
IA	Waterloo	7/30	Family and Children matter	IL	Downers Grove	7/19	Backyard platform meeting
ID	Boise	7/22	Shepherd Platform Discussion	IL	East Saint Louis	8/1	Southern Mission For Obama
ID	Boise	7/24	Harris Ranch Democratic Platform Meeting	IL	Evanston	7/15	Democrates
ID	Boise	7/26	National Platform Meet ing	IL	Evanston	7/18	Platforming for Change: Economy, Education, Energy, and Environment
ID	Boise	7/27	RiverRun and Friends Platform Meeting				
ID	Hailey	7/19	Neighborhood Platform Meeting				
ID	Idaho Falls	7/20	Suggestions for 2008 Democratic Party Platform				
ID	Idaho Falls	7/22	Independent Voter Forum for the Democratic Platform 2008	IL	Evanston	7/19	A gathering to share our views
ID	Kamiah	7/21	Creating change	IL	Evanston	7/21	Let's Make Them Practice What They Preach!
ID	Ketchum	7/30	Blaine County for Obama Number Two	IL	Evanston	7/25	Platform Suggestions
ID	Moscow	7/27	Listening to America- Democracy for All of Us	IL	Flossmoor	7/27	Democratic Voices: Listening for Change
IL	Aledo	7/19	Mercer County Democratic PM	IL	Forest Park	7/27	Platform Party
IL	Algonquin	7/24	Listening to America: Democratic Platform for Change Meeting	IL	Grayslake	7/24	Prairie Crossing Platform Meeting
IL	Bolingbrook	7/26	America is Listening	IL	Greenville	7/20	Greenville Democratic Platform Party
IL	Champaign	7/27	Listening to America: Champaign County for Obama Platform for Change meeting	IL	Homewood	7/26	Meet The Future
IL	Chicago	7/16	LVT/LVC At Federal/State Levels	IL	Joliet	7/27	Platform Meeting
IL	Chicago	7/17	Hit the Ground Running	IL	Lombard	7/28	DuPage Democrats
IL	Chicago	7/19	Oxfam Action Corps Activist Breakfast	IL	Lombard	7/30	DuPage Democrats
IL	Chicago	7/19	Restoring America's moral authority	IL	Morton	7/19	Platform Meeting Morton, IL
IL	Chicago	7/19	Planning a Platform - This is Democracy	IL	O Fallon	7/26	To have a voice in the political process
IL	Chicago	7/20	Work for Change	IL	Oak Park	7/22	Obama Platform Input Meeting
IL	Chicago	7/20	Citizens for Obama	IL	Oak Park	7/28	Listening to America Platform Meet ing
IL	Chicago	7/20	Reclaiming our Schools	IL	Oswego	7/22	Reaffirm the Bill of Rights
IL	Chicago	7/20	"Learning & Listening" Summer BBQ	IL	Park Ridge	7/26	Grassroots Input to the Democratic Platform
IL	Chicago	7/21	Talk about Health Care	IL	Penfield	7/23	Planning for the Future with Barack
IL	Chicago	7/23	Staying the course of Realpolitik	IL	Peoria	7/26	Fix VAWA Now - Work for Strong Families
IL	Chicago	7/24	Creating the 2008 Democratic Party Platform	IL	Peoria	8/6	Setting the Platform
				IL	Rock Island	7/26	Platform for Change

IL	Streamwood	7/14	HanDI Meeting	KS	Your city	7/26	Email Event - Democratic Platform
IL	Thomson	7/23	Democratic Party Platform desires	KY	Bardstown	7/26	Nelson Co Democrats for change
IL	Washington Park	7/27	Blueprint for Change	KY	Battletown	7/31	Meade County Dems Want to Know
IL	Waukegan	7/18	Community Meeting for Obama	KY	Berea	7/20	Kings Trace Subdivision
IL	West Chicago	7/16	Winfield Township Democratic Organization	KY	Buckner	7/29	Elder Hope!
IL	West Peoria	7/20	Making history....listening to America/potluck	KY	Frankfort	7/24	Platform Meeting for Grass Roots Democrats
IL	Winnetka	7/23	Wednesday Women Meeting	KY	Hodgenville	7/17	Platform Meeting
IL	Wood Dale	7/19	Hispanics for Obama Opening and Discussion	KY	Lancaster	7/22	Garrard Co. Democrats' Voices for America's Future
IN	Bloomington	7/24	Meeting for Change	KY	Lexington	7/19	Who is Barack Obama
IN	Clarksville	7/25	South Indiana Platform Meeting	KY	Lexington	7/21	Two Cents Worth' on the Platform
IN	Crown Point	7/20	Platform Discussion for Supporters and Undecideds	KY	Lexington	7/22	Hot Dogs & Hot Topics
IN	Danville	7/19	Platform for change	KY	Lexington	8/5	Democratic Meet -and-Greet Ice Cream Social
IN	Decatur	7/26	Platform Discussion	KY	Louisville	7/15	No Child Left Behind
IN	Elkhart	7/18	Education Platform Meeting	KY	Louisville	7/23	Louisville for Obama Platform Meeting
IN	Fishers	7/23	Hamilton County Platform Discussion	KY	Louisville	7/23	Louisville Barackers
IN	Goshen	7/26	Platform Meeting	KY	Murray	7/27	Writing a New and Exciting Chapter
IN	Granger	7/18	Policies for Progress	KY	Newport	7/26	Newport & The House of Tolble Speaks
IN	IN	7/28	Let your voice be heard	KY	Paducah	7/23	Paducah Democrats Coming Together
IN	Indianapolis	7/16	Broad Ripple Speaks!	KY	Richmond	7/24	Listening to America: the Democratic Platform for Change
IN	Indianapolis	7/22	Southwest Indianapolis Platform Meeting	KY	Shelbyville	7/24	Platform Meeting
IN	Indianapolis	7/22	Plan The Future	KY	Shepherdsville	7/20	Bullitt County Platform Meeting
IN	Indianapolis	7/27	Platform Meeting	LA	Baton Rouge	7/27	Online platform meeting
IN	Kentland	7/9	'Welcome Obama Staffer to Kentland!'	LA	Baton Rouge	7/27	Role of Pro-Life Democrats
IN	La Porte	7/24	Community Forum: THE CHANGES WE NEED	LA	Kenner	7/17	Coming Together For Change
IN	Michigan City	7/15	Step 1 - "By The People"	LA	Kenner	7/27	Democratic Party Platform - Metairie Area (1)
IN	Newburgh	7/17	WFO Platform Meeting	LA	Lafayette	7/24	Building the Obama Democratic Platform
IN	South Bend	7/22	Contributing to Change	LA	Lake Charles	7/26	Help Write the Democratic Platform
IN	Tell City	7/22	Platform for Change Discussion	LA	Mandeville	7/24	Democratic Platform Input to Obama
IN	Whiteland	7/26	Kelsay Farms Platform Meeting	LA	Monroe	7/19	Time for a Change.
IN	Whiteland	7/26	National Rural Issues Platform Meeting	LA	New Orleans	7/19	Workers' Voices Platform Hearing
KS	Fairway	7/20	Prairie Village, Fairway, Mission Hills Platfom Meeting	LA	New Orleans	7/20	Platform Meeting
KS	Hutchinson	7/27	Sharing Our Voice on the Issues	LA	New Orleans	7/20	Progressive Platform for New Orleans
KS	Independence	7/26	Having our Say: A Democratic Platform	LA	New Orleans	7/22	Dem Platform Brainstorming Session
KS	Kansas City	7/26	Healthcare Platform Meeting	LA	New Orleans	7/24	Walk the Talk Platform Party
KS	Lawrence	7/22	Environmental Disaster	LA	New Orleans	7/28	Platform Host Wrap Up
KS	Leawood	7/27	Build a Platform Sunday July 27 3-5 pm	LA	Shreveport	7/19	Shreveport Democrat ic Platform Meeting
KS	Mission	7/19	Help Make Foreign Policy	LA	Shreveport	7/26	Shreveport Urban Policy Summit/Planning & Meeting
KS	Mission	7/21	Mission Platform Meeting!	LA	Shreveport	7/26	Urban Policy Summit/Planning & Meeting
KS	Mission	7/23	N.E. Johnson County - Mission, Merriam, Shawnee, Overland Park Platform Meeting	LA	Shreveport	7/26	Shreveport Region--Listening to America Platform
KS	Overland Park	7/23	Overland Park Platform Meeting	LA	Slidell	7/12	One mind one accord
KS	Shawnee	7/22	Change for a Better Future	MA	Amesbury	7/23	Pro-Life Democrats
KS	Stilwell	7/19	Opportunity to be part of change	MA	Amherst	7/26	Listening to America
KS	Wichita	7/18	What Matters to Kansans	MA	Ayer	7/19	Faye Morrison
KS	Wichita	7/19	Listening to America	MA	Belchertown	7/18	Empowering Our Community
KS	Wichita	7/22	Online, on air platform meeting	MA	Berlin	7/20	Party Platform Creation
KS	Yates Center	7/24	We the People	MA	Boston	7/23	20-something Voices-A Platform Meeting for the Next Generation
				MA	Boston	7/23	Health Care in America - Obama Platform Meeting
				MA	Boston	7/26	How to win in November (Platform Meeting)

MA	Boxford	7/22	Obama Organizing & Platform Meeting	MD	Baltimore	7/27	Maryland for Obama State Steering Committee Platform Discussion
MA	Brookline	7/17	Peoples Platform Party	MD	Bethesda	7/20	After the Sunday Shows Platform Meeting
MA	Brookline	7/22	Brookline for Barack - Let Our Voices Be Heard	MD	Bethesda	7/21	Discussion of issues
MA	Burlington	7/19	Discuss Platform recommendations	MD	Bethesda	7/24	Maryland APAs for Obama Platform Meeting
MA	Cambridge	7/20	Cambridge Platform Meeting	MD	Bethesda	7/26	Get Plugged In Platform Meeting & House Party
MA	Cambridge	7/22	Cambridge Ward 1 Democratic Platform Party	MD	Bethesda	7/18	Improving the status of women in U.S.
MA	Cambridge	7/23	Science Education	MD	Bowie	7/19	Rock 4 Barack - Part II
MA	Cambridge	7/24	Cambridge Ward 6/Mid-Cambridge Platform for Change Meeting	MD	Bowie	7/26	Listening to Bowie
MA	Cambridge	7/24	Peace Action, Health Care, Immigration, and Your Issues	MD	Burtonsville	7/25	We Can Make a Difference
MA	Colrain	7/23	Let's create a rural vision for tomorrow	MD	Catonsville	7/20	Obama Babes Platform Meeting
MA	East Walpole	7/19	Democratic Platform Meeting in Walpole	MD	Catonsville	7/21	Baltimore's Platform Meeting
MA	Gardner	7/25	Platform Meeting	MD	Charlotte Hall	7/24	Southern Maryland Listening to America
MA	Haydenville	7/27	Potluck Brainstorm	MD	Chevy Chase	7/27	Platform meeting
MA	Holyoke	7/26	Dorothy's Platform Meeting	MD	Colmar Manor	7/24	Let's Let Barack Hear What's Up with Family Docs!
MA	Jamaica Plain	7/23	JP Democratic Platform meeting	MD	Columbia	7/19	Getting Down to Business Platform Meeting
MA	Lawrence	7/26	The Smiths' Home	MD	Davidsonville	7/19	Shaping the Platform
MA	Lexington	7/24	Platform Meeting	MD	Davidsonville	7/23	Young Voters for Obama
MA	Medford	7/26	Changing The Frames on Democratic Policy	MD	Easton	7/24	Help Build the 2008 Democratic Party Platform!
MA	Nantucket	7/19	Platform meeting	MD	Ellicott City	7/27	Priorities for Change
MA	Nantucket	7/19	Platform Meeting	MD	Fort Washington	7/27	Fort Washington Citizens for Obama
MA	Nantucket	7/26	Write Our Platform for Change				
MA	Needham	7/20	Democratic Platform Meeting in Needham	MD	Frederick	7/20	Frederick Speaks
MA	Newburyport	7/28	Platform/message discussion	MD	Frederick	7/26	Grassroots Change Platform
MA	North Falmouth	7/22	Environmental P latform Discussion	MD	Grasonville	7/22	Let's Contribute to the Democratic Platform!
MA	Petersham	7/25	Petersham Platform Meeting	MD	Hagerstown	7/17	Washington County Platform Meeting
MA	Somerville	7/20	Health Care and Women's Issues	MD	Laurel	7/26	Food for Thought- Building U.S. Policy
MA	Somerville	7/26	Rescheduled Platform Brunch	MD	MD	7/24	Severna Park Platform Meeting
MA	South Attleboro	7/30	"Listening to America" -- Attleboro Area Meeting to Elect Barack Obama.	MD	Olney	7/22	Democratic Platform Ideas
MA	South Wellfleet	7/27	Help determine the Democratic Convention platform	MD	Rockville	7/26	Cutting costs & offering new options in healthcare
MA	Southwick	7/30	Listening to America in Southwick	MD	Severna Park	7/24	Anne Arundel Volunteers Platform Meeting
MA	Springfield	7/19	Listening to Springfield	MD	Silver Spring	7/27	Listening to America
MA	Stockbridge	7/30	Creating a Platform for Hope	MD	West Friendship	7/27	Platform Meeting/Women for Obama
MA	Waltham	7/19	International Students for Obama	ME	Brunswick	7/26	Public Democratic Platform Meeting in Brunswick Maine
MA	Waltham	7/24	Waltham Watertown Shares Ideas	ME	Ellsworth	7/22	Hancock County Listening for Change
MA	Wayland	7/24	Metrowest Obama Platform Meeting -- Co-sponsored with Framingham For Obama!	ME	Falmouth	7/27	Barack Obama Platform Meeting
MA	Worcester	7/22	Obama Listens to America Workshop	ME	Houlton	7/26	Platform Meeting
MA	Worcester	7/22	Obama Listens to America Workshop II	ME	Portland	7/15	So, What Is Important?
MA	Worcester	7/26	Worcester Platform Meeting	ME	Portland	7/30	Gun Violence Prevention Platform
MD	Annapolis	7/24	Annapolis Platform meeting 7/24	ME	Searsport	7/26	Waldo County Platform Meeting
MD	Arnold	7/23	Listening to America: the Democratic Platform for Change	ME	Sidney	7/27	Kennebec County "Listening to the Grassroots"
MD	Baltimore	7/21	Platform Meeting	ME	South Berwick	7/20	GrassrootsDemocracyPlatformMeeting
MD	Baltimore	7/23	Platform Meeting on Environmental Protection and Social Justice and Arts	ME	South Thomaston	7/19	Healthcare Reform
MD	Baltimore	7/24	Platform Meeting: At-Risk and Homeless Youth	ME	Thomaston	7/24	Democratic Platform Meeting
				ME	Vinalhaven	7/26	For Islanders
				MI	Ann Arbor	7/24	Ann Arbor Dem Party Precinct 5-4 for Obama
				MI	Ann Arbor	7/25	Education Policy Platform Vote

MI	Ann Arbor	7/26	Make Your Voice Heard: Decide the Democratic Platform for National Issues	MI	Suttons Bay	7/17	Suttons Bay Input to Democratic Platform
MI	Auburn Hills	7/25	Platform Meeting - Education and Environment	MI	West Olive	7/24	Karel's Platform Meeting
MI	Bloomfield Hills	7/19	A Conversation with America	MI	Ypsilanti	7/20	Yes We Can Reform Education
MI	Bridgman	7/26	Platform Town Hall	MI	Ypsilanti	7/21	Area Platform Meeting
MI	Burton	7/26	Burton for Change House Party	MI	Ypsilanti	7/21	Ypsi/Ann Arbor Platform Meeting!
MI	Canton	7/24	Listening to America	MN	Burnsville	7/24	Listening Party?
MI	Canton	7/24	Listening to America	MN	Ely	7/18	Ely Decides!
MI	Chelsea	7/23	Platform Meeting for western Washtenaw County	MN	Faribault	7/27	Your Stake in a Stronger America
MI	Chelsea	7/23	Platform Meeting: Citizens of Western Washtenaw County	MN	Frontenac	7/30	Obama Platform Meeting
MI	Chelsea	3/25	"Urban and Rural America are part of one fabric"	MN	Grand Marais	7/20	Share Your Input for the Democratic Platform
MI	Clarkston	7/23	What's Important to Us as Americans and Michiganders?	MN	Maple Grove	7/23	Maple Grove Platform Meeting
MI	Dearborn	7/23	Standing together on the issues that matter	MN	Maple Plain	7/24	West Lake Progressives
MI	Dearborn	7/24	Platform Meeting	MN	Minneapolis	7/15	Issues Discussion
MI	Dearborn	7/24	Armenians For Obama	MN	Minneapolis	7/19	Brooklyn Park Platform Meeting
MI	Detroit	7/25	Detroit/Urban Platform Meeting	MN	Minneapolis	7/24	Sharing our Voices on the Democratic Platform
MI	Detroit	7/26	Platform Meeting	MN	Minneapolis	7/26	St. Louis Park Precincts Platform Meeting
MI	East Lansing	7/27	Send Obama Democratic Platform Ideas	MN	Minneapolis	7/27	Platform meeting
MI	Farmington Hills	7/19	Metro Detroit Students Platform Meeting	MN	Northfield	7/19	Platform meeting
MI	Flat Rock	7/19	Downriver Democratic Platform Discussion	MN	Plymouth	7/26	Platform for change
MI	Flint	7/21	Listening To America	MN	Rochester	7/26	Rochester Area Platform Meeting
MI	Grand Ledge	7/24	Unite for Change Platform and Organizing Meeting	MN	Saint Paul	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting
MI	Grand Rapids	7/20	Making a difference	MN	Saint Paul	7/28	Let's talk about ending the war and bringing peace
MI	Grand Rapids	7/26	Help is on the way	MN	Saint Paul	7/28	MN PFCD meeting
MI	Ironwood	7/26	Gogebic Dems Platform Meeting	MN	Shoreview	7/27	Let your voice be heard!
MI	Kalamazoo	7/31	Platform Meeting	MN	St. Louis Park	7/24	St. Louis Park Platform Meeting
MI	Livonia	7/24	MSU Black Alumni for Change	MN	Warroad	7/21	Frank Marshall Davis Roundtable for Change
MI	Ludington	7/29	Let Your Voice Be Heard	MN	Woodbury	7/17	Create a Democratic Platform
MI	Ludington	7/29	Ludington Area Platform Meeting	MN	Woodbury	7/27	Platform Meeting
MI	Mackinac Island	7/22	Education for the Future	MO	Alton	7/21	Platform Meeting
MI	Mason	7/23	Platform Meeting	MO	Bourbon	7/26	Plank by Plank – Building a Platform for the Obama Presidency
MI	Midland	7/16	Democracy in Action	MO	Cameron	7/24	Building a platform that we can stand on!
MI	Milford	7/22	Platform Meeting	MO	Chesterfield	7/20	Speaking up for America
MI	Mount Pleasant	7/19	Platform Discussion Meeting	MO	Columbia	7/26	Let the Midwest Be Heard!
MI	Plymouth	7/20	Faith and Politics	MO	Columbia	7/27	A Chance to be Heard
MI	Rochester	7/20	Letting Our Voice Be Heard	MO	Fulton	7/22	Callaway county Democratic Platform meeting
MI	Royal Oak	7/19	Infinite Possibility Participatory Self Government	MO	Howardville	7/25	What Matters Most
MI	Sault Sainte Marie	7/16	Peacenik treehuggers for Obama	MO	Independence	7/26	Prioritization of Campaign Issues
MI	Sault Sainte Marie	7/23	Help decide the DNC platform meeting	MO	Joplin	7/24	Plan for change
MI	Shelby Township	7/27	Unite for Change Picnic	MO	Kansas City	7/20	Creating Our Future
MI	Southgate	7/20	Southgate, MI Platform Meeting	MO	Kansas City	7/20	Clay County Show Me Change
				MO	Kansas City	7/20	KC platform for change
				MO	Kansas City	7/21	House Meeting
				MO	Kansas City	7/23	Plank construction in summer school
				MO	Kansas City	7/24	Democratic Evolution
				MO	Kansas City	7/26	Unite for Change (Platform Meeting)
				MO	Kansas City	8/26	Unite for Change (Platform Meeting)
				MO	Kirkwood	7/15	Kirkwood Listening to America

MO	Maryland Heights	7/23	Platform Discussion	NC	Raleigh	7/19	Listening to America
MO	Owensville	7/20	Platform meeting	NC	Raleigh	7/26	Raleigh's Platform for Change in America Meeting
MO	Perryville	7/23	Perry County Platform Meeting	NC	Raleigh	7/27	Oakwood for Obama
MO	Raymore	7/25	You Can Make a Difference	NC	Salisbury	7/22	Listening to America
MO	Saint Louis	7/24	Our Country, Our Party, Our Platform	NC	Sanford	7/28	Lee County Obama Platform Discussion
MO	Saint Louis	7/25	Barack Obama is asking to hear from us	NC	Southport	7/26	Listening to America
MO	Saint Louis	7/26	Girlfriends Platform Meeting	NC	Swannanoa	7/27	Progressive Democrats of Western North Carolina
MO	Saint Louis	7/26	Seniors & Disabled Talk about Health Care	NC	Wilmington	7/26	Listening to America
MO	Saint Louis	7/26	Take Back Our Party!	NC	Wilmington	7/27	Listening to America
MO	Saint Louis	7/27	Building the Planks of Change We Can Believe In	NC	Wilson	7/22	Wilson Labor Council Platform Meeting
MO	Slater	7/25	Saline County Platform Meeting	ND	Fargo	7/24	Platform for Change Meeting
MS	Columbus	8/2	Speak Out	ND	Grenora	7/25	Campaign For Change
MS	Hattiesburg	7/19	Barack opens Platform to us all!	ND	Langdon	7/25	Langdon Platform Party
MS	Jackson	7/25	Praying for Godly Leadership	ND	Minot	7/27	Shaping America
MS	Jackson	7/26	Democratic Platform for Change and Voter Registration Drive	ND	Wilton	7/28	Platform Meeting at Wilton Rural Ambulance Building
MS	Ocean Springs	7/19	Seeking a change in our world	NE	Lincoln	7/26	Your Ideas
MT	Great Falls	7/24	Listening to America Platform Meeting	NE	Lincoln	7/26	Lincoln for Obama Listening to America Event!!!
MT	Helena	7/20	Platform ideas	NE	Lincoln	7/27	Women's Issues - Platform Meeting for Change!
MT	Helena	7/27	Reverence for Life Platform Meeting	NE	Omaha	7/14	Caffeine Dreams Democratic Platform Discussion
MT	Missoula	7/20	Missoula Platform Meeting	NE	Omaha	7/17	Listening to Omaha
MT	Missoula	7/27	Democratic Party Platform Meeting	NE	Omaha	7/24	Obama Platform Priorities of Omahans
MT	Polson	7/27	Polson Democrats Speaking Out	NE	Omaha	7/26	Obama Platform Priorities for Omahans #2
NC	Asheville	7/24	Listening to WNC: The Economy	NE	Omaha	7/27	Listening to Omaha
NC	Asheville	7/26	DemValuesGroup Platform Input	NE	Omaha	7/27	Coffee with the Candidates
NC	Belmont	7/20	Listening to America Event	NH	Concord	7/24	Health Care Platform Meeting
NC	Boone	7/27	HCBO - High Country for Barack Obama - Platform Meeting	NH	Grantham	7/19	A Platform to Stand On
NC	Burnsville	7/24	Burnsville for Barack	NH	Hanover	7/17	Democratic Platform--Meeting for Change
NC	Carrboro	7/25	Listening to America	NH	Keene	7/24	Your Democratic Platform
NC	Cary	7/26	Upbeat Platform Meeting near the Cary YMCA	NH	Lebanon	7/19	Shaw Street Block Party BBQ - Chili Cook-off and Platform Meeting!
NC	Cary	7/27	Part of the Platform Party	NH	Littleton	7/20	Pizza, Platform and Planning
NC	Chapel Hill	7/26	Listening to America: Orange County Platform Meeting	NH	Manchester	7/23	Health Care Platform Meeting
NC	Charlotte	7/20	Listening to America: the Democratic Platform for Change	NH	Marlborough	7/20	Create Change
NC	Charlotte	7/25	Listening to our Neighbors	NH	Milford	7/26	Listening to America: The Souhegan Valley
NC	Charlotte	7/27	Make Your Voice Heard!	NH	Nashua	7/26	Nashua House Party/Platform Meeting
NC	Charlotte	8/15	To all of you and those of us	NH	Peterborough	7/19	Victory 2008! (Platform Meeting)
NC	Durham	7/27	Environmental and Energy Policy	NH	Portsmouth	7/25	Portsmouth NH Platform meeting
NC	Fayetteville	7/26	Positive Change 08	NH	Stratham	7/24	Discussion & Dessert
NC	Fuquay Varina	7/20	Changes that America Needs	NH	Stratham	7/24	Let your voice be heard: Discussion & Dessert
NC	Goldsboro	7/26	Listening to America: YOUR Democratic Platform	NH	Tilton	7/21	Make your voice heard
NC	Goldsboro	7/28	Communities Helping Form the Democratic Platform	NH	Union	7/16	Listening in Union
NC	Greensboro	7/27	Anti-War Pro-Green Progressives Want Their Voices Heard!	NH	Westmoreland	7/24	2nd Westmoreland Meeting
NC	Huntersville	7/24	Let's Create A Platform For A United Tomorrow	NJ	Audubon	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting - Got Hope?
NC	Kinston	7/25	Round Table Discussion of Potential Party Platform Issues	NJ	Avalon	7/24	7-MBDC Democratic Platform Build
NC	Lexington	7/26	We Set the Stage	NJ	Barneget	7/26	Platform Meeting
NC	Marshall	7/22	Listen to the Mountains	NJ	Bayonne	7/27	America, please listen! Bayonne Speaks
NC	Pinehurst	7/25	Issues affecting our community	NJ	Bordentown	7/24	Health Care: Prevention
NC	Pittsboro	7/27	Platform Work - Energy Policy	NJ	Bradley Beach	7/27	Monmouth County for Obama

NJ	Cape May	7/10	Cape May County Federation of Democratic Women Platform Meeting	NM	Los Alamos	7/20	Setting Policy on the National Labs
				NM	Los Alamos	7/20	Setting Policy on DOE & Labs
NJ	Chatham	7/27	Chatham/Madison/Summit - Platform Meeting	NM	Los Alamos	7/23	National Platform Discussion
NJ	Chester	7/24	Take Back Your Government	NM	Placitas	7/22	Placitas Democratic Platform meeting
NJ	Denville	7/15	Healthcare issue	NM	Portales	7/15	Change for America
NJ	East Orange	7/25	Share your Voice!	NM	Questa	7/27	Taos County Platform Meeting
NJ	Edison	7/24	Health Care: Prevention	NM	Santa Fe	7/19	GBLTQ Happy Hour/Platform Meeting
NJ	Flemington	7/21	Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport	NM	Santa Fe	7/19	Brainstorming ideas for the Democratic Party Platform 2008
NJ	Flemington	7/25	Health Care: Prevention	NM	Santa Fe	7/23	Discussion for the Democratic Platform
NJ	Glen Rock	7/20	Educating the Jewish community on Obama's real platform on Israel, not disinformation	NM	Santa Fe	7/24	Turquoise Trail Platform Meeting
				NM	Santa Fe	7/24	Key issues of concern in creating a Democratic platform.
NJ	Green Brook	7/22	Ordinary People for Obama: Make Your Voice Heard!	NM	Santa Fe	7/25	Environment and Energy Platform Meeting
NJ	Hackettstown	7/18	Platform for Change meeting	NM	Tijeras	7/24	East Mountain Policy Opinions
NJ	Haddonfield	7/19	Haddonfield Platform Experiment	NV	Henderson	7/19	Henderson for Obama Platform and Persuasion Call Meeting
NJ	Hamilton	7/12	Unite for Change	NV	Las Vegas	7/19	Building A Platform For The People & By The People
NJ	Lawrenceville	7/27	Citizens' input for Democratic Party Platform	NV	Las Vegas	7/20	Democratic Platform Meeting
NJ	Lawrenceville	7/30	Mercer County for Obama Platform Hearing	NV	Las Vegas	7/20	Armenians for Obama
NJ	Loveladies	7/16	Long Beach Island Democratic Club Platform Meeting	NV	Las Vegas	7/25	Assembly District 5 Platform Creation
NJ	Madison	7/24	Platform meeting	NV	Las Vegas	7/26	African Americans Focused Platform Meeting
NJ	Milltown	7/27	Election of Barack Obama	NV	Las Vegas	7/27	AD 37(& Friends) Platform Meeting
NJ	Newton	8/8	Platform & Organizational Meeting	NV	Reno	7/26	Listening in the Park
NJ	North Plainfield	7/19	North Plainfield For Obama	NV	Tonopah	7/15	Democratic Platform Meeting
				NV	Yerington	7/25	South Lyon Democrats Platform for Change
NJ	Paterson	7/21	Artists4-Obama	NY	Albany	7/23	Platform for Change
NJ	Princeton	7/23	Help Create Obama Platform	NY	Barrytown	8/1	Barrytown platform meeting
NJ	Ringwood	7/25	Where We Stand	NY	Batavia	7/23	Listening to America Community Meeting
NJ	Somerset	7/22	Somerset County Platform Advisory Caucus	NY	Beacon	7/18	Discuss Issues
NJ	South Orange	7/20	Platform for Change--Essex County	NY	Beacon	7/25	Listening to America: Platform for Change and Organizational Meeting
NJ	Trenton	7/26	2008 Election Issues				
NJ	Warren	7/16	Platform Meeting	NY	Bolton Landing	7/16	Our Priorities
NJ	West Orange	7/19	Help Change our direction [Endless war]				
NJ	Westfield	7/27	Making College Affordable	NY	Bolton Landing	7/16	What Are our priorities?
NJ	Willingboro	7/18	Burlington County for Obama - NJ for Obama				
NJ	Willingboro	7/25	NJ for Obama Burlington County	NY	Bronx	7/21	North Bronx Platform Meeting
NJ	Wyckoff	7/18	Wine, Cheese & Change!	NY	Bronx	7/22	Change we can believe in -- what matters most to us
NM	Albuquerque	7/20	An Education Platform to Stand On	NY	Bronx	7/28	Bronx LGBT -Oriented Our Platform Meeting
NM	Albuquerque	7/20	Amy Romero Platform Party	NY	Brooklyn	7/15	Caribbean Americans For Obama
NM	Albuquerque	7/22	Democratic Platform Input	NY	Brooklyn	7/17	Educators for Obama
NM	Albuquerque	7/23	Grassroots Platform Discussion	NY	Brooklyn	7/17	Platform for Change with Congressional Candidates
NM	Albuquerque	7/25	DPNM National Democratic Platform Meeting	NY	Brooklyn	7/18	Brooklyn park beautify for change
NM	Albuquerque	7/26	Law & Science For the Future	NY	Brooklyn	7/19	"We the People!"
NM	Albuquerque	7/26	Barack Obama Platform meeting	NY	Brooklyn	7/20	Brooklyn for Obama Platform Meeting
NM	Albuquerque	7/26	Taylor Ranch Platform Meeting	NY	Brooklyn	7/20	I'm Listening and Watching, How About You?
NM	Albuquerque	7/26	Let's bring it together	NY	Brooklyn	7/20	Kensington for Obama
NM	Belen	7/19	Valencia County for Barack Obama	NY	Brooklyn	7/21	Setting our party's priorities
NM	DATIL	7/19	Dennis's Platform Meeting	NY	Brooklyn	7/22	The Power to Change
NM	Edgewood	7/22	Let's hear you Voice!	NY	Brooklyn	7/23	Educators for Obama
NM	Gallup	7/20	Armenians for Obama	NY	Brooklyn	7/24	Ideas in Greenpoint



NY	Brooklyn	7/24	From the Left (Platform Meeting)	NY	Montebello	7/20	Platform Cocktail Party
NY	Brooklyn	7/26	Help shape the campaign platform	NY	Mount Vernon	7/26	Mount Vernon Platform for Change!
NY	Brooklyn	7/29	Democratic Party Platform Hearings in Brooklyn, NY	NY	New Windsor	7/26	Platform and Organizational Meeting
NY	Brooklyn	7/29	Brooklyn LBGT - Oriented Our Platform Meeting	NY	New Windsor	7/27	Listening to America
NY	Brooklyn	7/30	Tini wine bar - toast for change	NY	New York	7/15	Its time for your concern to be head
NY	Brooklyn	9/1	Recognize the Need for Change	NY	New York	7/17	Armenians for Obama
NY	Buffalo	7/20	Obama Inner City Blues III	NY	New York	7/17	Tribeca For Change 2008
NY	Buffalo	7/24	Buffalo Platform and Volunteer Meeting	NY	New York	7/18	Platform for Seniors
NY	Buffalo	7/27	Obama Inner City Blues IV (Platform Meeting)	NY	New York	7/19	East Harlemites Unite For Change Meeting
NY	Canton	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/19	East Village / West Village for Obama Platform Discussion
NY	Central Islip	7/19	Formulating Platform Agenda	NY	New York	7/19	Its time for your concern to be heard
NY	Chautauqua	7/18	Wilder's Chautauqua	NY	New York	7/22	Restore Sanity to American Policy
NY	Chautauqua	7/27	Chautauqua Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/22	Meeting for Progress: Make Your Voice Heard on the '08 Democratic Party Platform
NY	Chester	7/24	A Platform for our Times				
NY	Cortland	7/26	Cortland's Wisdom Counts	NY	New York	7/23	Democratic National Committee and Obama for America Platform Meetings in Manhattan
NY	Croton-on-Hudson	7/23	Toward reducing abortions by common-ground means	NY	New York	7/23	Every Voice Counts!
NY	Cutchogue	7/21	Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/23	NYC Democratic Platform Meeting
NY	Dover Plains	7/20	Democratic Platform for Change	NY	New York	7/23	West Village LGBT - Oriented Our Platform Meeting
NY	East Hampton	7/26	Lawn Party	NY	New York	7/24	Convent Avenue Baptist Church (Community service - the Obama Platform)
NY	East Setauket	7/23	Setauket/Stony Brook Platform Meeting				
NY	Flushing	7/15	Toward a sane energy policy	NY	New York	7/24	AQTA for Obama
NY	Garrison	7/24	It's Time to Start Working on Obama'08	NY	New York	7/25	Entrepreneurs for Obama
NY	Gouverneur	7/15	Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/25	Mental Health Check - Ups for Youth
NY	Greenlawn	7/27	Splash for Democracy	NY	New York	7/26	Harlem4Obama Platform Meeting
NY	Hamilton	7/30	Madison County NY Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/26	New York Latinos for Obama Platform and Potluck Meeting
NY	Hamilton	7/30	Madison County Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/27	Listening to America - Upper West side
NY	Hastings on Hudson	7/22	2008 Democratic Platform	NY	New York	7/27	Listening to Washington Heights
				NY	New York	7/27	Platform for Change - Riverside Park
NY	Hastings on Hudson	7/27	Hastings on Hudson Democratic Committee Obama Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/27	Harlem LGBT - Oriented Our Platform Meeting
				NY	New York	7/27	The Movement
NY	Hempstead	7/27	Healthcare Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/27	Platform Meeting – Nicole Poindexter
NY	Highland	7/26	New Paltz & Vicinity for Obama Platform Meeting	NY	New York	7/29	Open Platform Meeting - Voting Rights, Human Rights, Civil Justice
NY	Hunter	7/29	Citizens voice for change	NY	New York	7/30	Open Platform Meeting - Regulatory Affairs, Separation of Powers & Rule of Law
NY	Huntington Bay	7/24	Platform Meeting - Huntington				
				NY	New York	10/1	Climate Equity Discussion, hosted by Oxfam Action Co rps NYC
NY	Ithaca	7/27	Obama for America Platform Meeting	NY	Philmont	7/20	Philmont's Own Platform Meeting
NY	Jackson Heights	7/29	Queens, NY LBGT -Oriented Our Platform Meeting	NY	Pittsford	7/22	Rochester Educators for Obama platform meeting
				NY	Pittsford	7/23	Get Hope and Participate
NY	Jamaica	7/22	Listening to Queens - the Democratic Platform for Change	NY	Pittsford	7/24	Health care platform
NY	Keene Valley	7/26	Keene, New York Platform Meeting	NY	Plattsburgh	8/2	North Country for Obama Plat form Discussion
NY	Kismet	7/26	Platform Meeting - Kismet FI New York	NY	Port Jefferson	7/23	Platform Meeting in Port Jefferson
NY	Larchmont	7/20	Democratic Platform Meeting	NY	Poughkeepsie	7/17	Poughkeepsie Platform and Organizational Meeting
NY	Liberty	7/29	Governing - once elected	NY	Pound Ridge	7/26	District 4 Talks
NY	Long Beach	7/27	One Nation Under God	NY	Red Hook	7/16	Red Hook Hudson Valley Platform Conference
NY	Long Island City	7/25	LIC for Obama -Democratic Platform Proposal Meeting	NY	Richmond Hill	7/27	Make Real Change Happen
				NY	Rochester	7/23	Mt Hope Diner Meeting
NY	Miller Place	7/24	A Platform for Change	NY	Rochester	7/25	Platform Meeting around the options for the poor

NY	Rochester	7/25	Building the platform	OH	Georgetown	7/29	Platform Meeting
NY	Rochester	7/26	Rochester Faith Community for Obama Platform Issues Start -Up Meeting	OH	Hilliard	7/21	Hilliard Platfrm Meeting
				OH	Kent	7/17	Platform discussion
NY	Rochester	7/26	Share Your Ideas	OH	Kent	7/20	Progressive Democrats of America Platform Drafting Meeting
NY	Rochester	7/26	Listening to America: Irondequoit	OH	Kettering	7/21	Obama Organizing & Platform House Party
NY	Rosendale	7/19	Platform for Change at Rosendale Campaign HQ	OH	Lancaster	7/27	Fairfield County and Surrounding Area Platform Meeting
NY	Sag Harbor	7/21	Platform Meeting	OH	Newark	7/21	Licking County, OH - 2008 Democratic Platform Meeting
NY	Saratoga Springs	7/22	Platform Meeting - ObamaSarartoga	OH	Oregon	7/19	Platform/Community Event
				OH	Oxford	7/26	Listening to Oxford
NY	Scarsdale	7/25	Democratic Party Platform Meeting	OH	South Euclid	7/21	South Euclid Democratic Platform Event
NY	Schenectady	7/27	Platform Meeting	OH	University Heights	7/26	Grassroots Platform Meet ing
NY	Sleepy Hollow	7/24	Sleepy Hollow Democrats for Obama	OK	Broken Arrow	7/26	Listening to America Platform Meeting
NY	Staten Island	7/24	Platform Meeting/Pot luck	OK	Edmond	7/20	Decide the issues for the platform
NY	Staten Island	7/24	Staten Island Platform for Change with Congressional Candidates	OK	Norman	7/21	Heartland Platform Conference
NY	Stony Brook	7/23	Issues in Early Childhood	OK	Oklahoma City	7/25	Listening to Oklahoma
NY	Syracuse	7/24	Democratic Party Platform Meeting	OK	Oklahoma City	7/26	Obama "Platform For Change" Meeting
NY	Syracuse	7/24	Syracuse Platform Meeting	OK	Oklahoma City	7/26	Oklahoma Youth for Change
NY	Tarrytown	7/21	Advise the Democratic Party on Platform Issues	OK	Stillwater	7/26	Stillwater Speaks
NY	Troy	7/24	Listening to America in Rensselaer County	OK	Tulsa	7/19	Monthly Whiteside Park Meeting
NY	Trumansburg	7/22	Shape the Democratic Party's Agenda	OK	Tulsa	7/26	Concerns of Change Seekers
NY	Utica	7/26	Support Obama	OR	Beavercreek	7/27	Don't Miss the Boat-- On Board with Barack
NY	Wyandanch	7/26	Wyandanch Platform for Change & Get Involved Forum	OR	Bend	7/23	Deschutes Precinct 43
NY	Wyandanch	7/26	Wyandanch Platform Meeting for Change	OR	Corvallis	7/24	BC Dems Platform Meeting
NY	Yaphank	7/25	Platform Party	OR	Corvallis	7/24	Platform meeting
OH	Akron	7/23	Help Shape the 2008 Democratic Platform	OR	Enterprise	7/27	Soil policy
OH	Akron	7/26	Neighbor Hood Platform Meeting	OR	Eugene	7/22	Unite for Change Platform Meeting
OH	Aurora	7/20	Issues, coffee and donuts	OR	Eugene	7/26	Listening to the World
OH	Brecksville	7/27	A New Horizon	OR	Eugene	7/26	DNC Platform House Party
OH	Brooklyn	7/25	Pro-Life Democrats	OR	Eugene	7/26	Platform Meeting Clark House
OH	Canton	7/24	Stark County's Voice	OR	Eugene	7/27	Platform for Change Listening Meeting
OH	Centerville	7/27	Centerville and Miami Valley for Obama	OR	Hood River	7/29	Voices of Hood River, or Democrats
OH	Cincinnati	7/13	Hyde Park/Mount Lookout Platform Meeting	OR	La Grande	7/26	Democratic Party Platform Meeting/Union County
OH	Cincinnati	7/20	Listening To America	OR	Lake Oswego	7/26	Make your voice heard in Lake Oswego
OH	Cincinnati	7/26	The Allen's Westside Platform Party	OR	Medford	7/18	Platform Meeting/School Supply Fundraiser
OH	Cleveland	7/19	Obama Platform Issues	OR	Milton Freewater	7/22	Milton-Freewater Democratic Platform for Change Meeting
OH	Cleveland	7/24	Health Care Platform Meeting				
OH	Cleveland	7/24	Help Change America!				
OH	Columbus	7/19	Mothers & Sisters Prayer Circle for The Obamas				
OH	Columbus	7/19	Prolife Democrats discuss the platform				
OH	Columbus	7/20	Listening to America	OR	Molalla	7/15	Energy Platform Meeting
OH	Columbus	7/22	An education platform based on rigorous research	OR	Myrtle Point	7/18	Rural Retirees for Obama
OH	Columbus	7/23	Health Care Platform Meeting	OR	Oregon City	7/19	Our Country, Our Platform
OH	Columbus	7/23	Clitonville Platform Meeting	OR	Pendleton	7/25	Umatilla County Democrats Pendleton Meeting
OH	Columbus	7/25	Communication Workers of America Platform Roundtable	OR	Portland	7/16	Winnable platform?
OH	Columbus	7/26	Pizza, Politics and the Grassroots	OR	Portland	7/19	Listening to America House Party
OH	Columbus	7/28	Platform Meeting	OR	Portland	7/20	Shaping Our Democratic Agenda
OH	Euclid	7/25	Platform meeting	OR	Portland	7/20	Armenians for Obama
OH	Findlay	7/23	Hancock County Democrats Platform Meeting	OR	Portland	7/20	Mt. Tabor Democrats 2008

OR	Portland	7/20	East Portland Platform Meeting	PA	Lewisburg	7/15	Obama Platform meeting
OR	Portland	7/20	Build the platform for change	PA	McMurray	7/26	Democratic Party's Presidential Platform Meeting
OR	Portland	7/21	Stephanie W Sussman	PA	Mount Joy	7/21	Listening To America in the Garden
OR	Portland	7/25	Portlanders on Global Warming & Energy	PA	Nazareth	7/16	Our Priorities
OR	Portland	7/27	Our Platform	PA	Oley	7/26	Berks County Speaks to the DNC
OR	Roseburg	7/16	Rural Oregon Platform Issues	PA	Philadelphia	7/15	Let's Meet at the Fish
OR	Salem	7/28	Your Ideas for the DNC Platform	PA	Philadelphia	7/19	Directing the Democratic Party: Discussion with NW Philly's Obama Organizing Fellows
OR	Salem	7/28	Envisioning Change in Salem, Oregon, America and the World				
OR	Springfield	7/23	A Platform for Change	PA	Philadelphia	7/19	Mt. Airy Community for Obama
OR	Tigard	7/16	We the People speak	PA	Philadelphia	7/19	Foreign Policy
OR	Tigard	7/21	National Platform for Change Open Forum	PA	Philadelphia	7/20	Southwest Philadelphia Platform Meeting!
OR	Tigard	7/23	TigardObamanators Team Organizing Meeting	PA	Philadelphia	7/21	Having our say in crafting the Democratic Platform
OR	Tualatin	7/25	Health Care Not Sick Care	PA	Philadelphia	7/22	Washington Square West Neighborhood Gathering
OR	West Linn	7/21	Roberta Schwarz	PA	Philadelphia	7/23	Philly Young Adults 4 Obama Inaugural Meeting
PA	Bethlehem	7/20	Shaping the future of healthcare	PA	Philadelphia	7/24	Armenians for Obama
PA	Bethlehem	7/22	Listening To America	PA	Philadelphia	7/24	Philadelphia Platform Meeting directed by the National Obama Campaign
PA	Bloomsburg	7/23	A Platform for Change - A Democratic Unity Event				
PA	Bloomsburg	7/26	The platform: what would you suggest	PA	Philadelphia	7/26	Town Hall Meeting
PA	Bryn Mawr	7/22	Listening to America	PA	Philadelphia	7/26	NE Community Constitution Platform
PA	Centre Hall	7/17	Contribute to Dem Platform	PA	Philadelphia	7/26	Yes We Can, Obama's The Man!
PA	Chester Springs	7/16	Help Shape the Democratic Party's Platform for Change	PA	Philadelphia	7/27	Healthcare Platform Discussion
PA	Chester Springs	7/23	Help Shape the Democratic Party's Platform for Change	PA	Philadelphia	7/30	Presidential Issues Forum and Voter Registration
PA	Chester Springs	7/30	Help Shape the Democratic Party's Platform for Change	PA	Pittsburgh	7/19	Barack Obama Platform Meeting
PA	Chester Springs	8/6	Help Shape the Democratic Party Platform for Change	PA	Pittsburgh	7/24	Democratic Party for Change
PA	Clarion	7/14	Clarion/Venango County Democratic Platform Meeting	PA	Pittsburgh	7/25	East End Platform Party
PA	Downingtown	7/19	Chesco Zone 7 Dems - Leading the Way to Victory '08 !	PA	Red Lion	7/26	Listening to America Meeting
PA	Doylestown	7/21	Recovery from Addiction Issues	PA	Washington	7/27	Washington County For Obama '08 Democratic Platform Meeting
PA	East Stroudsburg	7/27	Eburg Obama '08 Platform Meeting	PA	Whitehall	7/25	Listening to America Event
PA	Easton	7/19	Williams Twsp. Democratic Platform Meeting	PA	Willow Street	7/28	Obama Platform in Willow Street
PA	Erie	7/25	Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for CHANGE	PA	Wycombe	7/17	Women's Platform Ideas
PA	Fayetteville	7/19	Creating a National Strategy for Sustainability	PR	San Juan	8/6	Puerto Rico for Change
PA	Gettysburg	7/27	Platform meeting	RI	Block Island	7/22	Block Island Platform Party
PA	Green Lane	7/27	Policy Input to the Dem National Platform	RI	Bristol	7/15	Democratic Platform
PA	Harrisburg	7/27	Listening To America - Voices From The Hill	RI	Bristol	7/22	Bristol for Obama
PA	Hatfield	7/25	Help decide the Democratic Platform	RI	Bristol	7/25	Democratic Platform Meeting
PA	Havertown	7/27	Ridgeway Democrats for Change!	RI	Bristol	7/25	Have a Say in the Obama Platform!
PA	Immaculata	7/23	Mental Health Initiative	RI	Lincoln	7/26	Democratic Platform Meeting in Lincoln, RI
PA	Jenkintown	7/24	Restore Our Constitution	RI	Middletown	7/17	Contributing to the democratic party platform
PA	Jenners	7/15	Platform meeting	RI	Providence	7/22	Political Deliberation in Action
PA	King of Prussia	7/24	Platform meeting	RI	Westerly	7/29	Westerly Platform Meeting
PA	Landenberg	7/25	Obama Platform Meeting	SC	Andrews	7/23	Georgetown Co. Dem Platform meeting
PA	Lebanon	7/15	Listening To Lebanon	SC	Columbia	7/19	Brewer-Bradford-Chenault Family Reunion
PA	Levittown	7/16	The Economy & the National Debt	SC	Columbia	7/22	Mental Health Care
				SC	Columbia	7/24	What Do We Need?
				SC	Columbia	7/26	South Carolina Democratic Party Listening to America Platform Meeting
				SC	Conway	7/21	Horry County Dems Planning for 2008 Platform
				SC	Conway	8/29	Straight Talk from Hometown America

SC	Elgin	7/17	Cue Team, Kershaw CTY, SC Volunteers	TX	Austin	7/18	Space Policy Platform Meeting
SC	Elgin	7/17	Platform and Invite all to Obama Cookout	TX	Austin	7/18	East Austin Speak-Out!
SC	Elgin	7/22	Cue Team, Kershaw CTY, SC Volunteers	TX	Austin	7/20	Armenians for Obama
SC	Florence	7/25	Civil Rights & Energy and Environment	TX	Austin	7/20	We can do it!
SC	Georgetown	7/24	Georgetown Co. Dem Platform meeting - Carver's Bay	TX	Austin	7/22	Dem Platform Planning Meeting
SC	Georgetown	7/25	Georgetown Co. Dem Platform meeting - Georgetown, SC	TX	Austin	7/23	Travis Pct .314 Platform Meeting
SC	Greenville	7/19	Let's have an influence	TX	Austin	7/26	Our Party
SC	Greenville	7/19	Preparation of platform	TX	Austin	8/6	West Lake Hills Platform Meeting
SC	Irmo	8/17	Can we do it? Yes we Can!	TX	Beaumont	7/19	Listening in SE Texas
SC	Mc Clellanville	7/26	Planning the Democratic Platform	TX	Bedford	7/21	Tarrant County Speaks
SC	Pageland	7/18	Pageland/Chesterfield County South Carolina Meeting	TX	Boerne	7/26	Pie and Platform
SC	Pawleys Island	7/26	Georgetown Co. Dem Platform meeting - Waccamaw Neck	TX	Cedar Hill	7/26	Finally, A Real Government For The People
SC	Simpsonville	7/19	SC, Yes we can!!	TX	Cleburne	7/12	Johnson County Democrats Organize
SC	York	7/26	Listen to York County, SC	TX	Cleveland	7/21	Rural Counties Count
SD	Brookings	7/26	Listening to South Dakota	TX	Corpus Christi	7/20	Listen to America
TN	Brentwood	7/19	Platform Meeting in Brentwood	TX	Corpus Christi	7/25	Platform Meeting for Change
TN	Cane Ridge	7/20	Platform for Change	TX	Dallas	7/19	Democratic Platform Meeting - Precinct 1141
TN	Chattanooga	7/26	Chattanooga Platform Meeting	TX	Dallas	7/20	Lake Highlanders Making a Change
TN	Clarksville	7/24	Democratic Party Platform Meeting	TX	Dallas	7/23	County Convention Delegate Reunion –Continue Making History!
TN	Cookeville	7/15	Cookeville Platform Meeting	TX	Dallas	7/26	Democracy in action, finally!
TN	Cookeville	7/23	Platform Meeting for Hope!	TX	Dallas	7/27	Obama Dallas (Youth) Platform Meeting
TN	Dickson	7/25	Dickson County Platform Meeting	TX	Dallas	7/31	Obama's Platform Round Table
TN	Johnson City	7/27	Tri-Cities Platform for Change Meeting	TX	Denton	7/19	Where do we go and how do we get there?
TN	Knoxville	7/20	Democratic Party Platform Meeting	TX	El Paso	7/27	Democratic Party Platform Meeting
TN	Madison	7/19	The Girls' Planks	TX	Fort Worth	7/12	O Yes we can
TN	Mc Minnville	7/19	Condition America	TX	Fort Worth	7/15	Exchange for Change
TN	Memphis	7/20	Midtown Memphis for Change	TX	Fort Worth	7/19	Workers for change
TN	Memphis	7/26	Homeland Security: Domestic Readiness	TX	Fort Worth	7/20	DFW Airport/Mid-Cities Speak Out -Plat Mtg
TN	Mohawk	7/11	Bring in the vote & campaign contribution	TX	Garland	7/18	We can change the world
TN	Murfreesboro	7/20	Murfreesboro for Obama Platform Meeting	TX	Georgetown	7/23	Sustainable Energy / Education
TN	Murfreesboro	7/22	Darrell's Boro Platform Meeting	TX	Grand Prairie	7/26	Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace- Grand Prairie
TN	Murfreesboro	7/22	Moms for Obama Platform Meeting	TX	Highland Village	7/26	Denton Democrat Club Breakfast
TN	Nashville	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting	TX	Houston	7/10	Houston for Obama Monthly Meetup and Platform Discussion
TN	Nashville	7/27	Democratic Platform - Time to Give Input!	TX	Houston	7/12	Platform - National Guardianship Reform Desperately Needed
TN	Summertown	7/24	Please listen to the people	TX	Houston	7/16	Change - The 2008 Obama Platform
TN	Tullahoma	7/22	Listening to America Platform Meeting	TX	Houston	7/16	Creating a Platform for the Future
TN	Tullahoma	7/22	Weekly/Platform Meeting of Tullahoma for Obama	TX	Houston	7/17	Obama Volunteer Headquarters Think Tank
TN	Tullahoma	7/23	Listening to America Platform Meeting	TX	Houston	7/19	Platform Meeting
TX	Alvin	7/24	Alvin Democrat/Obama for President Platform Meeting	TX	Houston	7/19	Montrose Area Platform Discussion
TX	Amarillo	7/16	Amarillo Input on the Platform	TX	Houston	7/19	2008 Democratic Platform Meeting
TX	Amarillo	7/24	Transformation	TX	Houston	7/20	Dave's Platform Meeting
TX	Arlington	7/17	SW Arlington Speaks	TX	Houston	7/20	Armenians for Obama
TX	Arlington	7/19	Platform Mt -Listening to America Home Mt	TX	Houston	7/20	Platform Creation Gathering
TX	Arlington	7/26	Platform House Meeting (rescheduled)	TX	Houston	7/20	Democratic Platform Planning Meeting
TX	Athens	7/22	Help mold the platform	TX	Houston	7/22	National Space Policy Platform
TX	Austin	7/16	Online Platform Discussion	TX	Houston	7/23	Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change
				TX	Houston	7/23	Harris County AFL-CIO Council Meeting

TX	Houston	7/26	Heights Discussion Group	VA	Alexandria	7/26	Education Platform Meeting
TX	Houston	7/26	SD 15 Platform for Change Meeting	VA	Annandale	7/27	Upholding the Establishment Clause
TX	Houston	7/27	Platform Meeting for Change	VA	Arlington	7/18	New Space Policy Platform Meeting
TX	Huntsville	7/26	Walker County Democratic Platform for Change	VA	Arlington	7/20	Obama Platform Meetings
TX	Katy	7/22	Katy / Fort Bend 2008 Platform meeting	VA	Arlington	7/26	Platform for Change Cafe
TX	Kilgore	7/30	Small Christian Group - Platform for Change	VA	Arlington	7/26	16th Street Forum Platform Meeting
TX	Kyle	7/19	Texas 4 Obama Platform Meeting	VA	Arlington	7/29	The Spirit of Sustainability
TX	Lago Vista	7/25	North Shore Democrats' Potluck & Platform Event	VA	Arlington	7/31	Virtual HIMSS members Platform Meeting
TX	Longview	7/25	Gregg County For Obama Meeting -- Platform for Change	VA	Ashburn	7/28	Education, Economy, and Faith
TX	Missouri City	7/26	Building a Platform for the People	VA	Charlottesville	7/21	Local Folk for Obama
TX	Nacogdoches	7/19	Community Platform Meeting	VA	Charlottesville	7/27	What do you want to happen?
TX	Plano	7/13	Platform Meeting	VA	Gordonsville	7/26	Barboursville for Obama Platform Meeting
TX	Plano	7/18	Ideas for Democratic Platform	VA	Hampton	7/25	Platform Strategy
TX	Plano	7/26	Democratic Platform Meeting	VA	Hampton	7/27	Hampton (grassroots) Platform Strategy Meeting
TX	Plano	7/26	Plano Platform	VA	Heathsville	7/24	Northumberland County Democratic Platform Meeting
TX	Richardson	7/25	Help Write the Democratic Platform	VA	Leesburg	7/19	Write Our Platform for Change
TX	Rockwall	8/16	Meeting to discuss Obama Platform	VA	Lorton	7/19	African Americans for Obama - Northern Virginia Platform Meeting
TX	San Angelo	7/26	SAFO Platform Meeting	VA	Lovettsville	7/20	Energy, the Environment, and Global Climate Change House Party
TX	San Antonio	7/21	South Texans for a New America	VA	Luray	7/27	The Voice of Page County
TX	San Antonio	7/26	Platform Meeting	VA	Manassas	7/25	Shape the Democratic Platform
TX	San Antonio	7/27	Lets Get San Antonio into the political process!	VA	Mc Lean	7/12	NOVA Youth Meeting on Economics for Obama
TX	Seguin	7/23	Ecologically Sound, Sustainable/Resilient Local Livelihoods	VA	Mc Lean	7/26	Obama Bunch Brunch
TX	Seguin	7/24	Democrat Platform Planning Meeting: Goals for America	VA	Mendota	7/10	Make Mendota Count
TX	Southlake	7/19	We the People Can Change America	VA	Oakton	7/19	Pro-Life Democrats
TX	Spring	7/26	Your Small Business - The Heart of American Economy	VA	Palmyra	7/24	Fluvanna for Obama
TX	Sugar Land	7/15	Community Platform Meeting	VA	Richmond	7/24	Obama Issue Meeting
TX	Tyler	7/27	Azalea District Platform for Change	VA	Richmond	7/27	Follow-up from Unite for Change
TX	Waco	7/26	Listening: Waco Drives Democratic Platform	VA	Roanoke	7/15	Building the Planks
TX	Waskom	7/19	Rural America	VA	Roanoke	7/19	Building the Planks - a Follow Up Meeting
TX	Weatherford	7/24	What's important to you....	VA	Stafford	7/24	Platform Meeting and Strategy Meeting
TX	Wimberley	7/15	Goals For America	VA	Vienna	7/20	Foreign Policy Issues
TX	Wimberley	7/24	Dem Platform Meeting	VA	Vienna	7/26	Platform Party
UT	Ephraim	8/2	Obama Democrats Platform forum	VA	Virginia Beach	7/22	The Plight of the Elderly in America
UT	Logan	7/26	Platform Meeting in Cache County	VA	Virginia Beach	7/26	What's Important to the People of Hampton Roads
UT	Moab	7/26	Obama's Going Green	VA	Virginia Beach	7/26	Platform Meeting at Organic Food Depot
UT	Saint George	7/23	Issues We Care About	VI	Christiansted	7/26	Virgin Islands Platform for Change: Bringing in the Sunlight
UT	Saint George	7/23	Southern Utah: Listening to America	VT	Brattleboro	7/23	Your Platform Ideas - My garden
UT	Saint George	7/23	We Can Create Change	VT	Burlington	7/22	Help Build the Party Platform Foundation!
UT	Salt Lake City	7/12	1st meeting of discussing platform issues	VT	Middlebury	7/18	Community platform meeting
UT	Salt Lake City	7/19	2nd National Party Platform discussion meeting	VT	Middletown Springs	7/11	Gathering Thoughts for the Platform
UT	Salt Lake City	7/21	Healthcare Platform	VT	Montpelier	7/21	Central Vermont Platform Meeting
UT	Salt Lake City	7/26	Breakfast for Obama	VT	Stowe	7/26	National Platform Meeting with Rep. Peter Welch
UT	Sandy	7/22	Take the reins	VT	Stowe	7/30	Platform Meeting with Congressman Peter Welch
UT	South Weber	7/29	South Weber Democratic Party Platform Meeting	VT	Woodstock	7/17	Building a Platform for the Future
UT	Springdale	7/24	Science Recommendations	WA	Auburn	7/19	An America We Can Believe In
UT	Washington	7/25	Exchange of views				
VA	Abingdon	7/11	High Noon Abingdon Event				
VA	Alexandria	7/22	National Mental Health and Substance Use Position				

WA	Bainbridge Island	7/22	Create a Democratic Platform for Change!	WA	Tacoma	7/29	Platform meeting take II
WA	Bellevue	7/26	Crossroads Area Platform Meeting	WA	Union	7/20	Political Platform Party
WA	Bellingham	7/26	Future of Environment/Energy/Transportation	WA	University Place	7/22	Reclaiming our Government
WA	Bremerton	7/22	Platform Party	WA	Vancouver	7/23	Platform: Education and other issues...
WA	Carnation	7/24	Democratic Platform Meeting in Carnation	WA	Vancouver	7/24	The Couvocrats
WA	East Wenatchee	7/14	The Impossible Dream	WA	Vashon	7/19	Vashon/Maurey Platform Positive
WA	Entiat	7/27	Ideas for America -- Hungry for Change	WA	Vashon	7/27	Planks in the Platform - Obama in The White House
WA	Everett	7/19	Platform Meeting	WA	Walla Walla	7/26	Platform for Hope and Change
WA	Everett	7/20	Listen to America	WI	Ashland	7/22	Ashland Area Platform Meeting
WA	Fife	7/25	We the People	WI	Brookfield	7/22	Brookfield SE Platform Meeting
WA	Friday Harbor	7/27	Add your input to the DNC Platform	WI	Cedarburg	7/27	Cedarburg for Obama
WA	Friday Harbor	7/27	Platform discussion	WI	De Forest	7/25	House Party -Platform Meeting
WA	Graham	7/16	Our District Speaks	WI	Fond du Lac	7/28	Veteran's for Obama Platform Meeting
WA	Kenmore	7/22	Poly Pagan Platform Meeting	WI	Madison	7/16	Dem Platform Suggestions
WA	Kirkland	7/19	Shaping Political Future	WI	Madison	7/21	Be a voice for victims
WA	La Center	7/20	Platform Meeting in La Center	WI	Madison	7/27	Civil Liberties and Other Issues--Platform Party
WA	Leavenworth	7/15	Joe & Sheri's Creative and Constructive Party Policy Discussion	WI	Mequon	7/15	Ozaukee for Obama
WA	Marblemount	7/24	Tell us your priorities for America	WI	Milwaukee	7/24	Health Care Policy in the Democratic Platform
WA	Mountlake Terrace	7/24	Be a part of the change, help write our National Democratic Party Platform!	WI	Milwaukee	7/24	American Federation of Teachers Local 212 Platform Meeting
WA	Olympia	7/22	Senior Issues Platform Meeting	WI	Milwaukee	7/27	Health Care Platform Meeting
WA	Olympia	7/24	Democracy in Action!	WI	Monona	7/22	Capacity Building & Issue Discussion
WA	Port Townsend	7/24	Neighborhood Platform Discussion	WI	Oconomowoc	7/24	Listening Session
WA	Randle	7/22	Platform ideas	WI	Ontario	7/23	Creating a New America
WA	Redmond	7/22	Redmond PCC Platform Meeting	WI	Oshkosh	7/26	Platform meeting
WA	Renton	7/19	Obama Issues	WI	Sheboygan	7/21	Sheboygan Platform Listening Meeting
WA	Richland	7/24	Tri-Cities United for Obama	WI	Sheboygan	7/22	Sheboygan Platform Listening Meeting
WA	Sammamish	7/27	Hannigan House Meeting - Sammamish Democrats	WI	Sheboygan	7/23	Sheboygan Platform Listening Meeting
WA	Seattle	7/15	We the American People Forum	WI	Spring Green	7/18	Pot luck platform meet up
WA	Seattle	7/17	Rainier Beach for Obama	WI	Sussex	7/24	Bugtrail walk for Obama
WA	Seattle	7/18	A Change we the People Can Make Happen	WI	Sussex	7/31	Sussex walk for a Green Future
WA	Seattle	7/19	Are you fired up?!?	WI	Wausau	7/24	Platform Meeting
WA	Seattle	7/19	The Hip Hop Coffee Shop (Platform Meeting)	WI	Wautoma	7/29	Central Sands Obama Platform Meeting
WA	Seattle	7/20	Women of West Seattle Platform Meeting	WI	Weyauwega	7/24	WWUDP platform meeting
WA	Seattle	7/20	Armenians for Obama	WI	Whitewater	7/28	UW-Whitewater Students For Barack Obama General Election Kick-off
WA	Seattle	7/20	Gupta-Carlson Platform Meeting	WV	Charleston	7/24	Focus on Social Issues
WA	Seattle	7/23	Environment and Energy Platform Meeting	WV	Charleston	7/24	Platform Meeting
WA	Seattle	7/24	Capital Hill Platform Meeting	WV	Charleston	7/26	A Platform for Change
WA	Seattle	7/26	Health Care: Listening to America	WV	Chloe	7/26	Calhoun County Democrat Platform Meeting
WA	Seattle	7/29	Progressive Democrats Planning Party	WV	Martinsburg	7/25	Help Writethe Democratic Platform
WA	Seattle	7/29	Consider a proposed platform	WV	Morgantown	7/26	Creating Our Platform...
WA	Sequim	7/24	Clallam County for Obama Democratic Platform Meeting	WV	Parkersburg	8/14	Wood County Democratic Platform Meeting
WA	Snoqualmie	7/22	Coffee and Obama Platform Meeting - Education	WV	Rainelle	7/19	Community Self-reliance & Sustainability
WA	Spokane	7/23	Platform Ideas On-Line	WY	Casper	7/26	Obama Platform Meeting
WA	Tacoma	7/22	National Platform event	WY	Dubois	7/26	Platform meeting
				WY	Lander	7/29	Obama Platform Meeting
				WY	Laramie	7/20	Neighborhood DNC Platform Meeting