

10th Paragraph Economic Justice Platform Amendment by Carl Pease

[Adding to the 9th plank the underlined language below:]

We believe large imbalances in income and wealth threaten the fabric of our society. We support fairly rewarding the work of all people, maintaining a strong social safety net, and taxing progressively.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *Making the minimum wage a living wage.*
- *Paid family and medical leave for all employees, regardless of employer size or employment permanency.*
- *Instituting more stringent estate taxes.*
- *Taxing for-profit corporations at a higher rate.*

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 2 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 19 committee members did not.

Amendment to the first paragraph Platform Amendment by Carl Pease

Carl chose to go with a revised amendment after discussion with the Drafting Subcommittee:

This amendment proposes to update the preamble of the platform by adding the underlined language:

We, the Maine Democrats, are the party of the people. All people. We are individuals of every race, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity. This diversity is our strength. We treasure our American democracy, where the people have the right to set the political agenda, and hold the following values to be self-evident for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 3 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 13 committee members did not.

Criminal Justice System Reform Platform Amendment by Jay Philbrick

I propose that we amend the platform by adding the following paragraph:

We believe in a criminal justice system that is fair, just, and equitable. Recognizing that marginalized people are disproportionately impacted by mass incarceration, harsh minimum sentencing, and the prison industry, we commit to implementing fundamental reforms.

While Maine has a relatively small proportion of minority residents compared to other states, we must lead by example to create a justice system that protects all people equally. The current system of mass incarceration and the War on Drugs, in a Nixon advisor's own words, was designed to criminalize being "either against the war or black" and "by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities." This accounts for why the United States of America, the land of the free, has the largest incarcerated population in the world, above authoritarian regimes such as the People's Republic of China. This, combined with state felon disenfranchisement laws and the use of prisoners as cheap labor creates an unconscionable and unjust law enforcement system. We in Maine must take the lead to make a more fair and equitable society by promoting measures that decriminalize drug use, once again treating it as a public health problem, reducing prison populations, making sure prisoners have avenues to exercise their constitutional rights, and providing educational resources as well mental health supports to our inmates. Our justice system must focus less on punishment and more on rehabilitation, so we can reduce criminal recidivism. We must also reprioritize our funding for criminal justice, reducing the amount of money spent on detention and the militarization of law enforcement, and using those funds to provide tangible support and greater economic opportunities to our citizenry. In so doing, we can address the root causes of crime, rather than just treating their mal effects.

The Platform Committee recommends voting YES. 22 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 0 committee members did not.

Education at Birth

Platform Amendment by Cumberland County Democratic Committee

At its May 5 meeting, the Cumberland County Democratic Committee approved the following amendments to the 2020 Draft Platform (2 of 2):

Amend the value statement that begins "We believe in investing in students..." by eliminating the term "early childhood" and replacing it with "birth". The statement thus reads "We believe in investing in students, educators, and in public education from birth through lifelong learning, to guarantee everyone the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities."

We believe in investing in students, educators, and in public education from ~~early childhood~~ birth through lifelong learning, to guarantee everyone the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 3 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 14 committee members did not.

ERA Focused

Platform Amendment by Washington County Democratic Committee

On May 3, the Washington County Democratic Committee approved the following proposed amendments to the 2020 draft platform as prepared by the Platform Committee.

This is 2 of 4 amendments presented by the Washington County Democratic Committee.

Proposed amendments to the draft platform

2) Add a new belief statement immediately following the fourth belief statement reading:

We believe that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex or gender.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 2 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 15 committee members did not.

Freedom of the Press

Platform Amendment by Washington County Democratic Committee

On May 3, the Washington County Democratic Committee approved the following proposed amendments to the 2020 draft platform as prepared by the Platform Committee.

This is 1 of 4 amendments presented by the Washington County Democratic Committee.

Proposed amendments to the draft platform

1) Insert "freedom of the press, " into the fourth belief statement immediately following "freedom of speech,":

We believe government must protect individual rights to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and equal justice before the law as guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 5 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 12 committee members did not.

Government is not the Problem

Platform Amendment by Christopher Johnson

An amendment was requested by a number of Lincoln County members to assert a core Democratic value, standing strong against the 4 decade long Republican claim that government is the problem. It asserts that it is OUR government and our duty to make corrections when it fails to meet our expectations. Surely this is a value we all stand for, and one shared by so many people today as the failure and the need for more effective federal solutions are so apparent. This revised amendment reduces that to its minimal essence:

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and free and fair elections is vital so that all people may participate in our democratic process. People have a right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and corporate influence. Whenever our government fails to serve the collective interests of the people, it is our solemn duty to reassert its purpose and correct its course.

The Platform Committee recommends voting YES. 17 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 0 committee members did not.

Green New Deal
Platform Amendment by Damon Yakovleff

The current draft 2020 Platform plank on climate change reads:

We believe future generations should inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat which requires immediate action informed by science and awareness of its impact on social and economic justice.

Climate change poses an even greater long-term threat to us than COVID-19. As such, our Platform should call for more specific goals on this issue. It is also important to recognize the interconnectedness of other area of policy work in solving the climate crisis. Therefore, I propose adding the following language to the end of the current plank on climate: "We support the Green New Deal as the best way to address the threat while providing for long term, equitable, and sustainable economic growth."

[The resulting plank 7 below has inserted language underlined.]

We believe future generations should inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat which requires immediate action informed by science and awareness of its impact on social and economic justice. We support the Green New Deal as the best way to address the threat while providing for long term, equitable, and sustainable economic growth.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 1 committee member recommended passage of this amendment and 20 committee members did not.

Gun Ownership
Platform Amendment by Kathy Bouchard

The twelfth "We Believe" plank reads:

We believe in preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining responsible and accountable gun ownership while protecting the safety of all Maine people.

My amendment is to remove the outdoor heritage language, which seems somewhat vague, so the plank simply reads

[The Drafting Subcommittee notes that it also adds “legislation that protects”]:

We believe in responsible and accountable gun ownership legislation that protects the safety of all Maine people.

To clarify what is added and removed in the twelfth plank, this amendment can also be represented as follows, with removed language struck out and added language underlined:

We believe in ~~preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining~~ responsible and accountable gun ownership ~~while protecting~~ legislation that protects the safety of all Maine people.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 3 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 18 committee members did not.

Human Rights Amendment
Platform Amendment by Lyn Grotke

I propose amending what the Maine Democratic Party is calling the 2020 Maine Democratic Party Charter by replacing this:

We believe that food, housing, health care, education, and reproductive freedom are basic human rights. Protecting and advancing these inalienable rights allows us to fully realize our potential as individuals, as a state, and as a nation.

with this

We believe that ~~food, housing, health care, education, and reproductive freedom~~ clean water and air in a clean environment, nutritious sustainably produced food, safe affordable housing, comprehensive quality healthcare, a complete education, reproductive freedom, a job that pays a living wage, and a secure dignified retirement are basic human rights. Protecting and advancing these inalienable rights allows us to fully realize our potential as individuals, as a state, and as a nation.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 2 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 15 committee members did not.

Indivisible MDI Additions
Platform Amendment by Burt Wartell

On behalf of Bar Harbor Democrats and Indivisible MDI, we propose to add the underlined words to the proposed platform:

2020 Maine Democratic Party Platform

We, the Maine Democrats, are the party of the people. All people. We are individuals of every race, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity. This diversity is our strength. We treasure our American democracy and hold the following values to be self-evident for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:

We believe that food, housing, health care, education, and reproductive freedom are basic human rights. Protecting and advancing these inalienable rights allows us to fully realize our potential as individuals, as a state, and as a nation.

We believe healthcare should be universally affordable and accessible. Every person has a right to receive comprehensive physical and mental health services when they need them.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *Single-payer, universal healthcare.*
- *Decriminalize substance abuse disorder and provide treatment.*

We believe in economic, racial, and social justice, to ensure that everyone is free from discrimination and feels welcome, valued, and invited to contribute to society. We stand with all those who face discrimination and assert that these rights are guaranteed for all.

We believe government must protect individual rights to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and equal justice before the law as guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *Abolish for-profit prisons and detention centers including subcontractors within the penal system.*

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and free and fair elections is vital so that all people may participate in our democratic process. People have a right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and corporate influence.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *Develop and implement national standards for election security including mail-in ballots and mandatory hand-marked paper ballots.*

We believe Maine's natural resources are among our most important assets, and conserving and protecting them is vital to our economic sustainability, quality of life, and the well-being of future generations.

We believe future generations should inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat which requires immediate action informed by science and awareness of its impact on social and economic justice.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *The Green New Deal as it is currently worded at the national level.*

We believe in building a diversified and environmentally sustainable economy for Maine. In all Maine communities, both rural and urban, people should benefit from innovation, emerging technologies, and new business opportunities.

We believe large imbalances in income and wealth threaten the fabric of our society. We support fairly rewarding the work of all people, maintaining a strong social safety net, and taxing progressively.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *The reallocation of half of our current military budget to healthcare, education, and infrastructure with transitional support for military personnel.*

We believe that every individual has the right to equal pay for equal work, a living wage, a safe workplace, and to be free from discrimination and harassment. We assert the right to associate and bargain collectively.

We believe in investing in students, educators, and in public education from early childhood through lifelong learning, to guarantee everyone the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities.

We believe in preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining responsible and accountable gun ownership while protecting the safety of all Maine people.

We believe that veterans deserve our respect. We must fulfill our obligation to provide them and their families the support services they need and have earned.

We believe we must honor and uphold our sacred obligation to the Native Americans who first inhabited this land and that the sovereignty and self-determination of all indigenous tribes in Maine should be recognized and respected.

We believe in honoring the immigrant heritage of our nation by welcoming New Mainers and by establishing sensible immigration law that protects the rights of asylum seekers and provides a path to citizenship for immigrants who make Maine their home.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *A more humane immigration system that includes protections for and decriminalizes immigrants;*
- *Abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);*
- *Designation of Maine as a Sanctuary state;*
- *Curtail the duties and police powers of Customs and Border Protection (CBP);*
and
- *Expedites the reunification of separated families*

We believe Maine is part of the global economic community and we support international partnerships that honor workers' rights, fair trade, and the environment.

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security, makes peace a priority, and limits military action throughout the world.

This is our present. This is our future. We are the Maine Democratic Party.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 1 committee member recommended passage of this amendment and 19 committee members did not.

**International Diplomacy Respecting Self Determination
Platform Amendment by Washington County Democratic Committee**

On May 3, the Washington County Democratic Committee approved the following proposed amendments to the 2020 draft platform as prepared by the Platform Committee.

This is 3 of 4 amendments presented by the Washington County Democratic Committee.

Proposed amendments to the draft platform

3) Insert "respects the principle of self-determination for all peoples," into the final belief statement immediately following "makes peace a priority,":

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security, makes peace a priority, respects the principle of self-determination for all peoples, and limits military action throughout the world.

The Platform Committee recommends voting YES. 13 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 4 committee members did not.

**Market Solution to Climate Change
Platform Amendment proposed by William Weber from Portland**

My name is Bill Weber and I live in Portland Maine with my wife Ann. We have two sons that went through the Portland Public School system and that we are immensely proud of. Their grandfather used to call them his "Maine Potatoes." I love my community and the state of Maine. I have worked in the environmental field for over forty years, cleaning up hazardous waste sites around the country and providing renewable energy strategies to municipal and commercial clients. Several years ago I became familiar with an organization called the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) that is advancing a bi-partisan plan in the US Congress to reduce greenhouse gases. The effects of climate change on our environment we can see and feel daily. I and many others believe that a market-based Carbon Fee and Dividend policy would drastically reduce emissions, create jobs, and support small businesses and families across Maine and across the nation. Last year the Portland City Council voted unanimously to endorse the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal. I propose we make a small edit to the current Climate Change (paragraph 7) plank. The language is general and not very specific but recognizes that economics and equity must be addressed to combat climate change. Add the following sentence: "We recognize that we must realign our economic system to preserve our future in the face of climate change."

[The resulting Plank 7 below has added language underlined.]

We believe future generations should inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat which requires immediate action informed by science and awareness of its impact on social and economic justice. We recognize that we must realign our economic system to preserve our future in the face of climate change.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 0 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 20 committee members did not.

Military Spending Amendment

Platform Amendment proposed by Brennan Barrington from Orono

Brennan revised his amendment after discussion with the Drafting Subcommittee:

This amendment proposes to amend the international conduct plank by deleting the struck out language and inserting the underlined language:

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security, ~~makes peace a priority, and limits military action~~ reduces unsustainable military spending, and promotes peace and prosperity throughout the world.

To aid in understanding this amendment's impact, plank 17:

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security, makes peace a priority, and limits military action throughout the world.

Would become this:

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security, reduces unsustainable military spending, and promotes peace and prosperity throughout the world.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 5 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 12 committee members did not.

Omnibus revision to all except planks 9 and 12

Platform Amendment proposed by Washington County Democratic Committee

On May 3, the Washington County Democratic Committee approved the following proposed amendments to the 2020 draft platform as prepared by the Platform Committee. This is the fourth proposed amendment, from the document titled: May Proposed Platform 2020 with Washington County additions.

2020 Maine Democratic Party Platform

We, the Maine Democrats, are the party of the people. All people. We are individuals of every race, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, gender, and gender-identity. This Our diversity is our strength. We treasure our American democracy and hold the following values to be self-evident for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:

We believe that food, housing, health care, to include reproductive freedom, and education, and reproductive freedom are basic human rights. Protecting and advancing these inalienable rights allows us to fully realize our potential as individuals, as a state, and as a nation.

We believe health_care should be universally affordable and accessible. Every person has ~~a~~ the right to receive comprehensive physical and mental health services when ~~they need them~~ those services are needed.

We believe in economic, racial, and social justice, to ensure that everyone is free from discrimination and that each feels welcomed, valued, and invited to contribute to society. We stand with all those who face discrimination and assert that these rights are guaranteed for all.

We believe government ~~must~~ exists to protect individual rights to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and equal justice before the law as guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions.

We believe that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex or gender.

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and to free and fair elections is vital so that all people ~~may~~ can participate in our democratic process. People have ~~a~~ the right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and unaffected by monetary and/or corporate influence.

We believe Maine's natural resources are among our most important assets; ~~and e.~~ Conserving and protecting them is vital these unique treasures are critical to our economic sustainability, quality of life, and the well-being of future generations.

We believe future generations ~~should~~ must inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat ~~which~~ that requires immediate action ~~informed by~~ based on science and on an awareness of its impact on social and economic justice.

We believe in building a diversified and environmentally sustainable economy for Maine. ~~In all Maine~~ both rural and urban communities, ~~both rural and urban,~~ all Maine people ~~should~~ can benefit from innovation, emerging technologies, and new business opportunities.

We believe large imbalances in income and wealth threaten the fabric of our society. We support ~~fairly rewarding~~ rewarding fairly the work of all people, maintaining a strong social safety net, and taxing progressively.

We believe that every individual has the right to equal pay for equal work, a living wage, a safe workplace, and ~~to be free~~ freedom from discrimination and harassment. We assert the right to associate and bargain collectively.

We believe ~~in investing in students, educators, and in public education~~ guaranteeing all Maine students, from early childhood through lifelong learning, to guarantee everyone a quality education no matter where they live. Through sound investment in our educators and public education institutions, everyone can have the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities.

We believe in preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining responsible and accountable gun ownership while protecting the safety of all Maine people.

We believe ~~that veterans~~ those who serve and who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces deserve our profound respect. We ~~must~~ recognize our duty to fulfill our obligation to provide them and their families with the timely and comprehensive support services they need and have earned.

We believe ~~that~~ we must honor and uphold our sacred ~~obligation~~ commitment to the Native Americans who first inhabited this land ~~and that~~ by acknowledging and by respecting the sovereignty and self-determination of all indigenous ~~tribes~~ peoples in Maine ~~should be recognized and respected.~~

We believe in honoring the immigrant heritage of our nation by welcoming ~~New Mainers~~ newcomers to Maine; and by establishing sensible immigration law that protects the rights of asylum seekers and ~~provides~~ refugees as well as by providing a path to citizenship for immigrants who make Maine their home.

We believe Maine is part of the global economic community ~~and we.~~ We support international partnerships, treaties, and agreements that honor workers' rights, fair trade, and the environment.

We believe in international conduct based on diplomacy and mutual respect that enhances security; makes peace a priority; respects the principle of self-determination for all peoples; supports humanitarian relief efforts; and limits military action throughout the world.

This is our present. This is our future. We are the Maine Democratic Party.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 0 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 21 committee members did not.

Police Accountability Amendment

Platform Amendment proposed by Brennan Barrington from Orono

Brennan revised his amendment after discussion with the Drafting Subcommittee:

In light of recent events, a statement on this specific issue is appropriate, as it is not referenced elsewhere in the platform. This amendment proposes adding the

language underlined below to the economic, racial, and social justice and government planks:

We believe in economic, racial, and social justice, to ensure that everyone is free from discrimination and feels safe, welcome, valued, and invited to contribute to society. We stand with all those who face discrimination and assert that these rights are guaranteed for all.

We believe all government officials, including law enforcement, must protect individual rights to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and equal justice before the law as guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions.

The Platform Committee recommends voting YES. 16 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 1 committee member did not.

Pricing Carbon

Platform Amendment proposed by Deane Rykerson from Kittery Point

Dean Rykerson revised his amendment after corresponding with the Drafting Subcommittee, clarifying that it is adding language to the end of the current climate change plank.

In addition to current plank: "Pricing carbon emissions is the simplest, market-based solution to solving this threat."

We believe future generations should inherit a livable planet. Climate change is a clear and present threat which requires immediate action informed by science and awareness of its impact on social and economic justice. Pricing carbon emissions is the simplest, market-based solution to solving this threat.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 0 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 21 committee members did not.

Protecting Our Children Gun Safety

Platform Amendment proposed by Jeremiah Rancourt from Hermon

The Democratic Platform should read in paragraph 12:

We believe in preserving our outdoor heritage and in maintaining responsible and accountable gun ownership while protecting the safety of all Maine people, especially our children.

While this amendment does infer gun responsibility and safety in the shadow of school and public shootings, it does not say enough to show where we as Democrats should stand on the issue. I acknowledge that specific policy recommendations may not have a place in the platform, to allow for flexibility and compromise, but I do believe that the place where progressives, moderates, and conservatives can agree is that protecting this nation's children is a paramount

interest. It is where many groups can agree as a starting point should be the goal of any legislation.

Therefore, leaving out a direct reference to children in the gun responsibility and safety paragraph of the platform not only weakens the strength of the platform but entirely misses the point. Please consider supporting my request, as a moderate Democrat with a family, to amend paragraph 12 of the platform to add the words at the end "especially our children." Whether symbolic or substantive, this should be included for all generations, including the youngest.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 6 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 11 committee members did not.

Public Health (New Plank)

Platform Amendment proposed by Rebecca Millett from Cape Elizabeth

Senator Rebecca Millett, after discussion with the Drafting Subcommittee, clarified that this plank should be added immediately following the government plank (5).

We believe that protecting public health and safety are essential functions of a representative government. We support investments and partnerships in Maine's public health and safety systems, structures, and workforce that prevent illness and injury, promote good health, and give all Maine children and adults the opportunity to lead healthful, productive lives.

The Platform Committee recommends voting YES. 14 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 3 committee members did not.

Public Health (Plank 2)

Platform Amendment proposed by Cumberland County Democratic Committee

At its May 5 meeting, the Cumberland County Democratic Committee approved the following amendments to the 2020 Draft Platform (1 of 2):

At the end of the second value statement (healthcare) add the sentence "Robust government action is required to protect public health for all people, employing an adequately funded, evidence-based approach."

We believe healthcare should be universally affordable and accessible. Every person has a right to receive comprehensive physical and mental health services when they need them. Robust government action is required to protect public health for all people, employing an adequately funded, evidence-based approach.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 0 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 17 committee members did

not.

Ranked Choice Voting

Platform Amendment proposed by Jay Philbrick from North Yarmouth

The current platform reads:

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and free and fair elections is vital so that all people may participate in our democratic process. People have a right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and corporate influence.

I propose that we amend this to read:

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and free and fair elections is vital so that all people may participate in our democratic process. The current system of plurality voting is frequently unrepresentative and flawed, and we strongly support the implementation of ranked-choice voting for local, state, and national office. People also have a right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and corporate influence.

First-past-the-post voting causes two problems: the first is that in a race with two ideologically similar candidates and one ideologically dissimilar one, even if the two similar ideologies constitute a majority of the electorate, the third candidate has a high chance of winning the election. Ranked-choice, or instant runoff voting, resolves this issue by eliminating the candidate with the lowest vote total each round of voting until an outright majority is reached. If a person ranked one of the two ideologically similar candidates first, and the other second, and the candidate captured a higher proportion of the vote, the ideologically popular candidate would win, creating a more representative vote. For a Maine-centric example where ranked-choice voting would have made a difference, see the 2010 gubernatorial election. The second issue is that it encourages strategic voting, rather than good-faith voting, where a person is forced to vote for the person with a higher chance of winning, simply because they feel their ballot will be otherwise wasted. People should vote for their preferred candidates, and not be punished by our electoral system for simply exercising their preferences.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 2 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 20 committee members did not.

Relief Recovery and Reform

Platform Amendment proposed by Damon Yakovleff from Portland

The Platform Committee wrapped up its work in February, before the COVID-19 crisis unfolded. This crisis and the response to it have thrown into sharp relief many

cracks in the structure of our government and society which we could previously afford to paper over.

One issue which our Party has made efforts to deal with over the years is to ensure programs to provide economic relief and recovery are not abused by entrenched moneyed interests, especially large corporations, at the expensive of individuals and less influential businesses or organizations. Arguably, we failed at this in response to the 2008 recession, we are failing during the current crisis, and we will fail again unless we change the fundamental notions of to whom our government serves.

Therefore I propose the following amendment: To add a plank to the beginning of the Platform stating:

We believe government programs that provide economic relief in times of crisis must be equally accessible to all in need, whether individuals, non-profit organizations, small businesses, or corporations. Moreover, all relief provided must be coupled with policies to promote long-term economic recovery and reform.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 3 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 14 committee members did not.

Reproductive Rights for All

Platform Amendment proposed by Mercedes Faucher from Kennebunk

I propose we add this statement to our Maine Democratic Party Platform:

We believe comprehensive reproductive healthcare should be universally affordable and accessible and will stand against any policy to restrict access to that care both here and abroad.

This statement covers thoughts around global reproductive healthcare. Here is a more expanded version for folks to read:

We will support sexual and reproductive health and rights around the globe. In addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies, we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's global health programming. Therefore, we support the repeal of harmful restrictions that obstruct women's access to health care information and services, including the "global gag rule" and the Helms Amendment that bars American assistance to provide safe, legal abortion throughout the developing world.

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 3 committee members recommended passage of this amendment and 14 committee members did not.

Sixth Paragraph Election Reform

Platform Amendment proposed by Carl Pease from Windsor

[Adding to the 5th plank the underlined language below:]

We believe in a government that is ethical, transparent, accountable to the people, and open to the press. The protection of voting rights and free and fair elections is vital so that all people may participate in our democratic process. People have a right to a strong voice in the political process undiluted by money and corporate influence.

To reach this goal we advocate the following:

- *Work to overturn Citizens United.*
- *Establish public funding for all elections.*

The Platform Committee recommends voting NO. 1 committee member recommended passage of this amendment and 20 committee members did not.
