

[Adopted December 4, 2004]

Preamble of the Progressive Caucus of the Kansas Democratic Party

Mission

The mission of the Progressive Caucus of the Kansas Democratic Party is to advocate for progressive solutions to the challenges confronting Kansas, America and the world.

Values

We value **personal and global responsibility**, to energize us to solve the problems we face.

We practice **empathy** for others because we presume that all people are created equal.

We embrace **diversity**, to respect the rights of all people.

We believe in **grassroots democracy** to empower all Americans, not just the wealthy and the powerful.

We seek **social justice and equal opportunity**, to further us on the quest to achieve “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

We support **sustainability**, towards living wisely and in harmony with the environment upon which our economy and human life depends. Achieving sustainability will provide future generations everywhere with a healthy and joyous world in which to live.

We are committed to **cooperative approaches to conflicts**, exhausting non-violent options, to prevent or end cycles of violence and to create win/win agreements.

We are dedicated to **economic justice**, to deepen and widen the prosperity of communities, spread power and wealth, here and throughout the world.

We pursue **empowerment** within the current electoral framework, to advance the progressive achievements of the Democratic Party.

Solutions

In the twenty-first century, we confront entirely new challenges, many of them ignored or distorted by the corporate-dominated media. We face a grave risk from the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, regressive energy policies, inadequate conservation and wasteful patterns of production and consumption are causing an unprecedented global environmental crisis. And there are widening gaps between the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak, the healthy and the sick. Because these unsolved problems threaten the viability of civilization itself, we, as progressive Americans, support new, innovative policies.

We believe in curbing counterproductive and wasteful spending at the Pentagon and elsewhere. We advocate cooperative foreign policies regarding other nations and peoples throughout the world. Therefore, we reject the so-called “war on terrorism” and instead, we are committed to the vigorous implementation of the global rule of law as a means to achieve collective security for all people everywhere. We seek the adoption of a more progressive tax system in which wealthier taxpayers and corporations pay their fair share as an investment for individuals in need of help. We affirm the need for substantial investments to provide public education, training and health insurance for all. These and other social programs will help lower-income and middle-income Americans to boost their prosperity, their health, and their contributions to our economy. We stand up for the rights of workers, their unions and local communities to share authority in their business organizations. We envision procedures that are more democratic for electing our representatives such as instant runoff voting, proportional representation, and public financing of elections. We recommend policies of fair trade that increase the creation of jobs and investments in America, and the increase of exports of American products abroad. We advise increasing foreign aid to help other nations enhance their prosperity and health.

Progressive policies such as these, when fully implemented, will help America lead the world towards a successful twenty-first century in which we solve today’s problems, both for us and for the generations of tomorrow.

Other examples of progressive solutions to problems can be found at:

Representative Dennis Kucinich Website: (<http://kucinich.us/issues>)

Green Party USA Website: (<http://www.gp.org/platform.shtml>)

Congressional Progressive Caucus Website: (<http://cpc.lee.house.gov/>)