



## 2022 PLATFORM

### WE STAND FOR A FAIRER AND STRONGER ECONOMY TODAY, AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

- **JOBS:** Orange County Democrats believe that job creation should center on fair pay and dignity in work for all. We have been, and continue to be, vocal supporters of Florida's new \$15 per hour minimum wage constitutional amendment, and we will fight back against any attempt to undercut its implementation. We also support unionization efforts and recognize the important progress that unions have delivered for workers across generations.
- **HEALTH CARE:** Health care is a human right and no one should be forced into bankruptcy in order to receive appropriate medical care. Universal health care is the ultimate goal, and Orange County Democrats will continue to support any policies and legislation that move us closer to this goal. In addition, we strongly believe that women should govern their own general and reproductive health care choices—it is never the role of the government to intervene.
- **EDUCATION:** Orange County Democrats are committed to providing high-quality, evidence-based education from early learning through K-12 and higher education, and we are determined to secure funding to support the efforts of students, parents, and teachers. We stand with teachers and believe they should be free from excessive regulations placed upon their profession.
- **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:** Our region must provide more, and more affordable, housing for residents. Orange County Democrats acknowledge that urban sprawl has dangerous economic and environmental consequences, and that we must find opportunities for new housing where development exists.
- **PUBLIC TRANSIT:** Orange County Democrats will continue to fight at the local, state, and federal level to provide more public transit options for our residents, including rail, bike, pedestrian, and, where automobiles are necessary, electric vehicle infrastructure.

### WE STAND FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

- **SUSTAINABILITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Orange County Democrats are committed to protecting the quality of the air, water, and native ecosystems of Florida. Sound environmental protection policies ensure a healthy environment for sustaining Florida's residents, and preserve viable populations of the native plants and animals that make our state both beautiful and sustainable.
- **CLIMATE:** Orange County Democrats will continue to promote actions to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling global warming and mitigate the changes in climate that endanger Florida residents. Transitioning to a zero-carbon economy will stimulate the Florida economy with new "green jobs" while making life more sustainable and resilient for all Floridians.

### **WE STAND FOR A STRONG DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNMENT.**

- **VOTING RIGHTS:** Orange County Democrats believe that the right to vote, and to have that vote counted, is a fundamental constitutional right. As such, we oppose any and all laws that aim to suppress this foundational right.
- **MONEY IN POLITICS:** The voice of the public has been drowned out by monied interests for far too long. Orange County Democrats support reform to significantly weaken the ability for money to influence politics and policy.
- **LOCAL AUTONOMY:** Recognizing that the individuals most in touch with the unique needs and concerns of a local community are the people that live there, Orange County Democrats are fully committed to the principle of local autonomy, or home rule, and empowering local leaders with the resources and independence needed to effectively govern and provide for their local communities.
- **WASHINGTON D.C. & PUERTO RICO:** Orange County Democrats believe that the unequal treatment of Washington D.C.'s and Puerto Rico's residents must end. The people of Washington D.C. deserve statehood. The people of Puerto Rico deserve self-determination on the issue of status, including the option of statehood, should they so choose, as part of a final, binding referendum.

### **WE STAND FOR THE RESPECT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE TIRELESS PURSUIT FOR A MORE JUST SOCIETY.**

- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** Orange County Democrats both recognize, and refuse to accept, the deep, lingering foundations of unfairness in our criminal justice system. We will fight to allocate more funding to more constructive efforts, such as mental health professionals to help those in crisis, as well as other restorative justice initiatives.

- **GUN SAFETY:** Orange County Democrats support commonsense gun safety regulations at the local, state, and federal level to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors from the threat of gun violence.
- **IMMIGRATION:** Our country is made stronger through immigration, and that has been true since its founding. Orange County Democrats believe that our country, state, and county should be welcoming of people from all parts of the world, and that such diversity brings us communal and economic strength.

## **WE STAND FOR EQUITABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENTIRE ORANGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.**

Too often, and for too long, public policies have been put into practice through discriminatory and unjust means. Orange County Democrats commit to equity in the implementation of our platform as it pertains to all people, with particular attention to those who have historically been discriminated against, including people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, women, people with disabilities, and religious minorities.

We further recognize that our interpretations of these values may differ, and in those differing interpretations is what makes us the Democratic Party: diverse people from many walks of life, collectively seeking to fulfill the promise of a free and fair society.

We encourage all registered Democrats running for public office in Orange County, whether their election is partisan or non-partisan, to sign a statement pledging to uphold these values if elected.