

Mission Statement

The mission of the Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Democrats is to promote Democratic values and ideals of equality, inclusion, and social justice by increasing the number of Democrats elected to all levels of government, engaging members of the WJCC community, and supporting grassroots efforts that embody Democratic principles.

2018 Goals

Organize to increase activism.

- Increase committee membership.
- Engage with activist groups.
- Develop volunteer cadre.
- Ensure that each of the 21 precincts in Williamsburg and James City County has a year-round precinct captain who shall assist with staffing of polls for all democratic elections and recruiting membership for the committee at the precinct level.

Raise funds to support candidates and committee operations.

- Solicit membership dues.
- Generate banquet and fundraising proceeds.

Support Democratic candidates in the 2018 election at every level of government.

- Use our volunteer cadre for phone-banking, canvassing, and staffing the polls.

Address community concerns.

- Research issues of community concern.
- Recruit speakers with expertise to discuss those issues.
- Support passage of local resolution calling for nonpartisan redistricting in James City County.
- Lobby national & state representatives.

Reinforce unity among Democrats and those who share our Core Beliefs.

- Host a Banquet with a well-recognized state leader as speaker.
- Host a Picnic in May to give Primary candidates a platform to reach voters.
- Host social events once a quarter.
- Help Democrats network in their own neighborhoods.
- Actively work to increase the diversity of the Committee by reaching out to, supporting, and partnering with groups underrepresented on the Committee.

Core Beliefs

As WJCC Democrats, we will work tirelessly to support these beliefs, and we will actively resist those who oppose them.

Education

- Equity in education is critical to ensure that all students have the access, opportunity, and resources needed to succeed as individuals and as members of the global workforce.
- All individuals deserve a free, high-quality public education from preschool through high school.
- The school-to-prison pipeline must be ended. School- and community-based interventions that allow for student and family participation should be encouraged. A college education must be affordable and attainable for all who wish to pursue one.
- Workforce training and certification must be available and attainable for those not pursuing a college degree.

Economy

- The strength of the local, state, and national economy directly impacts the quality of life of all individuals.
- Policies should support and encourage those businesses that grow the workforce and pay workers a livable wage. Middle class life should be attainable for all individuals.
- The economy must work for everyone.
- Supportive sick leave policies should be implemented to help workers balance the demand between work and home, and maintain stable employment to support themselves and their families.

Healthcare

- All individuals deserve quality health care regardless of their ability to pay.
- Quality health care includes services to support both mental and physical wellbeing. Our healthcare delivery system must put people before profits.
- Access to health care services and programs is meaningful only when the intended patient populations have the actual ability to obtain and make use of health care services and programs. To that end, education programs and resources, such as health literacy programs, are critical to ensuring meaningful access to the health care system.
- The Medicare and Medicaid programs must be strengthened and protected.
- Prescription drug costs must be made comparable to those of other industrialized nations.
- Each woman's right to privacy encompasses her reproductive rights and therefore must be supported and defended.
- The opioid epidemic must be addressed through the allocation of sufficient resources and the implementation of comprehensive prevention and treatment efforts.
- Gun violence is an epidemic throughout the country, and sensible gun laws are needed to address this public health crisis.

Immigration

- As a nation of immigrants, immigration is a defining aspect of American character.
- The current immigration system is broken and in urgent need of immediate reform that is humane, ensures due process, and imposes no religious tests.

Criminal Justice

- The criminal justice system must treat all individuals equally.
- The criminal justice system, including drug laws, must be reformed to end the policies that have led to mass incarceration.
- Mandatory minimum sentencing must be reformed, and private prisons should be closed.
- Seizing property before conviction (civil asset forfeiture) must be reformed to remove "police for a profit" incentives.

- Barriers should be removed to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society.
- Voting rights should be restored to Virginians with felony convictions who have completed their sentence, including probation and parole.
- The death penalty should be abolished.
- Police should be given training in effective first-response interventions for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Police should be given training in cultural competency, anti-bias, and de-escalation techniques.

Taxation

- Tax reform policies should address income inequality, provide relief to low- and middle-income families, eliminate wasteful loopholes, broaden our tax base, and discourage overseas investment.
- Tax incentives should be provided for companies that invest in domestic jobs, infrastructure, and other areas that expand economic opportunity for working-class families.
- The corporate tax code should promote responsible corporate behavior, serve to fuel smart investments, and contribute to the public good.

Citizen Rights

- Diversity in a community is a strength.
- Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability cannot be tolerated or condoned and must be actively opposed.
- Laws must be secular and not favor any particular religious tenet over another and be respectful of the value of our shared humanity.
- Election laws should be structured to ensure that all persons entitled to vote are able to do so without obstructions of any kind. Efforts to disenfranchise voters, such as restricting voter registration, reducing times and locations available for voting, and toughening existing voter identification requirements, must be resisted.
- Transparent and nonpartisan legislative redistricting reform is essential to build a more trustworthy and accountable democracy that realizes the foundational principle of "one person, one vote."

The Environment

- Climate change is real and human contribution to it is significant.
- Industrial practices such as offshore drilling, fracking, and strip mining damage the environment and negatively impact our economic livelihood, and should be opposed.
- Supporting the development of clean and renewable energy sources will reduce our carbon footprint to ensure a stable supply of domestic energy for our future.
- Our natural resources and environmental quality should be protected for future generations.
- Laws should promote environmental justice and prevent negative impact on the most vulnerable communities.

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