

Roanoke City Democratic Committee Statement of Principles

INCLUSION

We believe everyone deserves equitable treatment regardless of race, sex, gender, origin, or ability. We believe in a city which provides paths to success for all residents. We recognize some Roanokers do not have the same starting point in life as others. We believe opportunity should not depend upon those circumstances. Our vision is a city which supports the ambitions of every citizen and takes account of historical inequities. We understand we will move forward rapidly as a community when we actively engage all members of the community.

PROGRESS

We believe economic progress is essential, but is intertwined with social, cultural, and environmental progress. Economic progress which is made at the expense of certain communities or at the expense of our natural environment is short-sighted and builds inequity. We will seek public-private partnerships and corporate citizens committed to our values. Private profit can be made while not increasing public costs.

LIVEABLE ENVIRONMENT

One of the greatest assets of the Roanoke Valley is its quality of life, including the accessibility of natural features. We are a city with immense vegetation within the city limits. We seek to improve on those assets, not just take advantage of them. This vision requires that we consider environmental impacts, but also environmental gains in considering our transportation system, our built environment, equitable access to food, recreation and, most importantly, climate change.

EDUCATION

We are committed to the highest quality public education system, accessible by all city residents. We understand the need for that education to begin prior to kindergarten and to continue throughout adulthood. We are committed to maintaining or increasing current funding levels for PreK and K-12 education. We are particularly concerned with building the city's capacity to bring all children to kindergarten ready for a rigorous, 21st century education.

PUBLIC SAFETY

We are committed to maintaining safety of all city residents, and to review on a recurring basis the manner safety services are delivered to Roanokers. We recognize a city where every individual feels opportunity is available to them and each individual feels valued is a safer, better city for everyone.

PUBLIC HEALTH

We believe healthcare is a human right and that access to healthcare should not be dependent upon one's financial or employment status. In the spirit of justice and equity, we advocate for historically oppressed people in the decision-making process regarding their healthcare needs, and for a resolution to the existing healthcare crisis.

IN SUMMARY

We seek to elect leaders who will work with us to address the above issues. We will form relationships with like-minded people and organizations to achieve these ends.