

BYLAWS

United Progressives

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be **United Progressives of San Fernando Valley**.

II. PURPOSE

United Progressives of San Fernando Valley (hereinafter called the Club) shall focus its efforts on a progressive agenda determined by the club and as expressed in Section III and XXIV. Statement of Principles The Club will advance the goals of the Democratic Party (hereinafter called the Party), and the Club through direct activism, political fundraising, and community education. We will actively promote and support leaders who fight for our ideals as expressed in our Statement of Principles.

III. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

These ideas represent what the United Progressive stands for. Please see a detailed description in SECTION XXIII.

- **We fully support and endorse the united states constitution and economic rights.**
- **Pass a constitutional amendment to put an end to political corruption and bring about election reform.**
- **Re-regulate Wall Street and hold white-collar criminals accountable.**
- **End billionaire and corporate tax dodging, fix the system to benefit middle-class and poor people.**
- **Defend free speech and expression.**
- **Oppose bigotry.**
- **Ensure that no person live in poverty.**
- **Ensure universal healthcare as a right.**
- **Ensure universal education as a right.**
- **End unnecessary wars and Imperialistic nation building.**
- **End the failed war on drugs and replace with the decriminalization of all drugs and with full consumer protection.**
- **Modernize America's Infrastructure.**
- **Create the renewable energy revolution.**
- **We support fair trade not free trade.**
- **Stand up for the Bill of Rights and due process.**

- **End all war profiteering**
- **Defend and protect women's rights.**
- **Ensure paid vacation time, sick time, family leave, and childcare.**
- **Strengthen and improve the safety net programs.**
- **Implement comprehensive immigration reform.**
- **Enact police reform.**
- **End homelessness.**
- **Enact common-sense firearm regulation.**
- **Abolish the death penalty.**

IV. AFFILIATION

- A. The Club shall apply for status as an officially chartered Democratic Club with the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (hereinafter called LACDP) and shall maintain that status with the LACDP annually.
- B. As a chartered and affiliated club of LACDP, the Club shall comply with the bylaws of the LACDP and the California Democratic Party, as they apply to chartered local affiliates.
- C. If a majority of the membership of the Club, present and voting or 2/3 of the elected officers agree, the Club shall apply for annual membership as a full affiliate in the California Democratic Council (hereinafter CDC).
- D. If a majority of the membership of the Club, present and voting or 2/3 of the elected officers agree, the Club shall apply for annual membership as a full affiliate in the Democratic Party of The San Fernando Valley (DP/SFV).
- E. The Club shall endeavor to form Coalitions with like minded groups to achieve commons goals.

V. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- A. To be eligible for membership, one must either be a registered Democrat or intend to register as a Democrat as soon as eligible.
- B. A member shall be considered in good standing if his or her dues are current or have been waived due to economic hardship, their voting rights being subject to compliance with the other provisions of these bylaws.
- C. To vote in club business, including endorsements or holding a position in the club, the member must be in good standing, i.e. current on dues or the equivalent and be a registered Democrat.

Removal: A member is removed from the club roster for non-payment of dues or non-annual signature of a hardship waiver by the date required in these bylaws. Any member convicted of a

felony or a crime of a violent nature may be subject to expulsion.

Note: This organization will not tolerate discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, physical ability, gender, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or economic status.

VI. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CDP PRE-ENDORSEMENT CONFERENCE

- A. Per CDP Rules: One club representative shall be allocated as follows: one representative, resident in the Assembly District and duly registered as a Democrat, for each full [not a fraction thereof] 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District who were listed on the roster submitted to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) and to the appropriate Regional Director(s) of the CDP no later than July 1st of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process. The same rules would be for any delegate to the State Senate or Congressional Districts.
- B. For purposes of this Section: Only members in good standing as of July 1 deadline shall be included on the roster; "Members in Good Standing" shall mean a member whose dues are current or have been waived due to economic hardship. The status of such members shall be certified by the Club's President and Treasurer;
- C. The club's representatives to any particular pre-endorsement conference will be from the roster described above and the overall list of representatives to all conferences will be equally apportioned between men & women, to the extent possible.
- D. Said representatives shall be selected by a majority vote of the Selection Committee comprised of the President, Vice President, and the Treasurer, a quorum being present. The Selection Committee shall not select one of its own members unless it determines that no other viable option is available. If such a determination is made, they shall do so by a unanimous vote of the committee.
 - o Their CDC, LACDP and DPSFV representation will be as stated in their credentialing documentation.
- E. No later than October 1st of each odd-numbered year, the Club shall inform its membership of the process for selection as a Representative to the California Democratic Party [CDP] Pre-Endorsement Conferences via both a web or Facebook posting and an e-mail to those members who have provided e-mail addresses for notification purposes.
- F. In order for a member's name to be submitted as one of this Club's representatives to the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences, the member is requested to submit a written declaration of intent to the Selection Committee declaring their intent to support this Club's endorsed candidate if such exists at the Pre-Endorsing Conference with their vote.

VII. DUES

- A. Dues shall be set by the General Membership, upon annual recommendation of the Executive Board, at the last meeting of the calendar year.
- B. Dues or signed hardship waivers are due July 1, and must be paid by August 31st of each calendar year.
- C. Unless otherwise stipulated in these bylaws, membership is effective 30 days after receipt of dues.
- D. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an economic hardship; however, a waiver must first be signed and the matter approved by the assistant treasurer and president before such exception is finalized.
- E. **Dues structure: Dues are structured on a tiered basis.**
 - a. **Progressive: \$27 per year or volunteering or by filling out a hardship waiver.**
 - b. **Students and Veterans: \$10 per year or volunteering or by filling out a hardship waiver.**
 - c. **Paid Elected Official: \$127 per year.**
 - d. **Club Affiliate: (i.e., union, law firm) \$127 per year**
 - i. **Affiliates are designated as ex-officio.**
 - ii. **Exposure at club event.**
 - iii. **Entitles rank and file discounted rate of \$15 per year or \$25 per couple joining as individual members.**

A member with a dues hardship waiver may choose to become a member at any level on the dues structure, but agrees to volunteer equivalent hours on behalf of the club to maintain that designation. Volunteering is not required for a hardship waiver. The club understands that limits and personal situations vary from person to person.

VIII. MEETINGS

- A. **Regular Meetings:** The Club shall hold regular in-person general membership or event meetings at least once every other month on such days as the membership may determine from time-to-time. Regular meetings shall not be canceled more than three (3) times within any calendar year and in no event shall more than two (2) regular meetings be canceled in succession.
- B. **Planning Meetings:** The Club's officers and chairs and committees shall hold meetings as necessary and may do so via internet, teleconference, or in person. All members and

interested parties shall be notified of these meetings no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting.

- C. **Special Meetings:** Special meetings may be called by the president at any time, with no less than three (3) days prior to the meeting. In the absence of the president, any two officers may call a special meeting, for a limited list of reasons:
 - a. Expulsion: if the reasons for expulsion, if not acted upon immediately, would be detrimental for to the club's reputation
 - b. An emergency has occurred that requires immediate attention determined by a minimum of two (2) officers.
 - c. Mediation
- D. **Notice of Meeting:** Notice of regular meetings shall be given at least two (2) week (14 days) in advance to all active members, in any manner previously agreed to by any member as follows:
 - a. Notice in writing by US mail or
 - b. Notice in writing by e-mail or
 - c. Telephone text message
- E. Notice of the meeting shall be deemed sufficient by any manner specified above if such notice includes the date, time, and place of the meeting and is calculated to be received at least two (2) weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting.

IX. RULES FOR CLUB MEETINGS

- A. The Club shall use the latest edition of, [Democratic Rules of Order](#) to govern parliamentary procedure at all official meetings of the organization, except as specifically noted in these bylaws.
- B. A quorum for any official meeting of the Club shall be 10% percent of the total organizational membership, or ten members, whichever is smaller.
- C. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, or required by parliamentary procedure, the Club may conduct regular business with a majority vote of the members present at any meeting.
- D. The Club may pass resolutions not related to endorsements with a vote of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting at any meeting.
- E. Only members in good standing as of July 1, 2018 will appear on the roster submitted for pre-endorsement caucuses.

X. ENDORSEMENTS

An endorsement of a candidate will be considered upon receipt of a questionnaire that would include an acknowledgment of the Party platform and a promise to adhere to intents. The process to consider the endorsement of candidates or issues appearing on the public ballot must be approved prior to any suggestion of endorsements. This process must be written, held in the minutes, and will be considered part of our Standard Operating Procedures.

Endorsements require sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting at any meeting where the endorsement process discussion was placed on the agenda and publicized. This process must include the following:

- A. Under no circumstances may the Club consider the endorsement of a candidate for public office who is not a registered Democrat AND, where necessary, stated his or her party preference as Democrat.
- B. The minimum threshold for endorsement in a race with either a lone Democratic candidate or multiple Democratic candidates is sixty percent (60%) of the members present and voting.
- C. To be eligible to vote on endorsements, members must have joined the club sixty (60) days or more prior to the vote.
- D. The endorsement committee MUST include the President, one member primarily from the 45th Assembly District, one member primarily from the 46th AD, one member primarily from the 39th AD, and the Political Action Chair. Regular members shall encompass at least fifty-one percent (51%) on the endorsement committee.

XI. STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee will be composed of the following:

- A. Founding Committee (FC)
 - a. The FC shall be an AD-HOC committee until the first election of the club.
 - b. The FC shall be made up of Dan, Marlin, Noah, Jason, and Rami
 - c. The FC shall create, prepare, and draft the Bylaws and the Statement of Principles.
 - d. All decision related to the Club must be approved by the 3 of the 5 FC members.
 - e. The FC shall be responsible for overseeing all club matters and implementing the first election.
- B. Executive Board: The Club officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Director and Controller.
- C. Standing Committee Chairs
- D. Up to four (4) At-Large Board Members
 - a. **The duties of at-large Board members will include chairing committees, community outreach, etc as designated.**
 - b. At-Large Board Members shall be appointed by the Executive Board

XII. OTHER COMMITTEES

The standing committees and ad-hoc committees shall be formed in 2 ways:

- 3 members may petition the Steering Committee to form a standing and/or ad-hoc committee, or
- A member of the Executive Board may petition the Steering Committee to form a standing and/or ad-hoc committee.
 - The petition shall include the purpose, goals and timeline of the committee.

XIII. ORDER OF SUCCESSION

If the President vacates office, the Vice President takes over the duties and ascends to the position of President until an election is held to fill the President's remaining term of office.

The additional orders of succession are as follows: Secretary, Communications Director, and Controller .

XIV. OFFICERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PRESIDENT

- a. The President shall bear responsibility for the overall management of the Club.
- b. The President shall preside over all meetings and events of the Club.
- c. The President shall be an ad hoc non-voting member of all committees.
- d. The President shall be the contact person for the Club regarding enquiries from media, other organizations, and vendors seeking information or wishing to do business with the Club.
- e. The President may recommend members temporarily to fill unexpired terms of office to be voted on by the board, subject to election by the membership at the next Club meeting sixty (60) days after the office is vacated.
- f. The President may recommend additional Club members to serve in other capacities as needed to be voted on by the board.
- g. The President must include (cc) all members of the Executive Board for all email communications about the club that pertain to executive decisions.

B. VICE PRESIDENT

- a. The Vice President shall act in the President's stead in any of the above-mentioned tasks due to incapacity of the President, a vacancy in the position of President, or at the President's direction.
- b. The Vice President shall, at a minimum, be a member of the CDP Progressive

Caucus.

C. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

- a. The Communications Director shall act in the President's stead in any of the above- mentioned tasks due to incapacity of the 1st Vice President.
- b. The Communications Director, shall, at a minimum, be a member or retiree in good standing of an authorized union, and be a member of the CDP Progressive Caucus or CDP Labor Caucus.

D. SECRETARY

- a. The Secretary shall act in the President's stead in any of the above-mentioned tasks due to incapacity of the President, the Vice President, or the Communications Director.
- b. The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that all members are notified of The Club's meetings, for recording minutes of meetings, for disseminating said minutes in a timely fashion, and for maintaining all written records of the Club.

E. CONTROLLER

- a. The Controller shall act in the President's stead in any of the above mentioned tasks due to incapacity of the President, Vice President, or the 2nd Vice President, or Secretary.
- b. The Controller shall maintain all financial records of the club, be responsible for keeping the membership dues roster up-to-date, collecting monies and depositing them with our professional treasurer in a timely manner, approving payments, and sending all club reports and pertinent information to our Treasurer in a regular and timely manner.

XV. TREASURER

The treasurer, who shall not necessarily be a member of the Club and in such circumstance shall be compensated for his or her time, shall be held responsible for ensuring FPPC/FEC and any other financial reports are submitted correctly and on time.

XVI. OFFICER ELECTIONS PROCESS

Elections will be conducted every two years in the month of June. The president and vice president will be elected through ranked choice voting procedures. **ELIGIBILITY**

REQUIREMENTS - The following procedure will be waived for the first two-year term of the Club's officers.

- a. Candidates for President must be members in good standing, having previously

served as an officer for at least one year, prior to the June General Meeting.

- b. Candidates for all other positions must have been members in good standing for at least three (3) months prior to nominations.

B. NOMINATIONS PROCESS

- a. No later than March 15 of each odd year, the President shall appoint a Nominations Chair to oversee all aspects of the officer elections. He or she cannot be a candidate in said election.
- b. The notifications for the June general meeting will include all of the information on running for an officer position including a copy of the pertinent part of the bylaws. These notices will go out as prescribed elsewhere in these bylaws; members will also be contacted by telephone.
- c. At a Spring meeting of the club, qualified members (as described elsewhere in these bylaws) will be invited to nominate or self-nominate. They may also contact the nominations chair outside of the meeting with their suggestions or self-nominations. Each candidate must produce a statement of intent and answer the following questions:
 - i. What qualifies you for this position?
 - ii. What are your goals for the term if elected?
 - iii. Do you endorse the statement of principles of the UP Club?
- d. Statement should not exceed 500 words.
 - i. Statement will publish with an update by the nominations chair in a timely fashion. This report must be transmitted via e-mail or posted on the UP club website, depending on the member's preference.
- e. The Nominations period will close on May 30th at 5 p.m. A final list of candidates will be provided to all club members via e-mail and/or by posting on the [UP Website](#).

C. ELECTIONS PROCESS

- a. Non-Contested Races: Races that are not contested will be presented by the nominations chair in a consent calendar. Passage requires a sixty percent (60%) vote of all eligible voters present. A candidate may be pulled from the consent calendar by a request of at least three (3) voting members.
- b. Contested Officer Races and Pulled Candidates: Those who pull any person from the consent calendar may speak to the members for one (1) minute on their reason for pulling that candidate from the consent calendar. At the nominations

chair's discretion, there may be some dialogue with the members on any pulled candidate. Thereafter, each candidate or his or her representative shall have one (1) minute combined to talk to the members. Voting will be via secret ballot with members voting for their choice for each officer position still vacant.

- c. Ballots will be counted by at least two (2) people who are not candidates and overseen by the nominations chair. Candidates may observe.
- d. At the conclusion of voting, the new board shall be sworn in. Their terms of office shall begin immediately and conclude at the following December's election meeting.

XVII. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Club Secretary shall produce a Standard Operating Procedures Manual, subject to approval of the Steering Committee, covering all of the duties and responsibilities of the officers and committees in concordance with these bylaws but containing more detailed information not outlined in these bylaws on an ongoing basis, as needed.

XVIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In order to insure the Club is represented at meetings of the LACDP, DP/SFV, the CDC, and any other organizations in which it may have a stake, formally or informally, the President shall appoint one or more persons to represent the Club at these events subject to a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

XIX. LEADERSHIP BUILDING

- A. The Club may elect such other officers as may be deemed necessary from time-to-time to conduct Club business.
- B. The Club leadership shall take every opportunity to train new members and to encourage them to obtain leadership positions.
- C. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Club officers and chairs of standing committees and shall be responsible for implementing the Club's goals and maintaining financial viability.
- D. All executive board meetings and committees shall be noticed to the entire membership per the rules noted elsewhere in these bylaws and all members are encouraged to attend.
- E. Standing committees will include:
 - a. Endorsements

- b. Rules and Elections
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Events Committee
- e. Membership Outreach
- f. Other committees as determined by the Steering Committee defined as an Ad-hoc Committee.

XX. REMOVAL AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- A. A regular member, neither a chair nor an officer, must prepare a resolution stating the reasons for removing an officer. This resolution must be signed by at least three (3) other members, only one of whom may be an officer.
- B. A regular member may be removed from the club by a resolution of sixty percent (60%) of the Regular members at a General Meeting for such causes as behavior not befitting a member in a Democratic organization; this action can only be carried out providing the membership and the officer have been notified at least fourteen days (14) in advance of the meeting of the proposed action against the member.
- C. Expulsion or disciplinary actions are subject to appeal should eight (8) members of the Steering Committee move to reconsider.

XXI. NOTIFICATIONS

The Club will keep regular communications with the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and all affiliated organizations by sending notice of events and meetings to the following:

- A. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of the LACDP and all other affiliated organizations.
- B. All members of the LACDP Assembly District delegation in which a majority of the organization's members reside.

XXII. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UPON DISSOLUTION

The Club, upon dissolving and after all outstanding bills are paid, will relinquish any remaining funds to the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley to support DP/SFV endorsed Democratic candidates or issues.

XXIII. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws are intended to serve a living document that must guide this club in advancing the cause of justice. These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a sixty percent (60%) vote at a general membership meeting after the proposed amendment has been presented to the

membership at a preceding meeting. Two weeks' notice by e-mail must be provided for each meeting at which these bylaws are to be amended.

XXIV. Appendix I - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- **WE FULLY SUPPORT AND ENDORSE THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC RIGHTS:**
 - The right to a useful and remunerative occupation at a living wage;
 - The right to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation;
 - The right of every person to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and/or domination by monopolies at home or abroad;
 - The right of every family to a decent home;
 - The right to comprehensive medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
 - The right to protection from the economic insecurities of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;
 - The right to a quality education.
 - The right of workers to organize and bargain collectively, have direct input and involvement in their work, including employee ownership and share in the fruits of their labor.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

- **PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PUT AN END TO POLITICAL CORRUPTION AND BRING ABOUT ELECTION REFORM.**
 - Super PACs should be banned, private donations to politicians and campaigns should be banned, and a clean public financing system should be implemented to end the takeover of our government by corporations and billionaires. Americans deserve free and fair elections — free from the corruption of big money donors. The Supreme Court has effectively legalized bribery. It's time for an Article 5 convention to take our Democracy back from the brink of Oligarchy. Prior to passing this amendment, all United Progressive Democrats should reject billionaire and corporate donations when running for office to show the American people we don't just talk the talk, we walk the walk. We should implement Ranked Choice voting to eliminate the spoiler effect and to ensure elections are decided by a majority and not just by plurality. All provisions of the Voting Rights Act should be reinstated with amendments that enable a rank choice voting system, and gerrymandering for partisan gain should be eliminated. We envision election reforms that also include: Open primaries, automatic voter registration, the elimination of

superdelegates and the electoral college, elections should be treated as a holiday to maximize voter turnout, and everyone should be given time off to go vote. Voting systems should be secure and open sourced, transparent, accountable and tamperproof. We are opposed to purging of eligible voters and creating unfair barriers to voting for all people.

- **RE-REGULATE WALL STREET AND HOLD WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE.**
 - Despite engaging in systemic fraud and causing a subprime mortgage meltdown and the great recession, too few people from Wall Street are in prison for their crimes. It's time to prosecute the criminals, bring back Glass-Steagall, and re-regulate Wall Street to prevent another crash. Prison is not just for the poor and the middle class anymore. We will have cops on Wall Street, not just Main Street.
- **END BILLIONAIRE AND CORPORATE TAX DODGING, FIX THE SYSTEM TO BENEFIT MIDDLE-CLASS AND POOR PEOPLE.**
 - Corporations dodge \$450 billion a year in taxes by using offshore tax havens. We should end this injustice, as well as chain the capital gains tax to the income tax, increase the estate tax, and implement the Buffet Rule so that no millionaire CEO pays less in taxes than his or her secretary. The current tax system perpetuates and exacerbates inequality between the classes. Our tax dollars should not be spent to subsidize the industries of war or those that are destructive to the environment. It's time for a tax system that benefits the middle-class and the poor, and makes the top 1% and multinational corporations pay their fair share.
- **DEFEND FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION.**
 - We support the right to express unpopular opinions without fear of censorship. We support free speech on college campuses. The marketplace of ideas should be embraced. A vibrant debate is healthy for democracy, and we should cherish our first amendment. We also support net neutrality for a free and open internet.
- **OPPOSE BIGOTRY.**
 - We must speak out against racism, hate-speech, sexism, xenophobia, and all forms of bigotry. Non-discrimination protections that currently apply to race, religion, and gender should be expanded to include the LGBTQ community and the atheist community. Making all Americans equal is not asking for special privileges, it's asking for the rule of law — justice and equality for all as outlined in the United States Constitution.
- **ENSURE THAT NO PERSON LIVE IN POVERTY.**
 - We should make the minimum wage a living wage and tie it to inflation. This is about justice and basic human decency. We support strong unions, collective bargaining, and worker co-ops. We oppose so-called "Right to Work" laws that undermine workers. No human being should live in poverty. The highest earner at a company should receive no more than 15 times the lowest earner. The advances in technology, and the automation of labor, require a universal basic income.
- **ENSURE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE AS A RIGHT.**
 - The United States should catch up to every other modern nation and implement a

single-payer, medicare-for-all system. There's no reason we can't be #1 in the world instead of #37. It's time to end the destruction of American healthcare by rapacious, price gouging, for-profit, private health insurance middlemen, and greedy pharmaceuticals.

- **ENSURE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION AS A RIGHT.**

- We should strive to have the best universal education system in the world which includes both higher education and trade schools. Educating the citizenry is fundamental to the health of our people and democracy. We believe that the pursuit of education should not leave a person in financial debt. A modern educational system will include entrepreneurship, job placement, apprenticeships and fellowships designed to advance the individual and the society.

- **END UNNECESSARY WARS AND IMPERIALISTIC NATION BUILDING.**

- The United States maintains hundreds of military bases worldwide at a costing Americans Billions of Dollars, this is money that can be spent at home creating jobs, rebuilding infrastructure, and investing in the future of the people. The disastrous war in Iraq cost trillions, the war in Afghanistan has no end in sight, and we're currently bombing many different countries. We spend more on our military than the next 8 countries combined. Despite countless lives lost and destroyed, terrorism has only gotten worse. It's time to end the war profiteering. Unilateral U.S. military force should only be used as a last resort to defend the nation. The current budget should be focused on defending us and protecting human rights, instead of waging imperialist wars. A department of Human Rights and Non-violent solutions must be established at a cabinet level position.

- **END THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS.**

- The goal is legalization, taxation, and regulation. Prohibition only makes drug cartels more powerful, increases crime, and makes drugs more dangerous due to lack of enforced safety standards. A free society should allow individuals to make their own choices about their bodies while not harming others. While most users are recreational and moderate, rehabilitation and treatment should be provided for people struggling with addiction as part of an Universal Healthcare model. Additionally, those serving time for non-violent drug offenses should be pardoned.

- **MODERNIZE AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE.**

- Our infrastructure gets a grade of D from the Society of Civil Engineers. The government should invest trillions in modernizing our crumbling roads, bridges, schools, levees, airports etc. We should invest in research and development for emerging technologies that would provide energy efficient, safe and effective transportation. There's no reason why we can't be a global leader in cutting edge infrastructure.

- **CREATE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY REVOLUTION.**

- Scientists are sounding the alarm on climate change which is resulting in a global crisis. We need an immediate massive green revolution, completely moving away from fossil fuels while developing and investing in new technologies, and collaborating with the modern educational and vocational system. This will be a giant boon to both the private

and public sector. We can and we must be #1 in sustainable energy production in the world.

- **WE SUPPORT FAIR TRADE NOT FREE TRADE.**
 - Block bad trade deals like the TPP and oppose outsourcing that will further damage the middle-class. As a result of NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR with China and the WTO, Americans have lost millions of decent paying jobs. It's time to end the race to the bottom and renegotiate these rigged deals that only benefit elites. We should not sacrifice our sovereignty to corporate tribunals, the only people who are allowed to make laws for the United States should be the American people, not multinational corporations.
- **END CONSTITUTIONAL OVERREACHES.**
 - Ban the NSA from bulk data-collection and warrantless spying. Shut down Guantanamo Bay and all extrajudicial prisons. Prosecute torturers and those who violated the Geneva Conventions, Nuremberg Tribunal, International law and US law. Return habeas corpus and due process. Pardon whistleblowers like Edward Snowden. We shouldn't be leading from behind on human rights, we must be the home of liberty. We should practice the values we preach.
- **END ALL WAR PROFITEERING.**
 - End the practice of using a Military Industrial Complex to profit off the selling of arms. Ban arming human rights violators, monarchies and dictatorship.
- **DEFEND AND PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS.**
 - We support the Paycheck Fairness Act and strive to promote women's equality in all aspects of society including intersectionality. We oppose any restrictive cuts to Planned Parenthood and women's health clinics all across the country. We will vigorously oppose all efforts to dismantle reproductive rights.
- **ENSURE PAID VACATION TIME, SICK TIME, FAMILY LEAVE, CHILDCARE.**
 - The United States is one of just three countries in the world that doesn't offer paid maternity leave and childcare. We are the only industrialized nation that doesn't offer paid vacation time. This should be changed immediately. A minimum of 6 weeks should be a basic right of all workers.
- **STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE SAFETY NET PROGRAMS**
 - Protect and expand Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We pledge to support the Safety Net that reduced elderly poverty rate from 35% to 10%. Gutting these vital programs is not an option.
- **IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM.**
 - We won't give an inch in our opposition to Trump's outrageous proposals. Ideas like a 'total and complete' shutdown of Muslim immigration and deporting all undocumented immigrants are anathema to America. We will fight for comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. America is a proud nation of immigrants.
- **ENACT POLICE REFORM.**
 - We believe in the core idea of policing — to serve and protect the community. Police are

a vital part of American society and that is why it's so important to reform the system to make it serve all Americans. For-profit policing and for-profit prisons should be abolished. Police training should be retooled to emphasize de escalation tactics, and body cameras should be mandatory on all officers. Furthermore, a balanced civilian and peer oversight boards should be created, Stop & frisk and broken windows policing should be eliminated. On top of being discriminatory and ineffective, these methods are also unconstitutional and should be ended. Special Independent Prosecutors must also be appointed to hold police accountable.

- **END HOMELESSNESS.**

- More than 600,000 Americans are homeless on any given night. This community is a diverse population in need of targeted services. Studies show homeless persons cost communities far more than providing housing and services. Addressing this crisis with a "housing-first" policy is both morally and fiscally responsible. In addition, we should remove obstacles of re-entry into job markets.

- **ENACT COMMON-SENSE FIREARM REGULATION.**

- We believe that owning a firearm is a great responsibility that should require common-sense regulation that protects the community and owners. 92% of Americans want expanded background checks. We agree with the majority of the American people and support the responsible ownership of firearms. This should include the requirement of ongoing firearm training and competence assessment. People on the terrorist watch list should not be able to buy firearms. The time to act is now to address this public health crisis and protect our communities.

- **ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.**

- The State should not have the power to terminate life.

- **THIS COLLECTION OF IDEAS INSPIRE THE UNITED PROGRESSIVE CLUB.**

- Opinion polls in the United States demonstrate that these policy positions are overwhelmingly popular and throughout the industrialized world these ideas are considered moderate. Our movement is by and for working people. If the Democrats embrace this platform Americans will rally to support and elect a new generation of Democratic leaders. We assert that these principles of the UNITED PROGRESSIVE CLUB will serve to realign the Democratic Party with the needs of The People.

XXV. Appendix II - Rank Choice Voting Process

This Club shall explore a Ranked-Choice Voting Process and employ it whenever possible in conducting elections and endorsement votes.

http://www.fairvote.org/rcv#how_rcv_works