



Civil Rights and Equality

As Democrats, we believe in the protection of civil rights and equality for all in our community. In particular we see far too many segments of our population who continue to suffer second class status and suffer a violation of basic rights. We must do better in providing equal justice before the law, equal access to vital services, equal opportunity in education, housing, and employment, and equal treatment by our government of all people, including women and LGBTQIA individuals, undocumented workers and people caught in our criminal justice system. People and women have the right to full access to reproductive health information and the legal right to seek to terminate a pregnancy if they so choose. We stand firmly behind *Roe v. Wade* as one of the cornerstones to women's equality in our nation and our county. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual people have the right to live their lives in peace and with dignity, and to be treated fairly and equally before the law, in a community where discrimination based on sexual orientation, identity, and expression is not tolerated.

The method in which laws are unfairly enforced contributes to institutional racism and the warehousing of men, and in increasing numbers, women of color. The system is broken on so many levels that we must seek out alternatives that truly promote justice and fairness for all involved. As an extremely vulnerable population, undocumented workers must be treated humanely, as the law dictates, and their families protected from harassment.

To achieve these goals, we support the following policies and initiatives:

Woman's Right to Choose

- No Local government agency will express formal opposition to a woman's right to choose or express formal opposition to organizations that provide comprehensive family planning services.
- Crimes committed against women and healthcare providers must be treated as hate crimes when appropriate and prosecuted as such.

- Public educational institutions provide the names of such agencies such as Planned Parenthood when teaching sex education or whenever family planning organizations are listed as resources for young women.
- Educational and preventative programs to protect women from sexual and domestic violence.
- Educational support services to women with dependent children in order to increase parenting and job skills.
- Expanded workplace rights associated with pregnancy, childcare, and emergency family leave.
- Unrestricted access to affordable, quality, and culturally appropriate health and reproductive services without requiring guardian, judicial, parental, or spousal consent or notification.

LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual) Rights

- Local school boards should work to ensure that schools should be accessible and safe environments for gay, lesbian and gender-non-conforming youth.
- County and local law enforcement must make action against violent hate crimes, be they motivated by homophobia or racism, a priority for prevention and enforcement efforts.
- The unqualified right to legal marriage for the LGBTQIA community.

Criminal Justice

- The establishment of programs such as restorative justice programs which help the accused face up to the consequences of their actions without being caught up in the legal system. This is especially important in juvenile cases.
- Educational services to be provided to victims so they understand the part they would play in the restorative justice plan.
- Law enforcement agencies to provide ongoing training to eliminate profiling and tagging which only exacerbates the problem of mass criminalization.
- Law enforcement personnel to become familiar with restorative justice programs and begin the training necessary for their successful implementation.
- An end to the sentencing of children as adults in our county in all cases.
- An end to the use of mandatory minimums in sentencing, and the abolition of overly punitive prison sentences for minor drug convictions.

- The strict enforcement of handgun and automatic weapons control laws.
- The expansion of drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, counseling, and job placement programs that are free and freely available to assist released individuals in their transition back to public life.
- Increased funding for the Public Defender's Office.

Immigrants Rights

- An end to the use of Santa Barbara County and local law enforcement as agents of the Federal government in immigration cases.
- No government support for vigilante groups, which encourages them to participate in the enforcement of immigration laws.
- Firm enforcement of the legal procedures regarding warrants and due process, which will prevent the wholesale round up of workers in our county and guard against discrimination against both citizens and legal residents.
- All local human rights organizations should provide information on immigrant rights and recommended procedures as specified by the National Immigration Law Center.
- Local agencies and/or governments must develop emergency procedures for those left behind when raids do occur. Children's welfare should be a top priority.

Native American Treaties and Tribes

- We believe in building a society in which people of all heritages enjoy respect, health and economic security. We will support the constitutional right of Native Americans and the sovereign rights of Indian nations as well as the tribal sovereignty and well-established rights and jurisdictions of California Native/Indian nations.