

PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

The CDP adopted a statewide platform in 2018. There is arguably no need for us to have our own. The Orange County Party has expressly adopted the CDP platform. The Platform Committee recommends we do the same, with certain other suggestions.

Our existing County platform of 11,446 words has 797 words specific to Ventura County. These VC specifics are worth keeping for ready reference, as the following Addendum to the CDP platform. This raises an interesting question: could other Addenda also serve a purpose?

At around 14,600 words, the CDP platform is somewhat long. Certainly, it is “there,” should it ever be “needed,” but it is entirely possible that few people “need” it, or even read it at all, quite frankly. Moreover, it often sets out aspirations as opposed to specific points. Something briefer would surely be more useful, like a sales pitch. Regarding one of our most important sales pitches, President Clinton was clear: “It’s the economy, stupid!” However, the CDP platform’s economics content is around 3,000 words scattered around the platform’s 14,600 words and thus not readily accessible.

Ideally, a summary of the platform’s economic content could be prepared by its original authors, along with a summary of the entire platform (maybe in 4,802 words, the length of the California Republican Party’s entire platform). Yet when these items would ever be produced is open to speculation.

The Platform Committee has accordingly designed an Economics Addendum to CDP’s platform (with an economic use of words). This respects the CDP platform, restates certain items more boldly, and makes specific additions. As with the CDP platform, no effort was made to distinguish State and Federal issues.

Its purpose is twofold. It takes CDP’s economics ideas, slims them down to fighting weight and adds muscle in a total of 815 easily-accessible words. Secondly, it gives a starting point for debate and drafting legislation. We work hard to elect Democrats and should help them as much as possible once in office. Explanatory Notes are provided, aimed at average persons hoping to increase their expertise in wages, taxes, Social Security and National Debt. Democrats can rarely out-spend Republicans. But we can certainly out-think them.

In due course the Platform Committee could develop further Addenda such as for Environment, Women, LGBT, Veterans, etc., for the same reasons as the two Addenda herewith. These might conclude with simple messages along the lines of this simple economics message:-

We want YOU to get more MONEY. Democrats run the economy better. Even Trump said so.

418 words

PLATFORM COMMITTEE:-

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DATE: TUES 8 JAN 2019

REVISED: WED 27 MAR 2019

PLATFORM

The [California Democratic Party Platform](#) adopted in 2018 is the platform of the Ventura County Democratic Party, supplemented by the Ventura County Addendum, Economics Addendum, and such other Addenda as may be developed hereafter.

35 words

VENTURA COUNTY ADDENDUM

ARTS AND CULTURE

General Preamble

Ventura County is home to many of those workers (to wit, arts, culture, movie, media) and some have established allied businesses here. The county is also home to digital media firms, publishers and a major industrial design studio.

To help attract and retain such employers, our colleges and universities are prepared to supply graduates trained to work in design, studio arts, film & video, digital multimedia, music and creative writing.

The State of California, Ventura County and its local governments support the arts through direct investment, public-private partnerships, and assistance to non-profit groups. Throughout the entire county a wide variety of art institutions can be found, ranging from large scale performing arts venues (Thousand Oaks & Oxnard), [mid-sized community arts venues \(Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center\)](#), to small stages in educational sites (California State University Channel Islands; Ventura/Oxnard/Moorpark Community Colleges; Cal Lutheran University, [Santa Susana High School in Simi Valley](#)); there are outdoor stages (Ojai & Camarillo) and a restored historic theatre (Moorpark). The County and its cities contribute to at least two choral groups and to many musical events throughout the year. The Ojai music festival is nationally recognized for its quality. Every town in the county has an art and/or history museum, ranging from the Maritime Museum in Port Hueneme, the Chumash Indian Museum, the Carnegie Art Museum and the Gull Wings Children's Museum in Oxnard, the Ventura Museum of Art and the Agricultural Museum in Santa Paula, [Corriganville and Strathern Historical Park and Adobe in Simi Valley](#), to the railroad museum in Fillmore. In addition to these institutionally established venues, there are several art centers and galleries, including a mixed-use housing project with artists' studios in Ventura.

Statement of Principles

Support the work of municipal arts commissions and the Ventura County Arts Council to encourage the installation of public art, acquire art for public collections, sponsor cultural events and encourage the artistic education and expression of our citizens.

[While some of the communities in Ventura county do a good job of promoting multicultural arts, others do not. We believe that our civic organizations and institutions should encourage all voices in our communities, including indigenous, Latinx/Chicano, Filipino, Asian and East Asian, African-American, Jewish, Middle-Eastern and all others, in the areas of music, dance, theater, visual arts and craftsmanship.](#)

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have a vested interest in preserving and protecting natural resources that are such a positive part of our lives in Ventura County. The Ventura County Democratic Party recognizes the importance of a clean and healthful environment, responsible use of energy, and slowing the impact of climate change.

Extreme weather conditions, wildfires, flooding, tsunami danger, droughts, and other effects of climate change have impacted all of Ventura County. We want to encourage viable options to reduce carbon emissions, including bike pathways, walkways, public transportation, denser housing along transit corridors, waste reduction, and carbon taxes, to ensure a safe, clean environment for future generations.

We also want to advocate for a minimum of 25% renewable energy sources and commercial and residential building developments that include solar panels and energy-efficient appliances.

Healthy land

- Support preservation of wetlands in the Ormond Beach area and full funding of cleanup efforts, and oppose further development in sensitive areas;
- Support Congressional efforts to restore full funding to the Army Corp of Engineers budget for beach restoration at Port Hueneme;
- Support the long-delayed removal of Matilija Dam;
- Support restoration of the Ventura River and all waterways in the county and creation of a Ventura River Parkway.

Clean Water

- Ensure that all Ventura County residents have access to clean, safe water that is free of contaminants, pesticides or chemicals from corroded pipes, previous or current environmental disasters, or polluted waterways.
- Ensure support and funding for repairing and replacing crumbling infrastructure of sewage and water systems.
- Identify imminent safe water challenges, like the potential in Simi Valley to expand use of water that includes contaminated runoff from the Santa Susana Field Lab.
- Support clean-water policies and leaders who will put resident safety and confidence above administrative expediency and short-term cost savings.

Pollution and Toxins

- Support a moratorium for the use of all fumigant pesticides, known carcinogens and neurotoxins, on strawberries, an important Ventura County crop. We urge the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution opposing such pesticides. We support efforts to phase out all pesticides affecting farmworkers and consumers.
- Support an immediate ban on all such pesticides in all public spaces, especially parks, schools, and other places where children are exposed.
- Support an immediate ban on such pesticides on farms where migrant children are exposed, through working in the fields, living in onsite housing, or otherwise.
- Call for complete and expeditious cleanup of Santa Susana Field Lab site to background levels and Halaco's Ormond Beach site, and full disclosure of toxins.

Immigration & Discrimination

In acknowledgement of the many economic, social and cultural contributions that immigrants and native-born residents, including minorities and the LGBTQ community, make in Ventura County, and in acknowledgement that all people have the basic right to feel safe and respected in their own communities,

- Actively advocate for all our residents, so that they feel safe, respected and encouraged to engage in all aspects of civic life, including in business, schools, neighborhoods, faith communities, and civic organizations.
- Actively promote voter outreach efforts within our county, including voter registration and voter education. Support and promote effective legal safeguards and protections for access to voting and voting materials in letter, spirit, and practice.
- Strongly support intervention for abuse, discrimination and crime among or against immigrants and all efforts to remove the fear of arrest and deportation for reporting such abuse.
- Steadfastly and vociferously oppose any efforts to challenge or exempt communities from SB54.
- Law enforcement:
 - Insist that local law enforcement treat all human beings with dignity and respect regardless of legal status.
 - Insist that local governments and law enforcement take policy positions that reduce discrimination, de-escalate hate, discourage division, and demonstrate respect for all residents and visitors.
 - Support law enforcement in efforts they make towards achieving these goals, and support allocation of budgeting for training.
- Recognize the rights of refugees to seek asylum through internationally established standards for human rights.
- Support DACA and other pathways for immigrants to seek legal status and citizenship.
- Call to account officials who endorse, tacitly approve, or turn a blind eye to discrimination.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Strongly support the maintaining and strengthening of Naval Base Ventura County both militarily and economically;

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

General Preamble

Ventura County has been a pioneer in the movement toward sustainable communities since 1967, when the cities of Ventura and Santa Paula adopted the first of seven greenbelt agreements in the county. Ventura County voters reaffirmed their commitment to sustainability by approving the first Save Open-Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative in 1995. Hillside protection ordinances currently protect open space in **Simi Valley**, Ventura and Thousand Oaks. Public support for infill and compact development has been demonstrated in general plan updates for over a decade. Ventura County remains a national leader in the effective protection against urban sprawl.

Statements in Support of Specified Actions by Government Agencies

- Support the efforts of the Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) to promote comprehensive regional planning to accommodate future population growth in a manner that will improve economic, environmental and social conditions our communities; and
- Protect and renew Ventura County's SOAR ordinances and strengthen existing greenbelt agreements. Oppose annexations that are inconsistent with SOAR's principles.

**ECONOMICS
ADDENDUM**

HEALTHCARE

Medicare will be extended to all Americans saving \$5.1TN over 10 years, explicitly covering pre-existing conditions. Anyone wishing to keep supplemental private insurance may do so.

Medicare shall use its bargaining power to lower drug prices.

Drug companies shall be prohibited from direct advertising of prescription drugs to the public

SOCIAL SECURITY

All persons who have paid into Social Security will be entitled to benefits.

Pension benefits will be paid in full without reference to other pensions receivable.

There shall be no income taxes on pension benefits.

The income cap on contributions will be removed. Scrap the cap.

Payroll taxes funding Social Security shall be reduced to the levels in 1980.

To produce greater investment returns, Social Security will be allowed to invest in other conservative investment grade assets besides Treasuries and would be run like any other actuarially-sound, independently-audited, professionally-managed pension fund.

The Treasury will repay the \$2.7 TN cash raided from Social Security by Republicans and be prohibited from taking money from it again.

EDUCATION

Industrial training and apprenticeship programs will be supported with tax credits.

ECONOMY

Americans prosper under Democrats. Democrats run the economy better. Even Trump said so: "The economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans." (CNN, March 21, 2004).

JOBS

Democrats will implement policies to grow the middle class. Republicans represent the 1%.

Democrats will stop the Trump con job of trickle-down economics

Corporate profits are now at their highest. Wages are at their lowest. Democrats will enact policies for all Americans to share in the wealth and make it easier for workers to form labor unions.

**Democrats will restore labor positions previously accepted by Republicans:-
President Eisenhower: “The protection of the right of workers to organize into unions and to bargain collectively is the firm and permanent policy of the Eisenhower Administration.”**

TAXES

Democrats will attack America’s problem of runaway National Debt.

Democrats will introduce progressive taxation and maximum compensation rates.

Democrats will pay down the staggering Gross National Debt (105% of Gross Domestic Product) resulting from irresponsible Republican tax cuts.

The Billions of dollars currently used for corporate socialism will instead be redirected to pay down today’s crushing student debt.

All corporate tax breaks and subsidies for large corporations (per I.R.S.) will be abolished until an economic case for them can be made.

Democrats will set Corporation Tax at 25%.

The Deduction for interest expense in the Corporation Tax shall be abolished.

Democrats will reintroduce the Alternative Minimum Tax to force high earners to pay up.

Democrats will introduce a new Capital Transfer Tax of 20% on asset transfers above \$2.5M per donor to replace the ineffective Estate Tax.

Democrats will introduce a new Income Transfer Tax of 20% on money earned in America and transferred abroad to tax havens.

Create incentives for the retention and expansion of American manufacturing and service jobs. End incentives, and impose penalties, for offshoring such jobs.

Stock buybacks do not create jobs and will be taxed at 20%. All capital gains over \$250,000 will be taxed as ordinary income.

Democrats will introduce a 5% Federal tax on luxury items.

Funding for the I.R.S. will be doubled to crack down on fraud.

Bogus “non-profits” serving no humanitarian purpose will be taxed at the entity rates.

Churches will be subject to a tax of 20% on funds supporting lavish lifestyles, executive jets and mansions.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Monopolies and mega-corporations will be broken up as done by the anti-trust Republican President Theodore Roosevelt's programs.

Companies paying starvation wages with employees resorting to food stamps will be taxed to recover this cost plus a 20% surcharge.

CEO compensation exceeding 100 times median company pay will be subject to a surtax of 20%.

Shorter working hours, paid sick leave, paid vacation and paid maternity leave will be introduced.

Mandatory overtime pay after 35 hours per week will be introduced.

Wage theft shall be a felony punishable by imprisonment.

Preventing union organizing, and union-busting activities, shall be punishable with imprisonment.

Workers in the "gig economy" shall be legally employees and paid at least minimum wage plus expenses.

All requirements for forced arbitration in employment and consumer contracts shall be null and void.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Projects making the private sector more efficient will be given priority, with emphasis on mass transit and commercial transportation.

The repair or replacement of crumbling infrastructure will be given priority.

Prisoners who have fought fires for 24 months will be given full remission and allowed to become firefighters for State agencies.

California shall have a Public Bank similar to North Dakota's.

California shall have an adequately-funded Public Insurance Company for wildfires

FINALE

Democrats will return America to the Good Old Days in 1956 when its middle class was the richest in the world. Today it is behind South Korea's and scarcely better than Greece's. We want YOU to get more MONEY. Democrats run the economy better. Even Trump said so.

815 words

418 + 35 + 797 + 815 = 2,065 words total