

## ***Preamble***

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that our nation has been great for almost 250 years, is still great today, and will remain great for centuries to come. We believe that cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, empowerment is better than resentment, and bridges are better than walls. We understand that being great is not the same as being perfect but rather our greatness lies in our unwavering belief that we can make our nation better.

- We believe that rural and small-town America is a fundamental part of the character of our country.
- We believe every American should have the opportunity for a permanent, well-paying, full-time job that can support a middle class lifestyle.
- We believe we can keep our communities safe while protecting the rights of responsible gun owners.
- We believe that healthcare is a right not a privilege.
- We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights for all Americans as provided for in the Constitution.
- We believe in advancing the rights of women and minorities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and rights for people with disabilities.
- We believe we must end the scourge of violence against women wherever it occurs.
- We believe we must face the reality that race still plays a significant role in determining who gets ahead in America and who gets left behind and we must work to correct this situation.
- We believe in maintaining a strong military while understanding that diplomacy should always be the first option.
- We believe that diversity is our strength and recognize and embrace our heritage as a nation of immigrants while honoring the heritage of those that were brought here involuntarily.
- We believe the earned benefits under Social Security and Medicare must be protected.
- We believe a good public education is a basic right of all Americans no matter where they live and no matter their economic circumstances.
- We believe funding for improved teacher pay, school facilities, and course materials and supplies must be a priority.

- We believe we must stop the oversized influence on elections wielded by the wealthy and corporations and return control of our elections to the American people.
- We believe that we are stronger when we have an economy that works for everyone not just the wealthy and privileged.
- We believe living in an environment typified by clean air and clean water is a basic right of all Americans.
- We believe in the scientific reality of catastrophic climate change.
- We believe together we can build a more equal society, a more just economy, and a more perfect union.