



DEMOCRATIC/PROGRESSIVE CORE VALUES, THEMES AND FRAMES THAT DEFINE WHO WE ARE

CORE VALUE: SMART GOVERNMENT

— Therefore we believe that:

- Taxes are an investment in our future. Patriotic Americans pay their fair share.
- Government should be accountable. It should be responsive, transparent and fiscally responsible.
- Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy and must be guaranteed.
- Government must be effective. It's important to have a government that does a good job and looks out for its citizens.
- A fair and open media is essential and must not be hijacked by government or private interests.

CORE VALUE: OPPORTUNITY

— Therefore we believe in:

- Broad prosperity: The American Dream should be accessible to everyone, not just the wealthy. There should be a level playing field for all.
- Quality, affordable healthcare should be the right of all Americans.
- Hard-working Americans should be able to count on a retirement safety net of Social Security.
- We believe in quality education, from Pre-K through college, as a great leveler.
- Tort laws should protect the little guys from big corporations.
- Tax laws should be non-regressive.

CORE VALUE: PRIVACY

—Therefore we believe that:

- **People should have the freedom to marry. The state shouldn't be in the business of telling people who they can and can't love.**
- **There should be freedom of—and from—religious ideology.**
- **Private adult consensual behavior shouldn't be regulated.**
- **Decisions about when to have children, the right to die, access to contraceptives and other personal decisions should be made by citizens, their doctors and loved ones, and not the government.**

CORE VALUE: US LEADERSHIP

—Therefore we believe that:

- **A stronger America should provide leadership on global issues (terrorism, landmines, global warming etc.).**
- **Americans should be able to count on their president to tell the truth.**
- **The government should preserve liberties, build economic strength and international alliances while providing security for all its citizens.**
- **Americans should be champions of human rights, here and abroad.**
- **We should be leaders in science and technology (e.g. stem cells—we are “pro-cure” and support funding research that can save lives--and alternative energy).**
- **We should promote family values as being caring, responsible and strong for each other.**
- **Americans should make a strong commitment to global cooperation.**

CORE VALUE: CONSERVATION

— Therefore we believe that:

- **Americans should protect the environment for future generations through responsible stewardship. Environmental protection is good for the economy today and in the future.**
- **Americans should develop alternative energy sources that are less polluting to the environment, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign sources of them.**