



# THE GEN-Z BILL OF RIGHTS

DREAM FOR AMERICA★

January 2024 Edition

## **Gen-Z deserves a future of hope, progress, & prosperity.**

**The Gen-Z Bill of Rights** is a comprehensive platform by **Dream for America** outlining *Gen-Z's blueprint for America*. By 2036, young people will make up 60% of the American electorate. We're angry about the assault on civil rights, the surging cost of living, and the hijacking of America's promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As the generation defined by school shootings and economic crises — which is now graduating into one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history, we believe a better world is possible — but only if Gen-Z has a hand in shaping it.

**Gen-Z knows what our priorities are.** We're everyday Americans who want opportunities for ourselves and security for our families. We want safe communities and decent educations. We want good healthcare that doesn't force us to go broke when we get sick. We want our voices to be heard in a system ruled by special interests trying to erode our democracy. We want to know that somebody is listening to us and fighting for our future. The problems of today require solutions from tomorrow that are not only ambitious and aspirational, but actionable from campuses to capitols.

Together, Dream for America is building the most organized, active, and powerful progressive grassroots network both online and on-campus across the country to engage young Americans of all backgrounds at all times — not just on the eve of an election. The rich and powerful know they have the far-right in their corner to fight for their priorities. We're helping usher in a new wave of progressivism that informs, energizes, and empowers young Americans to become the next generation of democracy defenders.

At critical moments throughout history, young people have always been at the forefront in marches and in movements — driving progress to secure a better future. The only way we fight fascism and defend democracy is to come together not as Democrats, not as Republicans — but as Americans, and as human beings first and foremost — to usher in a new era not about division, but about putting progress over politics — solving the problems that we all share. And this is what we're fighting for.

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# A New Deal for the 21st Century

## An Economic Bill of Rights

*“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little,”* said President Franklin Delano Roosevelt after winning re-election in a landslide, campaigning on continuing to offer working-class Americans a promise of relief, recovery, and reform.

In 1944, Roosevelt unveiled his vision for a Second Bill of Rights – a belief that we need to do more than just help Americans survive, but truly create an economy where all can thrive. Together, we must work to fulfill Roosevelt’s legacy and create a new Economic Bill of Rights – a vision enshrining that every American has the right to access:

1. a good-paying job
2. a decent wage
3. an adequate home
4. basic medical care
5. economic protection during sickness, accident, old age, or unemployment
6. a quality education
7. & clean air, water, nature, and food.

Gen-Z deserves the same economic opportunities provided to our parents and grandparents. As the wealthiest nation on Earth, we cannot rest until every American has the opportunity to share in that prosperity. [President Biden’s Build Back Better Agenda](#) has been a historic investment in places and in people that have been historically left behind and offer all Americans a chance to make the American Dream, a real American reality.

## **A Marshall Plan For America**

In 1948, President Harry Truman authorized \$13 billion in economic recovery programs for a Europe hollowed out by war – the plan was dubbed [\*"The Marshall Plan"\*](#), intending to rebuild the eviscerated economies and shattered spirits of Western Europe. Over the next few years, the Plan was key to the restoration of political stability and revitalization of global economies.

For millions of Americans – especially the next generation – the American Dream has been downsized. At a time when too many are worried about how they're going to survive in today's economy, we must bring back an era of hope and national prosperity. Let's borrow from the principles of the New Deal and Truman's Marshall Plan to build an economy that allows every hard-working American the chance to earn a good life – a future which requires a strong and modern government to work together with a thriving and dynamic private sector to achieve historic growth, robust economic security, & sustained social prosperity.

## **Compassionate Capitalism**

Lately, our country has faced so many pessimistic questions that we've stopped asking hopeful ones, like: "What would it look like if every family could make ends meet?" Let's rally around a vision that better aligns investors and the public interest alike on critical issues like workers' rights, environmental conservation, and social equality. Instead of hastily constructing an economic foundation based on bureaucratic welfare states or excessive economic concentration, America must be built on the principles of an investments-based economy propping up the American Dream. That means positioning American workers and businesses to compete in the 21st century, and building an economy that rewards work, not wealth. Let's invest in workers, invest in industries, invest in families, and invest in our futures.

## **Rebuild Forgotten Towns & Cities**

Today, one-in-six rural Americans live in poverty.<sup>1</sup> Over the last several decades, our farmers have been stiffed, our environments have been polluted, small towns have been hollowed out, and our communities have been destroyed. America has always been a nation of doers and industrial might, so let's put America's truckers, tradespeople, and blue-collar backbone to work to rebuild forgotten communities and reinvigorate small towns with big hearts.

Let's rebuild infrastructure, revitalize rural towns, support family farms and ranches, reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling, ensure farmers have the Right to Repair their equipment, help struggling malls attract new business, and bring universal high-speed broadband to every corner of America. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill of 2021](#) was a strong first step, and made historic investments in communities historically left behind.

## **Revive American Industry & Manufacturing**

Over the last several decades, out-of-touch politicians have eviscerated America's small towns and factories. They wrote bad trade deals that shipped our jobs overseas and built an economy that works for the few, rather than the many. It's time we chart a blue-collar blueprint to revive our industry and ensure we have a future made in America. That means:

- **Creating** good-paying jobs that don't require advanced degrees.
- **Rewriting** trade deals to protect wages & stop the outsourcing of jobs.
- **Investing** in job training, local governments, & the factories of the future.
- **Raising** the cost of offshoring by requiring U.S. companies to reimburse governments for all the subsidies they received on the mainland.
- **Becoming** the world's leading renewable energy exporter.
- **Buying** American and hiring American.

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<sup>1</sup> [Extreme Poverty Counties Found Solely in Rural Areas in 2018](#)



## **The Largest Public Works Project in History**

Decades of neglect have let our roads, bridges, and airports fall into a state of decay. The Infrastructure Report Card gave the U.S. an abysmal grade of C-.<sup>2</sup> The World Economic Forum ranks America as 13th globally in quality of infrastructure, with the American Society of Civil Engineers declaring over 45,000 bridges and 1 in 5 miles of all roads to be in poor condition.<sup>3</sup> From the transcontinental railroad and the interstate highway to the Hoover Dam and the Golden Gate Bridge – American ingenuity cannot be beat. Let’s reignite a thriving America with a strong middle class and an even stronger infrastructure. That means:

- **Reviving** Roosevelt’s [Public Works Administration \(PWA\)](#) to hire unemployed Americans to repair existing infrastructure and enact the largest public works project in history.
- **Upgrading** crumbling schools, sewers, streets, hospitals, ports, post offices, and municipal buildings.
- **Constructing** new state-of-the-art bridges, beaches, canals, parks, pipelines, public squares, railroads, energy grids, and hundreds of thousands of miles of new road.
- **Investing** in new walkable cities & building modern world-class airports.

## **Free & Fair Trade**

In 2022, U.S. trade deficits soared to a record \$1.2 trillion.<sup>4</sup> While we break down barriers, we must defend American competitiveness by fighting for fair trade deals that protect American industry, pay good wages, conserve our climate, & preserve strong economic growth. By negotiating free and fair trade deals that encourage companies to “Buy Local” and “Buy American”, we will once again reignite America as the manufacturing superpower of the world.

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<sup>2</sup> [Infrastructure Report Card](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Global Competitiveness Report 2019](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Annual 2022 Press Highlights | Census Bureau](#)

## **Jobs for Working Families**

As the wealthiest nation on Earth, everyone who can work and wants to work should be given the opportunity to do so. In 1944, Franklin Roosevelt talked about the fundamental economic right of every American to have a job – his words were true then, and even truer today. That means:

- **Initiating** a *Federal Creator's Project* to spur artists, actors, writers, and other creators to document American culture and history, fund local theatrical productions, and create public works of art.
- **Collaborating** with businesses and private industry to offer job incentives and training programs.
- **Establishing** the *Youth Employment Administration (YEA)* to aid young Americans in finding jobs in the public or private sector.

## **Wage A War on Poverty**

Nothing is more debilitating or devastating than poverty. The Census Bureau says that over 37 million Americans are living in poverty, with nearly 103 million living in near-poverty.<sup>5</sup> In the 1960s, President Lyndon B. Johnson waged a War on Poverty that elevated a generation. 20 years later, compassionate capitalism was replaced by trickle-down economics that spread the promise of wealth to all by cutting taxes for the rich. Today, nine million children go to bed hungry.<sup>6</sup> Millions of hard-working Americans are forced to choose between food and utilities; with millions more living on the brink, a single car repair or hospital visit away from disaster. Rather than “lifting all boats,” as was promised, it left millions without even a life raft. Once more, let’s enact an economic vision that protects Social Security, ensures fiscal responsibility; and guarantees opportunity and prosperity for all Americans, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

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<sup>5</sup> [Poverty in the United States: 2021](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Hunger in America | Feeding America](#)

## **A Regional Minimum Wage**

In 2009, Congress raised the federal minimum wage to \$7.25. Two economic recessions and a global pandemic later – millions of Americans, students in particular, are still earning the same starvation wages.<sup>7</sup> All of us agree on the need for a higher wage. However, while America may be one country – we are a collection of thousands of different micro-economies. That’s why it’s time for a regional minimum wage that reflects these differences and helps working families wherever they live.

This new approach would immediately raise wages and lift millions of working people out of poverty. It would also break the decades-long logjam in Washington where the wage floor is lifted inadequately once every ten years because high-cost areas need a far different minimum than the low-cost areas that are over-represented in Congress.

For example, the cost of a hamburger or haircut is far different in New York City than in Clarksburg, Mississippi. It makes sense to adopt a [\*regional minimum wage\*](#) where the benchmark national minimum wage would be set at the beginning of each year to one-half of the hourly wage for nonsupervisory workers. According to data from 2019, that wage would be \$11.55.

Each city and rural community would be placed in one of five categories based on living costs. The minimum wage would be either slightly below that benchmark for low-cost areas or slightly above for high-cost ones. Local and state governments would still be free to pass higher minimum wages.

With a minimum wage that reflects the cost-of-living disparities between urban and rural communities, we can ensure that all workers are paid a living wage in their local economy.<sup>8</sup> We must also eliminate the so-called “tipped minimum wage” – allowing workers in the service industry to be exploited.

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<sup>7</sup> [\\$15 An Hour Isn't Enough: U.S. Workers Need a Living Wage](#)

<sup>8</sup> [A Regional Minimum Wage](#)

## **Cut Taxes for Working Families**

At a time when the cost of living is putting a strain on everyone's wallets, we need to create an economy that works for everyone – not just the wealthy and well-connected – by cutting taxes for working families and giving everyday Americans an extra bit of breathing room. That means:

- **Lowering** costs for families through the [Inflation Reduction Act](#).
- **Strengthening** our supply chains to be more resilient & ensure they start and end right here at home.
- **Expanding** the [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#).
- **Cracking down** on excessive junk fees.
- **Unleashing** American energy production & independence.
- **Cutting** the deficit by ensuring billionaires pay their fair share.
- **Reinstating & raising** the [Child Tax Credit](#).
- **Creating** good-paying jobs that don't require a college degree.
- **Eliminating** the sales tax on baby formula, diapers, school supplies, athletic uniforms, and children's clothing items to give working families some much-needed economic relief.

## **Safeguard Social Security & Medicare**

At the heart of the American Dream is the ability of our nation's seniors to retire with dignity without fear of poverty. Social Security and Medicare aren't just programs – they're promises of a dignified retirement after decades of hard work. At a time when radical partisans seek to strip seniors of their benefits, we must:

- **Defend** [Social Security & Medicaid](#) against partisan attacks.
- **Drive down** prescription drug costs for seniors.
- **Protect** [Social Security & Medicaid](#) for decades to come by eliminating the cap on payroll taxes to raise revenue and balance the scales.
  - The current cap is \$160,200 – meaning that billionaires pay the same as someone who makes that same amount.

## **America Open For Business**

The Founding Fathers considered monopolies to be detrimental to freedom. President Thomas Jefferson wrote to James Madison that he strongly disliked the omission of a “restriction against monopolies” from the Bill of Rights. One thing is clear: corporate monopolies are bad for our economy. They drive up prices, drive down quality, create waste and inefficiency, and kill free-market competition. Mega monopolies aren't just taking advantage of the American tax code, they're taking advantage of the American people. The real wealth of our nation lies not in corporate profits but in our people. Mom-and-pop stores and shops are the lifeblood of America and the real dynamos of American enterprise. Let's protect American consumers and business owners so that all Americans can once again have an economy that works for all rather than the few and create a nation that's truly open for business. That means:

- **Cutting** taxes & eliminating red tape for small and local businesses.
- **Making** it easier for Americans to start and operate businesses.
- **Creating** a *National Competition Administration (NCA)* to foster market competition & solidify local business as the lifeblood of our economy.
- **Incentivizing** “Made in America” manufacturing.
- **Expanding** the *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)*.
- **Banning** child labor exploitation.
- **Empowering** the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)*.
- **Investing in** good-paying jobs and skill-building training opportunities.
- **Expanding** programs to incubate and mentor new entrepreneurs.
- **Cracking down** on companies that send jobs and profits overseas.
- **Strengthening** collective bargaining, overtime rules, paid family and medical leave, and the union way of life.
- **Ensuring** small businesses and contractors get paid – not stiffed.
- **Protecting** workers from exploitation and union-busting.
- **Eliminating** corporate & Wall Street tax loopholes.

# America First in Quality of Life

## Guarantee Healthcare to All

The American healthcare system is broken. 68,000 Americans die each year due to a lack of health insurance.<sup>9</sup> 85 million are uninsured or underinsured, with 500,000 Americans going into medical debt and 18 million unable to fulfill their medical prescriptions each year.<sup>10</sup> U.S. life expectancy is now lower than it was 20 years ago. When healthcare spending per capita has increased twelve-fold since 1960, are we twelve-times healthier?

Today's healthcare system treats symptoms of illness at the expense of curing their cause. We face a devastating pandemic – not of COVID-19, but of chronic disease. Autoimmunity, allergies, diabetes, obesity, addiction, anxiety, and depression – once, rarities of our past – now afflict nearly two-thirds of Americans. We need a fundamental re-evaluation of our chemical, food, and ecologic policies in this country to lower costs and foster public health. All Americans also deserve the peace of mind that, if an illness strikes or an accident occurs, you can get the care you need without going homeless after paying the bill. People shouldn't have to choose between putting food on the table for their kids or whether they can afford life-saving medication to stay alive. The amount of uninsured people in America who live day-to-day in fear of an injury they can't afford is a downright disgrace.

The question isn't how we can afford to pay for universal access to healthcare coverage; but rather how can we afford not to? We must slash skyrocketing prescription drug costs, expand paid family and medical leave, and move towards a public option as outlined in the [Medicare for America Act of 2019](#) to guarantee everyday Americans quality, affordable, and universal access to healthcare so that no American needs to gamble their savings to save their life.

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<sup>9</sup> [Medicare for All Would Save \\$450 Billion Annually While Preventing 68,000 Deaths, New Study Shows](#)

<sup>10</sup> [U.S. Healthcare Factsheet](#)

## **Slash Prescription Drug Costs**

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we've seen real improvements in health care delivery – including free preventive care, Medicaid expansion to millions of working families, eliminating discrimination against pre-existing conditions, ending lifetime limits on care, and allowing young adults to stay on their parents' plans until age 26.

Yet, medicine costs are still skyrocketing. Today, most Americans are one medical crisis away from a lifetime of debt and despair – and we deserve better. The [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) was a historic investment in our nation's seniors. Now we must build on that progress for all Americans and continue the fight for universal access to quality, affordable healthcare – even if it means standing up to lobbyists and powerful special interests. We must:

- **Fight** for health insurance for the lowest-income Americans in every state by incentivizing states to enact Medicaid Expansion.
- **Defend** the Affordable Care Act from partisan attacks.
- **Bring down** out-of-pocket costs like copays and deductibles.
- **Increase** the annual [Branded Prescription Drug Fee](#).
- **Cut** regulations that may slow the approval of cheaper generics.
- **Increase** funding for the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) to ensure the agency can guarantee the quality and safety of drugs.
- **Permit** drug importation from Canada.
- **Incentivize** American pharmaceutical manufacturing.
- **Penalize** big pharma companies that needlessly hike prescription drug prices while marketing long-standing, life-saving treatments and face little or no competition.
- **Enable** the federal government to engage in price negotiations for [Medicare and Medicaid](#) with drug manufacturers.
- **Expand** the \$35 cap on insulin prices to all Americans.

## **Tackle the Opioid Crisis**

115 Americans die every day from opioid overdose.<sup>11</sup> Thousands more struggle with addiction, and the mental and behavioral side-effects these drugs entail. The opioid crisis is a public health emergency that has devastated communities across America. With over 47% of opiate addicts being under the age of 35 – America’s next generation is struggling. We must address the root causes of this crisis, from economic insecurity and social isolation to creating supportive and healthy communities where individuals can responsibly thrive with health.<sup>12</sup> That means:

- **Declaring** the Opioid Crisis as a national state of emergency.
- **Quintupling** federal funding directed towards addiction treatment and rehabilitation for addictive opiates at the local level.
- **Limiting** the importation of heroin and fentanyl, especially through the Southern Border.
- **Regulating** pharmaceutical company marketing tactics as much as the FDA regulates the release of new drugs.
- **Encouraging** all opioid prescriptions to be made from hospitals rather than individual offices and medical practices.
- **Only allowing** doctors with specialized training and education in pain management to prescribe higher doses of opioids.
- **Requiring** individuals with Opioid prescriptions to follow-up with the same doctor.
- **Reforming** general orders mandating that prescribers duly investigate the need for a new prescription.
- **All** first responders should have access to naloxone, a drug that can prevent opioid overdoses from becoming fatal.
- **Taxing** opiate manufacturers retroactively to 2005 to further fund treatment and rehabilitation because drug companies deserve to pay to treat the pain they have profited from.

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<sup>11</sup> [Opioid Overdose Statistics in America](#)

<sup>12</sup> [47% Opioid Addicts Under 35 Years Old](#)



## **Revitalize Public Health**

More Americans than ever before in history are being diagnosed with chronic illnesses and enduring the stigma of disabilities. We must move from a sick-care system to a wellness society. It's time we:

- **Commit** to preventing, effectively treating, and making a cure possible for Alzheimer's disease by 2030.
- **Expand** air, water, and food quality requirements.
- **Adequately fund** early childhood autism intervention and treatment.
- **Ensure** all hospitals & public transit are ADA-compliant.
- **De-stigmatize** marginalized low-cost alternatives & holistic care.
- **Treat** gun violence as a public health crisis.
- **Increase** funding & research to achieve an HIV & AIDS-free generation.

## **Fulfill Our Promise to Veterans**

Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide.<sup>13</sup> Over 30,000 veterans are homeless, and millions more have been disappointed by a system that fails to adequately address mental health or provide proper care, employment opportunities, and adequate support for societal reintegration. As a nation, we have a moral obligation to do more than offer some handshakes and platitudes. Those with the courage to defend our freedom, deserve that same courage from their government to provide an economy built for success and a country welcoming with open arms. That means:

- **Fully funding** and resourcing the VA & eliminating VA-benefit backlogs.
- **Guaranteeing** access to comprehensive mental health services.
- **Ensuring** that all VA facilities meet the world-class standards of care.
- **Drastically** decreasing the veteran suicide rate.
- **Supporting** military spouses in pursuing education, seeking jobs, building careers, & starting families.

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<sup>13</sup> [VA Releases Report on Nation's Largest Analysis of Veteran Suicide](#)

## **World-Class Education**

America's greatest resource is the brain of every child. The way to guarantee a thriving society 10 years from now, is to do everything we can to help every 10-year-old thrive today. Children are the biggest collateral damage in an amoral economic system. We are not old enough to vote so we do not form a constituency. We are not old enough to work so we have no financial power. We need a massive transfer of resources in the direction of the next generation.

50 years ago, there was no better place than America to have a big dream. Obtaining a high school degree meant that every single American had a fair shot at getting a good job, raising a family, buying a house, and sending their kids to school – all on one income. As the wealthiest nation on Earth, it is disgraceful that American schools have seen a devastating decline. Infrastructure is crumbling, veteran teachers are leaving en masse, schools are overcrowded, curriculums and technology are out of date, and academic achievement has fallen drastically – placing an unimpressive 35th out of 71 countries in math and science achievement.<sup>14</sup> Gen-Z are the leaders of tomorrow, and we have an obligation to our democracy and our economic future to reclaim our title as a global intellectual superpower.

If we want to prepare America's generation for a highly competitive world, we ought to get serious about investing in our future. We must fight for accessible and quality public education for all American children and affordable college education for all who want it. We must ensure that every public school is a palace of learning, culture, and modern infrastructure; and truly guarantee that no child is left behind academically, socially, or economically. Together, it's time that we reduce child poverty and increase child opportunity for America's next generation.

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<sup>14</sup> [United States Academic Achievement Lags Behind the World](#)

## **Student Debt Relief**

Over the last few decades, student-loan debt has exploded. Loans for education recently skyrocketed past \$1.6 trillion.<sup>15</sup> In 2023, there will be over 43 million student-loan borrowers, with the average borrower owing \$37,574.<sup>16</sup> The need for student-loan debt reform in America has become increasingly urgent, as the burden of student-loan debt continues to grow and limit the financial futures of millions. Canceling student-loan debt would provide ease-of-mind for borrowers struggling to make payments and simultaneously stimulate the economy by boosting consumer spending such as buying a home or starting a family. Together, we can provide a path to economic stability for millions of Americans and take a critical step towards building a better, brighter America. We must:

- **Support** the [Biden-Harris Administration's Student Debt Relief](#) plan.
- **Cap** student-loan interest rates.
- **Expand** the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) program.
- **Allow** all borrowers to refinance loans to lower interest rates.
- **Crack down** on predatory schools, lenders, and bill collectors.

## **Universal School Meals**

Today, twelve million children are hungry in America – there should not be even one.<sup>17</sup> Students with school lunch debt are forced to go on welfare and not only face the struggle of economic disparity and social stigma – but also the ire of debt collectors who may deny their ability to graduate. It is not a radical idea to protect the well-being of all our children and ensure no child goes hungry. Just as the State of Minnesota did in March of 2023, we as a nation must follow suit and provide year-round, quality, healthy, delicious, and free universal breakfast and lunch school meals to all.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> [Student Loans Skyrocket](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Student Loans Average Borrower](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Children Hungry in America](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Minnesota Signs Universal Free School Meals Into Law](#)

## **Access to Affordable College**

While many support student debt relief as easing the economic burden of college education – these proposals are merely a band-aid solution on a more elemental problem: college affordability. Making higher education more affordable is urgent and undeniable. Decades ago, Baby Boomers could hold down a summer job and pay for most, if not all of their college tuition. Today, students would be lucky if they could afford the cost of their textbooks. With tuition increasing surging as much as 440% over the last 25 years, higher education has now been relegated to a privilege for the few rather than an opportunity available for all.<sup>19</sup> Every year, hundreds of thousands of students opt against getting a higher education for one reason: their family lacks the income. Income should not be a barrier to opportunity – it is unfair to those families, and it is unfair to the future of our country. We must:

- **Make** public colleges, universities, HBCUs, minority-serving institutions, and trade schools affordable for all.
- **Provide** tuition-free community college for all & tuition-free workforce training courses at community colleges.
- **Increase** investments in [Pell Grants](#).
- **Allow** community college and trade school class credits to be more easily transferable to universities.
- **Guarantee** access to mental health professionals on campus.
- **Expand** access to work-study programs.
- **Increase** funding for the [TRIO and GEAR UP](#) program.
- **Create** more opportunities for higher education and for students who seek education in trades or technical fields.
- **Provide** college students who may be parents the support they need and the resources they deserve.
- **End** food-insecurity on college campuses.

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<sup>19</sup> [Growth of College Tuition over the Last 25 Years](#)

## **A New Era in Education**

America used to lead the world in the percentage of young people with college degrees. Today, we are #11 behind countries like South Korea, Japan, Canada, and the United Kingdom.<sup>20</sup> And over the last decade, local legislatures have waged unnecessary culture wars attempting to ban books rather than ban school hunger. Extremist state supermajorities have also made radical spending cuts to critical public services like public education, all while padding corporate monopolies with billions in corporate welfare subsidies at the expense of our nation falling further and further behind in academic achievement and educational prowess. Instead of putting America first in military spending or incarceration, it's time to once again – make America first in offering a world-class education. We must:

- **Establish** [\*universal childcare & pre-K\*](#) for all.
- **Fully fund** public schools, and make every school a palace of learning, culture, and modern infrastructure.
- **Increase** the salary of public school teachers.
- **Achieve** equitable funding for public schools by rethinking the link between property taxes, standardized testing, and school budgets.
- **Reevaluate** school start and end times.
- **Give** every student an opportunity to learn computer science.
- **Eliminate** vouchers for private schools.
- **Revitalize** rural schools.
- **Pass** curriculum reform:
  - **de-emphasize** standardized testing
  - **prioritize** critical thinking, life skills, and job preparation
  - **mandatory** personal finance and civics classes
  - **implement** study skills courses
  - **expand** innovative education programs like Early College.
- **Cancel** all existing student lunch debt.

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<sup>20</sup> [Percentage of Young Individuals with College Degrees](#)

## Affordable Housing for All

Today, nearly 11 million families are paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing.<sup>21</sup> The unfortunate reality is that when most of their income is going towards their rent or their mortgage, millions of everyday Americans are forced to go into debt just to make ends meet for basic necessities like food, healthcare, and education. While working families continue to get their pocketbooks stretched in today's economy, corporate monopolies scored \$2 trillion in record profits in the third quarter of 2022.<sup>22</sup>

Even worse, there is virtually no city or community where a full-time minimum-wage worker can afford a decent, two-bedroom apartment. On top of that, too many families with good credit still find the path to sustainable homeownership closed. And too many communities are in distress, with abandoned buildings and poverty cutting entire neighborhoods off from jobs, from commerce, and from hope. Gen-Z deserves housing policies that connect working families to economic opportunity. We must:

- **Revitalize** public housing by investing in the repair, decarbonization, and building of current and new public housing.
- **Curb** skyrocketing rental costs in areas of opportunity.
- **Increase** funding for the [Indian Housing Block Grant](#) program.
- **Support** counseling programs for the significant financial commitment of homeownership.
- **Ensure** that public housing has quality community spaces.
- **Guarantee** access to broadband for all public housing.
- **Enforce** fair housing and fair lending laws.
- **Incentivize** development in new hubs of economic growth.
- **Match** up to \$10,000 in savings for working families to put towards a down payment on a first home.

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<sup>21</sup> [Americans Pay 50% of Income on Housing](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Corporate Monopolies Collect \\$2 trillion in 2022](#)

## **A Green New Century**

Antarctica is melting, the Amazon rainforest is burning, and the Arctic is on fire. Climate change is the biggest threat to our way of life and a heightening global emergency. The last few years have seen one environmental disaster after another. Our soils are depleted, our trees are dying, chronic disease is at an all time high, and extreme weather events from surging heat waves and wildfires to catastrophic floods and hurricanes ravage entire communities, economies, and our American way of life. Through decades of government inaction, working-class and communities of color have borne this affliction disproportionately; and it seems inevitable that Gen-Z will be forced to shoulder this burden.

The first step to solving any problem is to come together and acknowledge it exists. The willingness to recognize the tremendous issues we face is the prerequisite for any moral and substantive action. Together, we must foster consensus and build coalitions. Americans of every stripe from liberal environmentalists to conservative conservationists share a common desire for a clean and healthy environment.

While progressive public policy discussions have done a great job in jump-starting a conversation about the scope of our problems and the scope of our solutions in how we achieve lower emissions, greater renewable energy, and protect good paying jobs; we must chart a better, more attainable path towards a cleaner, greener, and brighter future shifting our thinking from short-term change to long-term transformation. Rather than a Green New Deal, let's embrace a common-sense [\*Green New Century\*](#) of climate innovation, clean energy independence, and becoming a global leader in rainforest preservation and marine restoration because America's next generation deserves a walkable, breathable, and livable future.

## **Combat Climate Change**

Our planet is a mess. The last eight years have been the eight warmest in history. Over the last 20 years, Greenland has lost about 255 giga-tons of ice each year – a “worst-case scenario” not anticipated until 2070. Atlantic hurricanes are growing in intensity and frequency, our West Coast has been engulfed by fire, and communities all across America are enduring new waves of drought, flood, loss of agriculture and biodiversity, and toxic waste and industrial poisons that make people and ecosystems sick.<sup>23</sup>

There has also been a tremendously difficult time in mobilizing everyday Americans to help combat climate change. We ought to create a sustainable economy where everyone has a chance to be champions of our environment while still making a decent living. To be stewards of our sacred environment, we must:

- **Achieve** a carbon-free America by 2050.
- **Responsibly transition** to clean energy by incentivizing companies to adopt zero-waste cycles & clean energy sources.
- **Preserve** public land, water, and wildlife.
- **Balance** decarbonization with economic development.
- **Invest** in greater natural disaster preparedness.
- **Shift** agricultural subsidies to encourage regenerative practices.
- **Enact** a [\*Carbon Fee & Dividend\*](#).
- **Make** our power grid more resilient against extreme heat & hurricanes.
- **Forge** international agreements with other nations to implement these policies throughout the global supply chain.
- **Become** global leaders in rainforest preservation, climate conservation, and marine restoration.
- **Activate** the American enterprise & entrepreneurial spirit to provide the innovation and technology to power us at home and abroad.

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<sup>23</sup> [Greenland Loses 255 Gigatons of Ice Annually](#)



## **Clean Energy Independence**

Today, America relies heavily on fossil fuels for our energy needs – which not only contributes to climate change but also poses dire national security risks. Dependence on foreign oil leaves our nation vulnerable to price shocks and supply disruptions, while the extraction and transportation of fossil fuels pose devastating environmental impacts. By investing in clean energy development and deployment – America can assert global leadership in the fight to lead a more safe, secure, and sustainable future. That means:

- **Subsidizing** public transportation, electric cars, high-speed rail, intercontinental space transport, and other green projects.
- **Investing** in carbon capture, clean energy storage, & green efficiency.
- **Supporting** clean and nuclear energy.
- **Partner** with the private sector to build a national network of electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Cutting** billions of wasteful tax subsidies to oil and gas companies.
- **Asserting** American global leadership on climate change.

## **Expand the TVA Nationwide**

In 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law a federally-owned electric utility company called the [Tennessee Valley Authority \(TVA\)](#). For decades, the TVA has provided seamless stewardship of economic development and environmental conservation in the Tennessee Valley by offering flood control, wildlife conservation, and cheap electricity to local residents. At a time when one-third of American families struggle to pay for their basic energy needs, we must expand the TVA nationwide to become the [American Energy Authority \(AEA\)](#). By competing with private energy companies who monopolize the market and price-gouge consumers, the AEA would provide unparalleled programs to offer clean, efficient, reliable, and affordable energy for all who want it. Under the AEA, America would be one step closer to a clean, green, and sustainable future.

## **Land & Wildlife Conservation**

From luscious habitats and endangered species to national parks and iconic landmarks – our country is blessed to have natural treasures that define our identity as a nation. These icons of our heritage are a birthright we pass down from generation to generation. When we conserve our country’s natural gifts, we aren’t just protecting the livelihoods of people who depend on them; but also enshrining the heart and soul of our collective national pride. Let’s:

- **Establish** a *Department of Beautification* to uphold national treasures to the highest standards of care and maintenance and promote new and beautiful architecture that reflects our national history and heritage.
- **Protect** pets and farm animals from inhumane treatment.
- **Build** new green spaces and national parks.

## **Tackle the Teenage Mental Health Crisis**

Teenage mental health is in crisis.<sup>24</sup> The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) says that 1 in 3 high-school girls have seriously considered attempting suicide, with a record-high number of teenage boys experiencing mental distress as well.<sup>25</sup> Mental health affects all of us, but so many struggling don’t get the support they need. A better world is possible, only if we:

- **Cover** mental health treatment under a public option healthcare plan.
- **Expand** Telehealth services to reach young people in rural America.
- **Launch** a national initiative for suicide prevention.
- **Create** a culture that fosters hope and community and addresses the root causes of teenage mental health issues by:
  - **promoting** healthy social connections,
  - **supporting** academic access without forcing undue pressure,
  - and **de-stigmatizing** mental health treatment.

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<sup>24</sup> [Teen Girls Experience Increase in Suicide Ideation](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Teen Boys Struggling in America, Mental Illness Skyrockets](#)

# Life, Liberty, & Pursuit of Happiness

## Defend Our Democracy

From partisan gerrymandering and the unfettered influence of big money in politics to attempts to suppress the vote and the radical events of January 6th – our democracy is in serious peril. Democracy is not a given; it's a dynamic process that requires constant vigilance and respect. In recent years, we've seen a surge in attacks on our democratic institutions and the values we hold as a nation. These attacks threaten to erode the very foundations of our Constitutional republic, but we must not give in to despair. Instead, we must stand up and defend our democracy – using our voices and our votes to protect the principles that make America great.

Even the strongest of nations aren't immune to the erosion of their democracies. Amid class divisions and unresponsive institutions, our system breeds anger, fear, and vitriol. When forced into frustration, everyday citizens look towards authoritarian demagogues – who masquerade as saviors of the working man – pushing extremist ideas like radical culture wars or scapegoating immigrants to find answers to our shared problems.

To cure the sickness of fascism, we must speak out against those who seek to divide and degenerate us. We must be a bulwark against the toxicity of hatred and intolerance. We must reject false narratives and put truth over lies. We must work to drive civic engagement, participation, and education. We must uphold the values of democracy in every tenet of our lives from elections to economics. We must craft an economy, a democracy, and a future built for all. Let's pledge to defend democracy with all our might to ensure that America's next generation can also enjoy the same democratic freedoms guaranteed to those that came before.

## Guarantee Voting Rights

The most fundamental right in a democracy is the right to vote. White or black, male or female, rich or poor, old or young: we are all equal at the ballot box. Somewhere inside all of us, is the power to change the world. Yet, in recent years, we have seen a concerted effort to suppress the votes of all Americans.

Guaranteeing voting rights isn't just about expanding access to the ballot box, but also about creating a society that is more just and democratic. The more people who participate in our democratic process, the more our leaders are held accountable and more representative of the true will of the American people. We must ensure that we build a democracy where every voice is heard, and every vote counts. That means:

- **Making** Election Day a national holiday.
  - moving Election Day from Tuesday to Saturday.
- **Automatic** voter registration for every American over 18.
- **Lowering** the voting age for local elections to 16.
- **Universal** access to mail-in ballots.
- **Expanding** early voting.
- **Restoring** the voting rights of 6 million former felons who have already fully served their time.
- **Increasing** polling places on Native American reservations.
- **Electing** non-voting Congressional Delegates for overseas American territories.
- **Allowing** same-day voter registration.
- **Ensuring** a nonpartisan and fully resourced election administration to prevent unfair partisan skewing of our elections.
- **Ending** partisan gerrymandering by enacting non-partisan redistricting commissions like that of Nebraska and Iowa.
- **Repairing** & restoring the [Voting Rights Act](#).

## **Reclaim Our Freedom**

247 years ago, America's Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence which enshrined that, "All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." The struggle for freedom and equality flows strong within our veins. Our people waged a Revolution against tyranny and sacrificed countless lives in countless wars to preserve our birthright to the promises of the American Dream. 58 years ago, Americans marched in Selma to keep the promise of our country alive – the promise that we're all created equal and that all of us deserve the same chance to life, liberty, and our own pursuit of happiness. The struggle for freedom and equality is one that is never-ending. While America has made great strides in lifting ourselves from our divisive past, we still have a long way to go before we can truly guarantee every American of our Founding Fathers' vision for freedom and equality for all.

We need to build a country where all citizens are equal before the law and before their fellow man. We must ensure that people from all walks of life get the help they need to succeed. We must:

- **Protect** freedom of speech and stop censorship.
- **Ban** school hunger instead of school books.
- **Relocate** Confederate monuments from public property and place them in museums where they were originally from.
- **Outlaw** conversion therapy.
- **Ensure** the human rights of transgender people.
- **Prevent** businesses from refusing service based on identity.
- **Support** Congress' Transgender Bill of Rights.
- **Guarantee** LGBTQ+ adoption rights.
- **Strengthen** the [Civil Rights Act](#) & pass the [Equality Act](#).
- **Adopt** the Biden Administration's ["Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights"](#).

## Women's Rights Are Human Rights

Despite the major leaps in civil and political rights, there is still more we as a nation can do. Today, gender equality and reproductive freedom are under siege from radical partisans who seek to strip women across this nation of their right to choose or their right to be free and gain economic opportunity. Abortion should be safe, legal, and rare. Freedom is a fundamental American value – a woman's right to choose is sacred. Every American should be guaranteed the right to make their own choices about their bodies. The [Equal Rights Amendment](#) is long overdue. We need to ensure political, economic, and social equality for all women. That means:

- **Codifying** [Roe v. Wade](#) into law.
- **Ratifying** the [Equal Rights Amendment](#).
- **Making** quality, affordable childcare a reality for working families.
- **Ensuring** that both men and women feel safe reporting cases of sexual harassment or assault and guaranteeing that all survivors of sexual assault regardless of gender have access to legal and mental health resources.
- **Guaranteeing** a woman's right to privacy in a choice between only themselves, their partners, and their doctor.
- **Improving** the access to and quality of postpartum care.
- **Guaranteeing** the right to reproductive care while also enacting common-sense late-term abortion restrictions.
- **Ensuring** unrestricted access to contraception without the influence of clergy members, employers, or protestors.
- **De-stigmatizing** men's health and sexual assault.
- **Ending** campus sexual assault.
- **Enacting** [universal childcare & pre-K](#) for all.
- **Fighting** for & expanding paid family leave.
- **Becoming** a leader in women's rights around the globe.

## **Protect the Second Amendment & Second Graders**

“Do something.” That was the plea of parents who lost their children in Parkland. That was the plea of parents who lost their children in Uvalde. That was the plea of parents who lost their children in Columbine, in Oxford, at Sandy Hook and in countless other tragedies with countless other victims. The American Dream of the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is no longer the same. With mass shootings occurring on almost a daily basis in the United States, Gen-Z’s right to live and grow old is under attack.

An epidemic of gun violence has gripped our nation. While bearing arms is a right enshrined in our Constitution, owning a gun is still a major responsibility. In 2022 alone, there were 647 mass shootings, 40,000 people slain, and over 400 million weapons in circulation.<sup>26</sup> It’s past time that we offer more than thoughts and prayers. An April 2023 Fox News poll indicates that over 87% of Americans are in favor of common-sense gun reform.<sup>27</sup> We can save the Second Amendment while also saving student lives, preventing suicides, and curbing gun violence. We must:

- **Expand** background checks & end the [“Charleston Loophole”](#).
- **Close** the [“Gun Show”](#) & [“Internet Sale” Loophole](#).
- **Pass** national [“red flag” laws](#).
- **Ban** domestic abusers, the severely mentally ill, and violent criminals and terrorists from purchasing firearms.
- **Continue** the work of the Biden-Harris Administration’s newly-established [Office for Gun Violence Prevention](#).
- **Invest** in fingerprint sensors & other smart technologies for firearms.
- **Take** on corrupt gun lobby special interests like the NRA.

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<sup>26</sup> [Mass Shootings in the United States](#)

<sup>27</sup> [87% of Americans Favor Gun Limits](#)

## Safe Streets & Secure Neighborhoods

The men and women who serve our country as police officers deserve our full gratitude and respect. For decades, the work of our police forces is commendable in protecting families and keeping communities safe. However, local and federal governments alike have failed to make sufficient investments in creating a strong American social fabric.

Rather than solve our issues head-on, we've dispatched honorable men and women to address every tear in our community; whether it be addiction, mental health, homelessness, or poverty. Police officers are often asked to fill roles that they may not be equipped for, leading to a cycle of stress and anxiety – in fact, our policemen are more likely to die of suicide than in the line of duty.

We must reduce the use of excessive force, ensure greater police accountability, and strengthen the bonds of trust between communities and law enforcement. That means:

- **Supporting** our police force, but rooting out problematic officers.
- **Implementing** community-based policing.
- **Universal** body cameras for police officers.
- **Mandating** de-escalation training & work shift sleep requirements.
- **Prioritizing** arrests without the use of lethal force.
- **Banning** fatal choke holds.
- **Investing** in state-of-the-art law enforcement training programs.
- **Strengthening** trust between communities and law enforcement.
- **Doubling** the funding of firefighters & other social services.
- **Hiring** more and raising the pay of 911-call operators.
  - **Providing** mental health services to officers & operators.
  - **Nationally classifying** call dispatchers as first responders.



## Criminal Justice Reform

When the United States has less than 5 percent of the world’s population but over 25 percent of the total prison population, and more Black and brown men in prisons than were enslaved in 1850 – and wasting nearly \$300 billion each year on a system that doesn’t adequately correct criminals or make our everyday lives any safer – it is time we make deep, structural, and long-term investments to rebuild the communities decimated by crime, prevent the conditions that lead to arrest, rehabilitate those who have made mistakes, and usher in a new era of public safety.<sup>28</sup> We ought to have a system that prevents crime, rather than merely punish it. We must:

- **Ban** for-profit prisons and detention centers.
- **Restore** the voting rights of non-violent former inmates who have already served their time.
- **Reform** mandatory minimum sentencing laws.
- **Reduce** the prison population via alternative detention such as house arrest, probation, restitution, and community service.
- **Ban** minors from being sentenced to solitary confinement.
- **Stop** racial profiling.
- **Prioritize** treatment and rehabilitation for low-level offenses.
- **Adopt** the Scandinavian prison philosophy for federal prisons:
  - **create** an environment of humanity and not seclusion, because removing your freedom is enough of a punishment – Scandinavia has one of the lowest crime rates in the world.
- **Invest** in programs to reintegrate prisoners within society.
- **Dismantle** the school-to-prison pipeline.
- **Wage** a war on poverty.

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<sup>28</sup> [\\$300 Billion Wasted in Incarceration](#)

## End the War on Drugs

For the last 50 years, the War on Drugs has been a disastrous policy failure excessively devastating communities of color and ruining the lives of millions of Americans. Furthermore, the War on Drugs has spent more than \$1 trillion since 1971 locking up millions of Americans for nonviolent offenses, disproportionately arresting people of color, and unnecessarily criminalizing addiction rather than investing in treatment.<sup>29</sup>

Moving to decriminalize all drugs under a system modeled after Portugal would help address the root causes of drug addiction and abuse instead of criminalizing those who are suffering from it. We ought to remove the stigma surrounding drug use and addiction, making it easier for individuals to seek help without fear of criminal consequences. Doing so also eradicates the power of drug cartels, paving the way for legal and regulated drug markets to ensure safety, care, and compliance. Let's start investing in the communities hit hardest by the War on Drugs. That means:

- **Legalizing** medical marijuana.
- **Expunging** all previous marijuana possession charges & releasing current inmates imprisoned on marijuana possession charges.
- **Refocusing** priorities to stop dealers, rather than consumers.
- **Empowering** communities to implement programs to teach adolescents about drug use and addiction.
- **Expand** licenses for dispensaries & other medical facilities.
- **Decriminalizing** the possession of all drugs.

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<sup>29</sup> [War on Drugs Spent \\$1 Trillion](#)

## **A Welcoming Nation of Immigrants**

For centuries, immigrants have been a source of hard work and innovation for our nation. Yet, it's no secret that our immigration system is broken. America was built as a nation of immigrants, with millions journeying across the seas in search of a better life and the vision of our shared American Dream. Every single family in America came here from somewhere else in search of that dream – some are native to our shores, some came by choice, some came by necessity, and others came by chains.

Yet today, dark political forces seek to scapegoat our history and our heritage for political gain; rather than seek to meaningfully address the problems that we all share. We, as a people, are at our strongest when we extend a hand to brothers and sisters around the world. The golden torch of Lady Liberty has stood through time as a shining beacon of freedom, democracy, and shared prosperity; a flame of hope given to the most desperate people on Earth, guaranteeing that everyone is treated with dignity, and gives hate no safe harbor.

America is strong because of our diversity, not in spite of it. Immigrants are essential to our culture and critical to our economic prosperity; they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not as political pawns. We must:

- **Secure** our border and humanely enforce immigration laws.
- **Ensure** legal representation and translators in every court hearing.
- **Defend** [DACA & DAPA](#) from partisan attacks.
- **Rework** [J-1, H-1B, H-1BI, and F-1](#) visas to streamline immigration and make finding jobs easier without employer sponsorship.
- **Ban** the practice of family separation at border facilities & close private immigration detention centers.

## **Moral Global Leadership**

For the most part, America has been a positive force for good in the world. From Roosevelt and Reagan to Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, our nation has always led the way in spreading peace, prosperity, and democracy. Many great leaders in our history have proven time and again that we can maintain strong relationships with our allies, while also sending clear messages to those who seek to bring us harm. In order to best secure our national interests and protect the American people – as well as our allies in the international community – we must ensure that our troops are the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-prepared in the world.

We must ground our foreign policy in strength, democracy, and diplomacy – leading the fight for civil and human rights and rallying international cooperation in the fight against climate change, authoritarianism, and global injustice. That means:

- **Enacting** a sustainable defense budget governed by 21st-century strategy and security that maximizes effect and drives down cost.
- **Identifying & eliminating** wasteful foreign spending.
- **Working** with our allies to eliminate global terror networks.
- **Establishing** a Secretary of Cybersecurity in the military.
- **Strengthening** relationships with NATO allies.
- **Supporting** Ukraine in its defense against Russia.
- **Preventing** Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- **Strengthening** relations between the United States & Israel.
- **Building** stronger ties between Cubans and Americans.
- **Calling** for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war.
- **Supporting** a two-state solution for Israel & Palestine.
- **Being** a force against racism, anti-semitism, and totalitarianism.
- **Taking care** of our veterans when they return home by ensuring access to care & economic and education opportunities.

# Make America Cool Again

## Make Taxes Easy

Whether it's city hall or the halls of Congress, it's hard for governments at any level to build trust with the American people when the most direct interaction we have is something radically painful: tax season. The complex flurry of papers, mind-numbing paragraphs of legalese, and the barrage of bureaucracy makes filing taxes whether for ourselves or businesses a dreadful process instead of a celebration of contributions to our shared society. Instead, we ought to make taxes more fun and easy-going. That means:

- **Making** filing taxes and starting businesses easier.
- **Allowing** Americans to opt-in to an online, automatic tax filing system.
- **The IRS releases a "Shareholders Report"** to each taxpayer as a rundown of the actual amount of their taxes that went to each major federal spending category such as healthcare or the military.
- **Modernize** the IRS website and its filing forms
- **Allow** Americans to direct 1% of their taxes to a specific department or activity of the federal government.

## The Penny Makes No Cents

Pennies aren't popular. Brown and small, they aren't valuable enough to buy anything. And if time is money, you'd be better off using cash or other coins rather than slowly counting them at the checkout counter. Moreover, pennies also cost US taxpayers over \$145 million each year to make.<sup>30</sup> Pennies are also made out of zinc and copper, and mining for those materials would be detrimental to the environment and public health of local communities. Most of our zinc supply also comes from China, adding \$1.3 million to our ever-growing trade deficit.<sup>31</sup> The penny just simply makes no 'cents'.

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<sup>30</sup> [The True Cost of Pennies](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Zinc Supplied from China](#)

## **Local Journalism Fund**

Local print, broadcast, and digital journalism are dying. In small towns and cities all across America, the local newspaper is a relic of the past. Local media were the bedrock in giving residents a sense of what was happening in their local schools, governments, and communities. For decades, local journalism thrived with the backing of local ads and local entrepreneurs. While that is no longer a viable business model, independent and local media are still the bedrock of any functional democracy. We must establish a Local Journalism Fund to offer grants to nonprofits and local libraries to help local newspapers, periodicals, and websites stay afloat and transition towards a burgeoning revitalization of local journalism.

## **Revitalize the Arts**

The arts are a means of self-expression and creative exploration that words alone cannot convey. Over time, artists have the same effect on communities as entrepreneurs do. Due to budget cuts, art organizations of every shape and form are shrinking in size from museums and theaters to operas and orchestras. Art continues to play a critical role in our daily lives, and it's time we revitalize how culture and humanity connect with all of us. That means exploring changes to the tax code to spur investment in film, TV, and live theater; as well as working with the Department of Beautification to redesign clunky and out-of-date government logos.

## **Free Marriage Counseling for All**

A happy marriage contributes to longer life spans, increased satisfaction, and a greater likelihood that children have successful socioeconomic outcomes. Yet, there are very few options for those looking to mend their marital relationship. Let's offer free marriage counseling for all under any healthcare plan offered by the federal government.

## **Philanthropy Funds**

Non-profit organizations play a critical role in our communities, helping to offer solutions to various policy shortcomings of local and federal governments. Yet, not everybody has the means to support local nonprofits. The federal government ought to allow each working-age American \$100 per year to donate towards a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of their choice. Paid for by a reduction in tax credits for itemized donations, nearly \$21 billion would be funneled toward the critical role local non-profits play in our lives.

## **Reinstate the Fairness Doctrine**

Against the backdrop of surging disinformation and skepticism against mainstream media, Americans find it harder and harder to agree on policy because we cannot agree on facts. In 1987, the [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#) abolished the Fairness Doctrine mandating that required news broadcasters present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that fairly reflected differing viewpoints.<sup>32</sup> Let's bring back civility and science back to mainstream journalism.

## **Ban Brake Checks**

Making brake checks illegal is a crucial step in promoting road safety. Brake checks – the intentional act of abruptly slamming on the brakes without valid reason – pose a significant risk to other drivers on the road. These actions can lead to collisions, injuries, and even fatalities. By enacting laws that prohibit brake checks, we send a clear message that such dangerous behavior is unacceptable. This measure encourages responsible driving and emphasizes the importance of prioritizing the safety of all road users. It helps foster a more secure and predictable driving environment, reducing the likelihood of accidents and saving lives.

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<sup>32</sup> [Abolishment of the Fairness Doctrine](#)

## **Redesign the Dollar**

The Dollar, in its physical form, is not just a tool for economic transactions; it is a symbol of our collective identity, values, and aspirations. Our currency has a rich history, representing the economic might and stability of the United States. As we move forward in this rapidly evolving world, it's essential that our currency reflects the American spirit of progress, prosperity, and innovation. That includes a top-down redesign of currency to include iconic leaders in American history (such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy) and capsules of time capturing our common glory, natural beauty, and technological might (like the Golden Gate Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Memorial, the Constitutional Convention, raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, & the Moon Landing).

For potential designs supported by Dream for America, click [here](#).

## **Make Daylights Savings Permanent**

Darker mornings and lighter evenings for longer allow for greater outdoor activity, increased economic activity, fewer night time crimes or traffic accidents, and fewer annoyed Americans needing to reset our clocks. That means passing [Florida's Sunshine Protection Act](#) nationally to make Daylight Savings Time a permanent fixture of our national clock.

## **American High School Exchange Program**

Gen-Z and Americans in general are becoming more socially isolated. The urban-rural divide is now greater than ever, with partisan tribalism causing Americans to lose our collective sense of empathy for each other. One avenue to counter the rising tide of division is to guarantee future generations the opportunity during high school to embark on a three-month multi-region exchange program introducing them to communities and other citizens they'd otherwise not meet as part of their civic education.