



Our Commitment

The Richmond City Democratic Committee (RCDC) works to elect Democratic leaders who share our values and will advocate for policies that improve the lives of Richmond residents. We are dedicated to grassroots organizing, community engagement, and voter mobilization to ensure a government that represents the people.

The RCDC is committed to building a more liveable & sustainable, just & inclusive, prosperous Richmond. We stand for values that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and ensure a government that is honest and free from corruption, transparent, accountable, and delivering quality services that are responsive to the needs of all Richmonders.

In addition to aligning with the state platform (Democratic Party of Virginia Party Plan), we have outlined the following areas of focus for RCDC that we believe will assist us in our mission to elect Democratic leaders and hold them accountable once elected.

Our Core Values and Policy Priorities

Please note: These issues are listed in alphabetical order and do not reflect an order of priority or level of importance. We value them all equally and work hard to reach our goals in all of these areas.

- **Criminal Justice Reform** – We support police accountability and transparency and advocate for community-centered approaches to public safety, including a more effective approach to those suffering from mental health, addiction, and poverty hardships. We believe that true public safety comes from investing in communities. We seek an end to mass incarceration by addressing their root causes. We strongly support the abolition of for-profit prisons.
- **Economic Justice** – We support policies that promote living wages, good jobs, small business growth, and economic policies that uplift working families including support of the right to unionize or join unions.
- **Education for All** – We advocate for fully funded public schools, universal pre-K, affordable higher education, workforce training programs, and training for local, small business entrepreneurship.
- **Environmental Sustainability** – We work for climate justice, clean energy solutions, local efforts to reduce heat deserts in our city, and policies that protect our communities from environmental harm. We recognize that climate change, global warming, and sea level increases are attributable to human activities, and represent the existential issue of our time. We will only support candidates who will work to mitigate climate change.
- **Equity & Inclusion** – We believe in a Richmond where every resident, regardless of race, gender, income, or background, has equal access to opportunities and justice under the law.
- **Healthcare as a Right** – We believe effective healthcare is a fundamental right and support expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare, including mental health services. We recognize that the excessive costs of medical care are the cause of a



majority of individual bankruptcies. We support candidates who do the following: 1) Seek to improve the level of preventative care and treatment to meet the current standards of other advanced industrial nations; 2) Support a single-payer system and a reduction of the costs of our current for-profit health care system; 3) Support reproductive freedom, including the right to contraception and to abortion.

- **Historic Community Preservation** - We believe that Richmond's history is integral to its identity. We encourage the stability and livability of the city's historic neighborhoods, and recognize that cultural heritage is crucial to maintaining the city's unique character. We acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by enslaved and other oppressed people to building our community. We stand by protecting historic landmarks such as schools, buildings, and neighborhoods that could otherwise be demolished.
- **Housing and Homeownership** – We believe that housing is fundamental to a strong community and that every resident should have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing - whether they rent or own their home. We are committed to policies that protect tenants, expand housing and homeownership opportunities, prevent displacement, encourage integration along racial and economic lines, ensure responsible, community-driven development, and discourage speculative and destructive investments in land and housing by all parties, including private equity firms.
- **Public Transportation & Infrastructure** – We support expanding and improving public transit, roads, and broadband access to create a more connected and accessible city. We also support the creation of a Department of Transportation for the City of Richmond. We support a total street solution to car-centric development patterns, and the development of a pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly city.
- **Voting Rights & Democracy** – We work to support voter registration accessibility and convenience for all eligible voters, defend voting rights, fight against voter suppression including the abuse of gerrymandering, work to keep elections accessible and representative. We will support those candidates who will work to end Virginia's system of unlimited corporate contributions to individuals seeking or holding office, and who will work to reverse the Citizens United decision.

Join us as we build a stronger, fairer, and more just Richmond!