

# *Smith County Democratic Party*

## *Statement of Values*

**We believe in the most basic of American values:  
Liberty, Justice, Dignity and Opportunity for all citizens.**



We strive for a better nation, a better life and a better future than we inherited, and we are willing to devote our hearts and our service to the continuous responsibility for creating it.



We believe that citizenship requires vigorous participation in the affairs of government at all levels, and we demand transparency, accessibility and accountability from our elected representatives.



We believe in protecting our homes, our state and our nation, and we value the sacrifices made every day by law enforcement and military personnel on our behalf. Further, we believe that true patriotism requires open discussion of all matters which affect us, and we therefore pledge to respect and protect the Constitutional freedom to dissent.



We believe that promotion of the common good is the highest order of business of government, and we pledge special attention to the needs of our elderly, our children, our disabled, our poor and others who cannot fend for themselves. We include in our concern those who have not yet joined us as citizens, including our international brothers and sisters.



We believe that to be good stewards on this Earth, we must continue to seek reasonable means to protect and preserve our bountiful natural resources. We favor the development of alternative energy sources, enforcement of pollution controls, wildlife conservation and taking a leadership role in safeguarding the global environment.



We believe that a person's education and quality of life are inherently and irrevocably linked, and we support free public education, improved classroom conditions, increased teacher compensation, expanded college grants and improved vocational training.



We believe that law-abiding citizens who work hard should be able to build a life and maintain a sense of self-worth, and we therefore support a living wage, sales and property tax reforms, insurance and utility cost reforms, fair trade and improved health care, particularly for children and families struggling under conditions of poverty.



We believe in the principle of sharing what we have been given and what we have earned with others without regard to age, color, gender, ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, financial condition, marital status or any other difference. We do this not only because the principles of absolute equality provide the foundation of the Constitution of the United States of America, but also because we believe this is the only moral and ethical way to behave in relationship to our fellow humans.