

THE WAY FORWARD

***making the 21st century economy work for everyone
and rebuilding the Democratic Party***



THE NEW
DEAL

It is clear that, for years, Americans have been looking for leaders who can directly address the profound anxieties resulting from the new economy and restore trust in government after a long decline in faith that elected officials can solve societal challenges.

The 2016 election crystallized these anxieties and President Trump built his campaign around them. For Democratic leaders to be successful politically and in governing, they must articulate a compelling alternative vision to Trumpism's view that engaging in the global economy has hurt Americans and that the appropriate response is to resist globalization and the new economy.

As off-year results in Virginia, Alabama, and elsewhere have demonstrated, enormous opportunities exist for a turnaround after years of Democrats falling short in convincing large swaths of voters that they have the solutions to increase opportunity at a time when the economy, and the skills valued in it, have changed dramatically, leaving many people behind.

NewDEAL Leaders across the country are developing, fighting for, and implementing pro-growth, progressive policies that address the challenges of the new economy, and they represent a bench from which the Democratic Party should draw its future leaders and policy agenda.

To capitalize on the tremendous energy and political engagement across the country, and to reverse the Party's historically poor representation in Congress and at the state level, requires fresh voices and fresh ideas that offer an aspirational message to all Americans.

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The policies and governing philosophies that have led to their success **do not fit neatly into the traditional left, center, and right divisions of American politics**. Instead they are united by the belief that progress today requires embracing the keys to prosperity in the 21st century, as opposed to trying to turn back the clock to the way America used to be. **This is an agenda of their ideas to solve the key challenges facing America today.**

PREPARING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

It is said that there has never been a better time to be a worker with the right skills for today's economy – skills for areas like IT and computer science, or health care treatment – but also never a worse time to be someone without those skills as new technology replaces jobs that used to offer a good wage and benefits.



Nebraska Senator Kate Bolz's Community College Gap Assistance program provides financial aid for lower-income students to pursue non-credit courses and skills certificates for competitive industries that face workforce shortages.

Mayor Greg Fischer's Code Louisville has launched a series of 12-week tracks for workers to pursue a career in software development, at no cost to the student. More than 100 companies have hired the graduates.



To keep students from falling behind well before they reach the workforce, **Massachusetts Senator Eric Lesser** is pursuing expansion of the successful **Education Empowerment Zones** initiative, which frees struggling schools from many district directives, giving them more control over hiring and curriculum.



Other policy solutions include:

- » An innovation hub in Arkansas that provides space, equipment, and employer-to-worker/student connections (Representative Warwick Sabin)
- » Credits for Chicago-area employers that start apprenticeships programs, especially in high-growth fields (Commissioner Bridget Gainer)
- » Free community college tuition for low-income students in San Jose (Mayor Sam Liccardo)
- » A Salem, MA Career Gateways initiative for low-income, non-native English speakers that focuses first on key career skills and then on training for emerging industries, like health care (Mayor Kim Driscoll)

SPURRING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Building a strong 21st century economy means supporting entrepreneurs, including at start-ups, to create new products and services, improve existing ones, add well-paying jobs, and grow key industries for the new economy.



Phoenix Councilmember Kate Gallego has supported modern manufacturing through a **Resource Innovation Campus** that diverts materials from the city's waste stream, attracting innovators with manufacturing processes and conversion technologies that use trash as a resource and fueling a new generation of manufacturing jobs.

With capital increasingly difficult to come by for small businesses and startups, **Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner** is making loans available to these companies at local banks and credit unions through his **BankLocal** program, using some of the millions of dollars state agencies



hold in cash at any given time. In addition, **Connecticut Senator Bob Duff** has spearheaded a model effort to **end unnecessary occupational fees and licensing requirements** that can be a barrier to starting or growing a business while also limiting workers' career choices.



Other policy solutions include:

- » An innovation vouchers program to support R&D partnerships between small businesses and institutions of higher education (Assemblymember David Buchwald)
- » Flexible crowdfunding requirements for small businesses seeking to raise capital (Representative Eric Johnson)
- » An Entrepreneurial Learner's Permit to reimburse state licensing and permitting costs for first-time entrepreneurs in key industries (Representative Caroline Simmons)

MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFECTIVE

As policymakers wrestle with the challenges caused by an economy transformed by innovation and new technology, they must also take advantage of these forces to adapt government to meet the evolving needs of citizens and operate as effectively as possible.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock has recognized that that can only happen if leaders in government are trained to apply an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset to the public sector to innovate and manage resources in a financially constrained environment. His **Governmental Entrepreneurial Leadership Accelerator** fellowship puts participants through a boot camp, followed by six weeks of work on difficult city problems, from bridging the digital divide to addressing overdoses from the opioid epidemic.

Big-data technologies are beginning to transform the way cities work, and have the potential to solve a host of challenges. Examples include **former Mayor Stephanie Miner's Data Science for Water Infrastructure** initiative, which helps the Syracuse water department prioritize work and identify projects, making the city



five times more likely to identify in advance mains likely to break. Other models are Louisville's work with **data to help people with asthma (Mayor Greg Fischer)**, as well as **open data portals**, in cities like South Bend (**Mayor Pete Buttigieg**) and Chattanooga (**Mayor Andy Berke**), among others, which provide access to manageable and relevant information on the performance of city services.

In addition, **public-private partnership initiatives** provide opportunities to leverage private resources to address challenges, such as by encouraging private proposals in Arkansas for infrastructure projects that are in the public interest and building high-quality affordable housing at no cost to local government in Oxford, MS (**Representative Warwick Sabin and Mayor Robyn Tannehill**).

Government also cannot lose sight of the fundamental responsibility of any democracy to **protect and promote citizens' right to vote**, like through online registration (**Senator Lee Harris**), as well as pre-registration for young people before they turn 18 (**Secretary of State Alex Padilla**).

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

All policymakers have a responsibility to address the diverse challenges related to inequality in our communities, and any policy agenda for the 21st century must recognize that everyone benefits when more people, including underserved and struggling populations, have the best chance to contribute positively.

That starts with high quality education for all and initiatives like **West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon's Kids' Home Run**. The effort begins with universal preschool, and then provides seed funding for college savings accounts when kids enter



kindergarten; paid internships or jobs in relevant industry sectors for high school students; college and career pathways; free community college; and the chance to earn scholarships up to \$1,000.

As lack of affordable housing drives inequality in many communities, the financially self-sufficient **Cook County Land Bank Initiative**, championed by



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County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, has revitalized 200 formerly derelict homes to improve housing in disadvantaged communities. The program has turned around the county's huge inventory of foreclosed homes through projects with mostly black and Latino developers.



Salt Lake County, UT Mayor Ben McAdams is working on solutions for one of the most vexing and related challenges: homelessness. His **Collective Impact on Homelessness** has brought together a coalition of governments and providers to reform how services



are delivered. That includes Pay for Success initiatives, like Salt Lake County's 'Homes not Jail' effort, through which the private sector invests in public problems and recoups their funding based on a project's success.

Making communities safe and giving everyone the chance to contribute means a new way of thinking about our justice system, recognizing that a lock 'em up and throw away the key mentality is outdated. In **Douglas County, Kansas, District Attorney Charles Branson** is developing one model: a pre-trial, prosecutor-led diversion program. His **Rapid Assessment and Support Services Diversion** effort for nonviolent repeat female offenders allows for quick release, monitoring, and support services that address substance abuse, mental health, housing, and employment.

One of the biggest dangers to our communities is the **opioid epidemic**. With the President issuing strong statements about the severity of the crisis, NewDEAL Leaders are contributing actionable solutions, including Medicaid reforms to support inpatient and residential recovery programs (**Representative Brittany Pettersen**), a crack down on the proliferation of bad actors in the sober home industry (**State Attorney Dave Aronberg**), partnerships with law enforcement and health care providers that identify and track at-risk individuals (**Mayor Miro Weinberger**), and safe drug disposal bags to reduce the misuse of prescription drugs (**Attorney General Josh Shapiro**).



FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Every community has a stake in the impact of global warming. In the wake of President Trump's announcement that he would pull the U.S. out of the global Paris Climate Agreement, it is, more than ever, up to state and local leaders to address the devastating impact of climate change by reducing harmful emissions and building resiliency to extreme weather. NewDEAL Leaders are setting an agenda for clean transportation, clean energy production, energy efficiency, and more.



In Phoenix, **Mayor Greg Stanton** has adopted a 35-year, \$31.5 billion plan to expand light rail, increase bus service, add bike lanes and make streets more walkable, while replacing city vehicles with vehicles that run on alternative fuels or electric batteries. With leadership from **Mayor Jon Mitchell**, New Bedford, MA has the largest municipal fleet of **electric cars** in Massachusetts and the nation's third-largest **green energy municipal electric aggregation program**.



During **Mayor Miro Weinberger's** tenure, Burlington, VT became the first U.S. city to source 100 percent of its energy from **renewable generation**, adopting a mix of biomass, hydropower, wind, and solar for energy production -- and residents saw no increase in their electric rates. The city's next target is to become a net zero energy city over the next 10 to 15 years.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg has worked to make South Bend more **energy efficient**, saving energy on everything from buildings to street lights and saving taxpayers money in the process.



Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia has partnered with the City of Los Angeles to transition to **zero emissions** at the nation's largest port. The transition will include new investments in clean technology, emission reduction from ships, and a zero emissions truck pilot.

MODERNIZING THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Policymakers must respond to economic anxiety and insecurity with ideas that improve access to safety net and other programs that are critical for supporting healthy and secure families in the new economy, including benefits that have long been aligned to outdated ways of thinking about jobs and careers.

New Jersey Senator Troy Singleton has developed a plan for portable benefits that would allow independent workers in temporary, contract, and on-demand jobs to access health insurance, retirement savings, and other essential benefits, recognizing that the prevalence of independent contractor opportunities relative to traditional work has grown in the new “gig” economy.



Government can also address workers' astonishing lack of savings through programs like **Treasurer Tobias Read's OregonSaves**, which involves a state-level automatic enrollment retirement plan for employees who do not have access to an employer plan. The initiative's next phase includes a short-term emergency savings “sidecar” account, funded with a participating worker's first \$1,000 in contributions.

As research increasingly demonstrates the correlation between the care children receive in their first years and that person's lifelong opportunities, families need access to quality early childhood support. In Maryland, **Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Riemer** has worked to expand Head Start Pre-K for poor families from 2.5 hours/day to a seven-hour, full-day program.

Florida Representative Loranne Ausley's Whole Child Leon effort has empowered a group of public officials, business leaders, educators, health care providers, parents and caregivers with data to better understand children's needs. Key initiatives include the PACT Early Childhood System of Care, which connects parents with evidence-based services, and an annual Maternal Child Health Community Conference.

Other policy solutions include:

- » Expanding the prevalence of paid family leave (Councilmember Elizabeth Brown) and sick leave (Senator Aaron Ford)
- » Access to nutritious foods for those who cannot currently afford them (Commissioner John O'Grady)

INVESTING IN RURAL AMERICA

One of the starkest divides laid bare in recent elections has been between urban and rural populations. Prosperity in rural areas has sharply declined, requiring a specific focus on ways to rebuild opportunity. In addition to ideas mentioned previously that deal with workforce training and countering the opioid epidemic, NewDEAL Leaders have recognized that the infrastructure in these communities must improve.



Senator Jennifer Shilling has proposed tax incentives for Wisconsin construction companies, allowing small firms to compete and win contracts, which can create an influx of revenue in rural communities, while increasing family-supporting jobs, and potentially lowering costs to local governments.

Senator Kerry Donovan's REACT (Rural Advancement of Colorado Towns) initiative would coordinate non-monetary assistance and award grant money to assist rural communities with job creation or retention, recognizing that small towns often do not have the resources to search for and coordinate the many state and federal programs that may be able to help them solve problems.



In Arkansas, Representative Clarke Tucker's Statewide Imagination Library Partnership addresses the lack of high quality early childhood education and access to books in rural communities by providing all children in the state with a total of 60 books over the first five years of their lives.



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