

## Excerpts from the 2016 Democratic Party Platform

[ The comments in brackets are courtesy of the F2PPR Editorial Board. Simply put, the Democratic Party's platform represents a "divisive" agenda. The central themes of the platform are "fairness" and "equality" (which are good "sound bites", but there is no discussion about what those terms mean). The platform pits the interests of various special interest groups against the interests of other citizens. The various planks represent "Opportunities for Certain Select Special Interest Groups" and "Favoritism to that Special Interest Group", rather than policies that promote the general welfare of the country as a whole. The following is an excerpt from the platform's Table of Contents that lists the various initiatives and priorities, all of which are beyond the scope of the federal government's responsibilities that are listed in the US Constitution. ]

### Table of Contents –

Raising Workers' Wages [ via government fiat, rather than in the context of the (global) marketplace ]  
Supporting Working Families [ i.e., buying votes with other people's money ]  
Helping More Workers Share in Near-record Corporate Profits [ i.e., Socialism - This plank ignores / excludes any discussion about the concepts of ownership, risk taking, and return on capital ]  
Expanding Access to Affordable Housing and Homeownership [ Re-creating the housing bubble ]  
Protecting and Expanding Social Security [ ... at the expense of future generations ]  
Ensuring a Secure & Dignified Retirement [ Isn't providing for retirement a Personal Responsibility? ]  
Revitalizing our Nation's Postal Service [ The post office should be privatized instead ]  
Creating Good-paying Jobs [ This is the role of the marketplace. The federal government cannot "create" good-paying jobs, except in the government sector - and who pays for those jobs?? ]  
Supporting America's Small Businesses [ Why not support all businesses by reducing taxes and government regulations? ]  
Creating Jobs for America's Young People [ This is the role of the marketplace and civil society. Also, this will be much more difficult to accomplish if the government raises the minimum wage ]  
Fight for Economic Fairness and Against Inequality [ ...by using the Left's definition of "Fairness". The only way to truly eliminate inequality is to implement Communism ]  
Promoting Competition by Stopping Corporate Concentration [ Is this the role of government? Also, interestingly, the best paying jobs in America are oftentimes paid by larger businesses ]  
Making the Wealthy Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes [ ...by using the Left's definition of "Fairness" ]  
Promoting Trade that is Fair and Benefits American Workers [ ...by using the Left's definition of "Fairness". This oftentimes pits American workers against consumers (who are the same people) ]

Investing in Rural America

Building Strong Cities and Metro Areas

Promoting Arts and Culture

Fighting for the People of Puerto Rico

Build a Clean Energy Economy

Secure Environmental Justice

Provide Quality and Affordable Education

Making Debt-free College a Reality

Providing Relief from Crushing Student Debt

Ensure the Health and Safety of All Americans

Securing Universal Health Care

Reducing Prescription Drug Costs

Treating Mental Health [ Is this really a role for the federal government ? ]

Supporting Those Living with Autism and their Families

Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

Ensuring Long-Term Care, Services, and Supports [ ...with other people's money ]  
[ Etc., Etc. ] [ There really is no end to the progressive agenda ]

[ Each of the programs listed above represent an attempt by the Left to put into place the policies and programs of federal government "experts". This will be accomplished at the expense of the marketplace and civil society (families, Not for Profit charitable organizations, religious institutions, and other local "communities"). It is readily apparent that with the advance of the liberal / progressive agenda, civil society will have a vastly reduced role to play, because the federal government needs to become the most powerful force in people's lives.

With each new program put forward by the federal government, the concepts of personal responsibility and individual liberty are diminished.

We suspect that most of the initiatives listed above have (probably) been put forward with the best of intentions. However, these initiatives also represent an attempt to buy people's votes. Many of these programs are being put forward without consideration of any possible "unintended consequences" and/or without regard to an analysis of costs versus benefits. Do we really want to have the federal government exercise that much control over the marketplace and our day to day lives?

Please refer to the Seven Inevitable Results that were listed in the August newsletter. ]