



TechElect's Six Steps to Jobs, Prosperity, and Innovation Highlighted in the Democratic Party Platform

TechElect is centered on six commonsense steps with demonstrated bipartisan support as the foundation for sustainable job creation and economic growth. We've built the case for these priorities and talked directly with policymakers and candidates about ways to move these from ideas to reality. At the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, delegates [adopted a party platform](#) that addresses each of the Six Steps.

TechElect Step 1: Boost math, science, and engineering skills in our students and protect America's technological leadership through strategic investments in scientific research. U.S. math and science scores are on the decline, and America's economic leadership in the world is threatened. Focusing on STEM will build the highly skilled workforce the U.S. needs to create jobs and economic growth in every sector of the economy. And we need to ensure that our colleges and universities have support for the basic research needed to drive innovation and breakthrough discoveries to create new industries and fuel economic growth. The next generation of innovation should be stamped, "Made in the U.S.A.+"

Democratic Party Platform: We are committed to ensuring that every child in America has access to a world-class public education so we can out-educate the world and make sure America has the world's highest proportion of college graduates by 2020. This requires excellence at every level of our education system, from early learning through post-secondary education. It means we must close the achievement gap in America's schools and ensure that in every neighborhood in the country, children can benefit from high-quality educational opportunities. (Page 36)

The President also proposed to double key investments in science to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, encourage private sector innovation, and prepare at least 100,000 math and science teachers over the next decade. (Page 37)

Democrats support a world-class commitment to science and research so that the next generation of innovators and high-technology manufacturing companies thrive in America.

Democrats are committed to preparing math and science teachers and training workers with skills for the future, and doubling funding for key basic research agencies. We support expanding and making permanent the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit. President Obama has charted a new mission for NASA to lead us to a future that builds on America's legacy of innovation and exploration. (Page 41)

TechElect Step 2: Strengthen incentives to help the United States boost job creation, and protect America's place as the global leader in innovation for decades to come.

America's global leadership in innovation is jeopardized because our policymakers are letting international competitors pass us. They recognize that tax laws are an economic development tool, and modernized their codes to fuel investment, attract companies, and create jobs for their people. It's time for our policymakers to do the same. We need to lower the corporate tax rate and reduce costly complexity. We should move to a competitive territorial system as our major trading partners have done, and implement competitive innovation incentives to encourage robust job creation and promote investment here at home.

Democratic Party Platform: We are committed to reforming our tax code so that it is fairer and simpler . . . We are also committed to reforming the corporate tax code to lower tax rates for companies in the United States, with additional relief for those locating manufacturing and research and development on our shores, while closing loopholes and reducing incentives for corporations to shift jobs overseas. (Page 38)

The Democratic Party supports a broad-based strategy to further strengthen an American renaissance in manufacturing, with tax relief for clean energy manufacturing, incentives to create advanced vehicles in the United States, more research, and a network of manufacturing innovation hubs. (Page 40)

[T]he United States must preserve our leadership in the Internet economy. We will ensure that America has a 21st century digital infrastructure . . . robust wired and wireless broadband capability, a smarter electrical grid, and upgraded information technology infrastructure in key sectors such as health care and education. President Obama has committed to ensuring that 98 percent of the country has access to high-speed wireless broadband Internet access. We are finding innovative ways to free up wireless spectrum and are building a state-of-the-art nationwide, interoperable, public safety network. President Obama is strongly committed to protecting an open Internet that fosters investment, innovation, creativity, consumer choice, and free speech, unfettered by censorship or undue violations of privacy.

The administration is vigorously protecting U.S. intellectual property . . . our technology and creativity . . . at home and abroad through better enforcement and innovative approaches such as voluntary efforts by all parties to minimize infringement while supporting the free flow of information . . . As technology advances, we will continue to work with all stakeholders to protect the security of the nation and its knowledge assets, U.S. intellectual property, the functioning of fair and competitive markets, and the privacy, free expression, and due process right of Americans. (Page 41)

TechElect Step 3: Expand the use of innovative technologies to increase U.S. energy security and create new jobs.

Innovative technologies can help to free the U.S. from its reliance on foreign energy. These technologies, developed through private/public partnerships, can increase productivity, cut down on overall energy usage, and improve the efficiency of domestic energy sources. The federal government should help to drive the marketplace through procurement policies that reward smart solutions, sustainable products and technological advances.

Democratic Party Platform: Democrats support making America the world's leader in building a clean energy economy by extending clean energy incentives that support American businesses and American jobs in communities across the country. It's not enough to invent clean energy technologies here; we want to make them here and sell them around the world. We can further cut our reliance on oil with increased energy efficiency in buildings, industry, and homes, and through the promotion of advanced vehicles, fuel economy standards, and the greater use of natural gas in transportation. (Page 39)

We know that global climate change is one of the biggest threats of this generation . . . an economic, environmental, and national security catastrophe in the making. We affirm the science of climate change, commit to significantly reducing the pollution that causes climate change, and know we have to meet this challenge by driving smart policies that lead to greater growth in clean energy generation and result in a range of economic and social benefits. (Page 55)

TechElect Step 4: Promote greater access to foreign markets. With roughly 95 percent of consumers living outside the United States, we need greater access to the emerging markets. Building on the bipartisan Colombia, Panama, and South Korea trade agreements, we can forge even more ambitious trade pacts with other countries to create tens of thousands of new jobs and open new markets to U.S. companies.

Democratic Party Platform: Because of the economic dynamism of the Asia-Pacific region, which is already home to more than half the global economy, expanding trade with that region is critical to creating jobs and opportunities for the American people . . . [W]e are working with our partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum to create a seamless regional economy, promote green growth, and coordinate regulatory reform. Alongside Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, we are on track to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a historic high-standard agreement that will address new and emerging trade issues, lower barriers to the free flow of trade and investment, increase exports, and create more American jobs. Exploring opportunities to shape the multilateral trading system to reflect the role and responsibility of major emerging markets in the global economy is a critical part of the President's trade agenda.

We will work to expand free and fair trade in the Americas as well. We already export more than three times as much to Latin America as we do to China, and we will pursue additional opportunities to expand commerce and promote shared prosperity . . . Because the Caribbean is an important region to our country, we will continue to support robust trade and economic relationships with our partners there. And, across the region, we are moving ahead with open

skies+agreements to expand opportunities for commercial aviation and to bring our people and businesses closer together. (Page 65)

The President is committed to continuing to fight unfair trade practices that disadvantage American producers and workers, including illegal subsidies, non-tariff barriers, and abuse of worker rights or environmental standards. (Page 43)

We remain committed to finding more markets for American-made goods . including using the Trans-Pacific Partnership between the United States and eight countries in the Asia-Pacific, one of the most dynamic regions in the world . while ensuring that workersrights and environmental standards are upheld, and fighting against unfair trade practices. We expanded and reformed assistance for trade-affected workers, and we demanded renewal of that help alongside new trade agreements. (Page 55)

TechElect Step 5: Protect America's digital networks through effective cybersecurity partnerships.

Our digital networks are moving U.S. products to markets around the world, with global online sales expected to total \$24 trillion by 2020. Predominately owned and operated by the private sector, these networks also manage our electrical grid, guide our trains and planes, and maintain our financial markets. Cybersecurity policies based on partnerships between the public and private sectors will help the Internet remain secure and support robust job growth in the U.S.

Democratic Party Platform: Defending against cyber threats requires networks that are secure, trustworthy, and resilient. The President and the administration have taken unprecedented steps to defend America from cyber attacks, including creating the first military command dedicated to cybersecurity and conducting a full review of the federal government's efforts to protect our information and our infrastructure. We will continue to take steps to deter, prevent, detect, and defend against cyber intrusions by investing in cutting-edge research and development, promoting cybersecurity awareness and digital literacy, and strengthening private sector and international partnerships. President Obama has supported comprehensive cybersecurity legislation that would help business and government protect against risks of cyber attacks while also safeguarding the privacy rights of our citizens. And, going forward, the President will continue to take executive action to strengthen and update our cyber defenses. (Page 60)

The administration has built partnerships to support an Internet that is secure and reliable and that is respectful of U.S. intellectual property, free flow of information, and privacy. To preserve the Internet as a platform for commerce, debate, learning, and innovation in the 21st century, we successfully negotiated international Internet policymaking principles, support the current multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance, and oppose the extension of intergovernmental controls over the Internet. (Page 69)

TechElect Step 6: As part of overall immigration reform, allow the world's best and brightest minds to call America home. During the next five years, 100,000 immigrants . many with advanced degrees . will leave America and take their innovative ideas and job-creating potential with them. Nearly half of all technology start-ups were founded by immigrants, including companies like Google, Intel, and Qualcomm. We need an immigration system that keeps these bright minds in America to develop products and jobs here, and allows more highly skilled workers to come to our shores to drive innovation and technology growth.

Democratic Party Platform: To make this country a destination for global talent and ingenuity, we won't deport deserving young people who are Americans in every way but on paper, and we will work to make it possible for foreign students earning advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to stay and help create jobs here at home. (Page 37)

We need an immigration reform that creates a system for allocating visas that meets our economic needs, keeps families together, and enforces the law. But instead of promoting the national interest, Republicans have blocked immigration reform in Congress and used the issue as a political wedge. (Page 46)

President Obama and the Democratic Party stand for comprehensive immigration reform that intelligently prioritizes our country's security and economic needs. (Page 47)

About TechElect

TechElect is a nonpartisan campaign to work with both presidential candidates on ways to create new jobs and new opportunities here in America, anchored in technology and innovation. It brings together the tech sector, business organizations, and grassroots groups under a common charge: to get Americans working again. The campaign is hosted by the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI). Learn more at www.TechElect.org.

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