

Platform and Principles

of the

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

The Freedom Democratic Party, believing that racial equality is only the first step in solving the basic problems of poverty, disease and illiteracy confronting American society, welcomes the participation of all Mississippi citizens in a joint effort to realize the goals of economic growth and individual self-fulfillment in a spirit of humane concern for the welfare of every person.

With all humility we ask the guidance of Almighty God in these difficult times. May his power and spirit fill us all as we approach these problems that beset us all.

We pledge to support the candidates and principles adopted by the National Democratic Party at its convention in Atlantic City in August, 1964.

National Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we support the 1960 national Democratic Party platform, specifically insofar as the following principles apply to the State of Mississippi.
 - a. Full employment as a fundamental objective of national policy and the necessity for federal aid to the depressed areas of Mississippi and the rest of the nation.
 - b. Strong state and national action to eliminate artificial barriers to employment based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.
 - c. The right to a job requires the full restoration of collective bargaining, and the repeal of anti-labor legislation designed to prevent the effective organization of unions.
 - d. The right of every farmer, tenant, sharecropper and migrant worker to a decent living through the raising of farm incomes and wages, national and state legislation affecting wages and living conditions, food stamp programs to feed needy children, the aged and the unemployed, and the expansion of school lunch and milk programs.
 - e. Medical care benefits to be provided as part of the Social Security insurance system.
2. That we wholeheartedly endorse the program embodied in the Civil Rights Law of 1964 and that we demand both state and national officials to implement the principles of this law.
3. That we insist that all officials of the state and national governments take steps to ensure the impartial registration of all qualified voters in the State of Mississippi. We urge vigorous enforcement of the civil

rights laws to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens in all areas of the country. We urge the abolition of the literacy test as a voting requirement. We further urge use of the 14th amendment clause which allows for a reduction in Congressional representation when qualified voters are not registered.

4. That we vigorously support the Supreme Court school desegregation decision of 1954 and demand that immediate measures should be undertaken by the state and national governments to guarantee that the decision be implemented in the State of Mississippi.
5. That we support the Supreme Court re-apportionment decision of 1964 and call for a just system of representation in every legislative body in the United States consistent with the principle that each individual has an equal vote.
6. That we believe that an extensive job re-training program should be vigorously pursued by both the state and national governments in order that middle-aged people who are victims of an era of economic transition may continue to be self-sufficient members of the community.
7. That we applaud the start which has been made toward the amelioration of poverty under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in such measures as area redevelopment, a broadened minimum wage, manpower training, food stamp legislation, and the omnibus anti-poverty measure. We call for intensification of these programs during the next four years under continued liberal Democratic leadership and for the integration of these efforts with a creative public works program.
8. That we strongly endorse the efforts of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to achieve international development and cooperation through such measures as support of the United Nations, a vigorous foreign aid program, attempts to bring about control of nuclear weapons, and the creation of the Peace Corps.
9. That we applaud the advance of freedom throughout the world and advocate American cooperation with the United Nations in a peaceful effort to eradicate tyranny in those areas of the world -- such as South Africa, Angola, Southern Rhodesia, Hungary, and East Germany -- where it still prevails.
10. That we oppose attempts by any nation or bloc to impose alien political systems or ideologies - communistic or otherwise - on any other nation.
11. That we vigorously condemn extremist and hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the White Citizens' Council, and the Association for the Preservation of the White Race.

Mississippi Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we urge careful consideration of the use of federal funds in Mississippi to ensure that such grants will not be used for the perpetuation of segregation.

Specifically:

- a. That we oppose the use of federal funds for the construction or maintenance of segregated community facilities in Mississippi.
 - b. That we advocate the establishment of a state Fair Employment Practices Committee to assist in reviewing cases of employment discrimination.
2. That we advocate careful supervision of the use of federal funds in order that the withholding of federal funds will no longer be used as a means to threaten and harass Mississippi citizens who try to exercise their constitutional rights.
 3. That we look for the appointment of federal referees to supervise all Mississippi electoral procedures - from the first attempt to register to vote to the final counting of ballots - until all citizens of the state can rest assured of a meaningful voice in a democratic society.
 4. That we advocate a substantial reduction in the state sales tax and a proportionate increase in the income tax.
 5. That we condemn the use of state tax monies to support the Sovereignty Commission and other organizations whose aim is to perpetuate the segregated society.