

The SANITY Project

An Affirmative Democratic Platform

26 Reasons, Not 26 Grievances
July 2026

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Preamble

The American left/liberals/progressives have spent the last decade losing arguments they should be winning. Not because its policies are wrong, but because Democratic candidates have spent more time opposing what the other side is doing than making the affirmative case for what they would do instead.

That is not a winning strategy. When voters are asked what they want from government, their answers line up remarkably well with what Democratic candidates have spent decades proposing:

- Negotiated drug prices
- Solvent Social Security
- Universal health coverage
- Reduced deficit
- Functional infrastructure
- Voting rights
- Independent courts
- A government that enforces laws on the books instead of dismantling the agencies charged with enforcing them.

The problem is not the policy. The problem is that “Democrat” has become — for too many voters, in too many places — a toxic caricature assembled from culture-war shorthand: pronouns, “snowflakes,” and “woke.”

The Sanity Project is an attempt to put the substance back in front of that shorthand.

What follows is 26 affirmative commitments — each one anchored in:

- Documented majority public support
- Legislation that has already been introduced
- Evidence of workability
- Urgency so clear that the cost of inaction overwhelms any argument against action.
- In addition, every fiscal figure in the platform is anchored in nonpartisan scoring from the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Joint Committee on Taxation, or the Treasury Department.
- And each is budget-neutral at worst — budget-positive in most circumstances. This is not a spending wish list, but a set of steps toward a balanced budget.

The platform is organized into three parts.

- I. The first addresses how democracy must function — nine specific institutional guardrails, enforcement mechanisms, and procedural norms that make democracy possible regardless of who holds power.
- II. The second addresses what Democrats advocate — seventeen policy commitments that a majority of Americans support, that Democrats have championed for decades, and that no recent Congress has been willing to enact.
- III. The third addresses how we pay for it — the arithmetic showing that the platform is not a fiscal fantasy, but a reallocation of money the federal government is already spending in the wrong places.

This document is transparently partisan, but it does not ask readers to accept the totality of Democratic Party orthodoxy, the personalities of its leaders, or the missteps of its past. It does not include polarizing issues like abortion access or gun rights, but focuses on points of voter agreement. That's how elections are won, and how the American electorate is properly served.

If you read what follows carefully and find more here that you agree with than oppose, then voting Democratic in 2026 is not a leap. It's sanity.

PART ONE: How Democracy Must Function

The rules that held our democracy together existed largely as historical norms and unwritten agreements. The current administration has proved, again and again, that uncodified norms are unenforceable. The following reforms make permanent what should never have required codifying in the first place.

But here's the caveat. Politicians, historically, are rarely inclined to relinquish power or limit their own tenure. Democratic candidates must be willing to accept these codified guardrails, even at the expense of their self-interest, to earn credibility and truly put country above party.

1A — EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Restore and Codify DOJ and Judicial Independence

The Justice Department and federal courts must be permanently insulated from political interference by any administration of either party. Specific codifications include prohibitions on presidential direction of criminal prosecutions, mandatory and enforceable recusal standards, and tenure protections for career prosecutors and judges. A Democratic Congress is the only credible path to making these protections permanent rather than perpetually relitigated.

2. Comprehensive Anti-Corruption Framework

Convert historical norms into enforceable law: mandatory presidential and congressional financial disclosure, strict emoluments enforcement, pardon restrictions that prevent self-dealing, cooling-off periods for federal officials before entering private lobbying, and an independent ethics oversight body with genuine enforcement authority. Democratic legislators have, unsuccessfully, introduced versions of every one of these reforms.

1B — LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

3. Congressional Term Limits

Consistent public support above 80% across all party affiliations makes this one of the most broadly popular reforms in American politics. Career politicians insulated from competitive accountability are not what the founders envisioned. Proposed: 18-year maximum service limits for both House and Senate members. This requires a constitutional amendment — and a national conversation worth having regardless of the outcome. Democrats should run on it openly. An 18-year cap would cost incumbents of both parties, including Democrats' own.

4. Campaign Finance Transparency and Spending Limits

The unlimited flow of anonymous corporate and dark money into American elections has fundamentally distorted representative government. Reform requires full mandatory disclosure of all political spending regardless of source, aggregate spending limits, and public financing options for federal elections. The goal is not to silence any voice — it is to ensure that no single voice, institutional or individual, can drown out all others. Democratic legislators have introduced every major version of this reform for more than a decade, including the DISCLOSE Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

This is a practical remedy to what Citizens United unleashed.

1C — JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

5. Supreme Court Nomination and Confirmation Reform

The confirmation process has become a tool of pure partisan obstruction, with rules applied inconsistently depending on which party is in the majority. Reform requires mandatory hearing and floor vote timelines for all nominees, regardless of the political calendar. The integrity and credibility of the Court depend on consistent rules, applied consistently.

6. Federal Judiciary Term Limits

Lifetime tenure made sense when life expectancy was decades shorter. It produces a different institution when justices routinely serve 30 or more years. Democrats must propose 18-year staggered terms for all federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, with post-service emeritus status available. This reform has serious intellectual support across the ideological spectrum from both conservative and liberal legal scholars, and Democratic senators have already introduced the legislation. It removes politics from nominations by making them regular and predictable rather than election-cycle power grabs.

7. Mandatory Judicial Ethics and Recusal Standards

Federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, currently operate under weaker ethics requirements than any other federal official. Establish binding, enforceable ethics standards: mandatory disclosure of gifts, travel, and outside income; clear recusal triggers for financial conflicts and prior advocacy; and an independent enforcement mechanism with actual authority. Democratic legislators have, again unsuccessfully, introduced a binding Supreme Court ethics code in every recent Congress.

1D — ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

8. Ban on Mid-Census Partisan Gerrymandering

Congressional and state legislative district boundaries should be drawn once per decade following the census, by independent nonpartisan commissions, and locked until the next census. The recent practice of redrawing maps mid-cycle purely for partisan advantage — and, tacitly, for racial discrimination — may be legal, but it is a direct manipulation of electoral outcomes and should be explicitly prohibited by federal statute.

Politicians should not choose their voters. Voters should choose their representatives. The federal bills that would deliver this — the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act — are Democratic bills. Republican leadership has blocked them every time.

9. Federal Election Security and Voting Access Standards

Establish minimum federal standards for election security, ballot access, and voting infrastructure applying equally in all states. These standards must satisfy two simultaneous requirements: ensuring that only eligible citizens vote and ensuring that no eligible citizen is prevented from voting by unnecessary administrative burdens.

Further, these standards should plainly state that any tactics intended to depress voter access, from either the state or federal level, will not be tolerated.

Current federal law already prohibits noncitizen voting under penalty of perjury, deportation, and criminal prosecution. Documented evidence from Kansas and other states confirms that proof-of-citizenship requirements prevent far more eligible citizens from voting than noncitizens.

Before the 2013 Secure and Fair Elections, or SAFE, Act took effect in Kansas, noncitizen registration was approximately 0.002% of all registered voters. After the law took effect, it blocked roughly 31,000 eligible citizens — 12% of all applicants — from registering. It was eventually struck down in federal court.

The standard must be: election integrity measures should demonstrably prevent actual fraud without disenfranchising legitimate voters. Nonpartisan, state-run administration of federal elections, standardized security protocols, and guaranteed baseline access to the ballot for all eligible citizens are equally valuable.

Indeed, the current administration is pressuring senators — the measure has already passed the House — to scrap the filibuster and pass the SAVE America Act with a simple majority vote. The SAVE America Act, modeled after Kansas' *SAFE Act*, would affect 83% of eligible voters, according to the nonpartisan Voter Participation Center.

This would include an estimated 69 million married women whose last names do not match their birth certificates.

PART TWO: What We Stand For

Seventeen policy commitments with durable majority support, each one a position Democrats have championed and Republican officeholders have declined to enact. These are not ideological tests. They are the practical commitments to the health, security, and prosperity of the American people that any party serious about governing should be willing to put on the ballot.

2A — ECONOMIC SECURITY AND FAIRNESS

10. Social Security Solvency: Remove the Tax Cap

The Social Security trust fund faces a structural shortfall. Removing the payroll tax cap on earnings above \$400,000 extends solvency for generations without cutting benefits or raising taxes on working Americans. This polls above 75% across party lines. The criticism that this is “redistribution” misses the point: it is fiscal responsibility. Democrats have been the only party offering to fix Social Security by asking the highest earners to pay the same percentage as everyone else — rather than by raising the retirement age or privatizing the program outright. This Democratic priority would keep Social Security solvent without cutting the check that 70 million Americans count on.

11. Prescription Drug Pricing Reform

Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers — a policy that polls above 80%, including among Republican voters. Extend negotiating power beyond Medicare and cap out-of-pocket costs for all Americans, regardless of insurance status. Americans pay two to three times what citizens of peer nations pay for identical medications, often for drugs developed with American taxpayer-funded research. Democrats wrote drug-price negotiation into law in the Inflation Reduction Act. The current administration is actively working to roll back those provisions.

12. Minimum Effective Tax Rate for Ultrahigh Earners

Individuals earning above \$100 million annually should pay a minimum effective federal tax rate equivalent to what working Americans pay. This is not a penalty or “class warfare,” but a loophole closure. When the effective tax rate of a billionaire falls below that of a nurse or a firefighter, the tax code is not functioning as designed. Framed as fairness and fiscal discipline, this consistently polls above 60% across party lines. Democrats have introduced versions of this reform for years.

13. Housing Affordability: Supply, Access, and Stability

Housing is the foundation of economic security, and the United States faces a structural shortage that affects every income level in every region. The bipartisan Housing for the 21st Century Act passed the House 390-9 in February 2026 — one of the most lopsided bipartisan votes in recent congressional history. Federal commitments include expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), incentivizing conversion of vacant commercial properties to residential use, reducing regulatory and zoning barriers to construction, supporting manufactured housing, and connecting housing policy to workforce availability. Democratic-led administrations have championed expanded LIHTC, federal preemption of exclusionary zoning, and rental assistance for working families. The current administration has proposed cutting HUD and rental assistance for the second time in a year.

14. Small Business and Main Street Investment

Restore and expand federal support for small business formation, lending access, and resilience during economic disruption. Frame as a counterweight to the consolidation and monopolization that disadvantages local economies and hollows out American communities. Small businesses employ nearly half of the American private-sector workforce. Federal policy should reflect that priority rather than consistently favoring the scale advantages of large corporations. The Biden-era SBA expansions, antitrust revival, and Main Street lending programs were Democratic policies.

15. Fiscal Responsibility and Honest Budgeting

U.S. debt now exceeds the country's GDP for the first time since World War II. The Congressional Budget Office projects this disparity will grow over the coming decade, with interest payments becoming one of the largest costs in the federal budget. Two-thirds of Americans view the national debt and deficits as a serious problem and prefer lawmakers to act soon. A commitment to honest federal budgeting includes pay-as-you-go principles for new spending, budget scoring free from political pressure, long-term fiscal impact assessments for all major legislation, and a serious framework for debt reduction. The data is not ambiguous: deficits have grown the most under Republican administrations that combined tax cuts for top earners and corporations with spending increases. Conversely, Democratic administrations have generally narrowed deficits or stabilized debt-to-GDP.

16. Invest in America's Energy Generation and Transmission

America's electric grid is aging, strained, and struggling to keep pace with surging demand from advanced manufacturing, data centers, and the electrification of everyday life. Nearly 90% of voters across party lines report being "very concerned" about rising energy costs, and more than two-thirds of likely voters recognize that the grid is overdue for modernization. Blackouts, brownouts, and transmission bottlenecks now cost the economy billions each year and leave families and businesses exposed to volatile prices.

Investment in generation capacity and transmission infrastructure represents genuine cross-party consensus among voters. Recent multistate polling finds 65% of likely voters support building more transmission lines to strengthen reliability, and roughly 60% of Americans — with gains in both parties — now favor expanding nuclear power, including next-generation advanced reactors. Democrats must promote a reliability-first investment agenda: accelerated permitting reform for interstate transmission; expanded federal financing tools to modernize and harden the grid against extreme weather; a stable, long-horizon commitment to nuclear power and advanced reactors; and a federal strategy that shields consumers from the mounting cost of delay. Democrats wrote and passed the largest energy infrastructure investments in modern American history — the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act — including specific funding for transmission, advanced nuclear, and grid hardening.

2B — HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

17. Single-Payer Healthcare: A Path to Universal Coverage

For half a century, Democrats have argued that healthcare should not depend on employment, insurer enrollment, or geography. That argument is no longer controversial in any other peer democracy — and, increasingly, is no longer controversial here either. The facts cut one way:

1. Of the top 25 industrialized countries, *only* the United States lacks universal healthcare.
2. The United States spends more on healthcare than any other nation, by a wide margin — roughly twice the per-capita average of other wealthy countries.
3. Health outcomes in the U.S. are last, or almost last, compared to other high-income nations; examples include life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, and deaths that could have been prevented with better access to care.

4. America's only "single-payer" health program — Medicare — carries an administrative burden of 1.5–3.0% of spending, compared to 11–20% for private insurance coverage. Most of the commercial insurance cost is due to executive compensation, marketing, broker and agent fees, and billing/coding complexity, not to improving outcomes or access to care.

Any credible path to universal coverage must also reckon with the workforce that delivers that care: nearly one in six healthcare workers in America is foreign-born. Current immigration enforcement is actively shrinking that number at a moment when demand is growing.

Democrats should advocate a phased path to universal single-payer coverage. Independent polling from KFF and Pew shows support for a universal system holds up when Americans can keep their doctors and hospitals; that support softens when trade-offs such as higher taxes or the elimination of private insurance go unaddressed. A credible plan must therefore include: a robust public option available to every American as a near-term bridge to universal coverage; Medicare expansion to adults 50 and older and to children regardless of income; transparent, publicly scored financing that consolidates premiums, out-of-pocket spending, and federal subsidies into a single honest price tag; and a real transition framework for workers and employers currently tied to commercial insurance.

A key Democratic platform should include coverage employees don't lose when they change jobs, prices they can plan around, and a system that puts patients ahead of shareholders. That is not socialism. It is what every other wealthy country has already built — and what Americans, in poll after poll, are asking their leaders to build too.

18. Break the Cycle: A National Framework for Addiction, Mental Health, and Public Safety

The American addiction crisis — fentanyl in particular — has exposed the failure of two competing approaches: punitive enforcement without treatment, and harm reduction without accountability. Neither has worked. A third path, introduced in San Francisco under Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Breaking the Cycle" initiative that won support across the ideological spectrum, suggests a replicable national model.

Four interlocking commitments:

1. Treatment on demand — every American in crisis should be able to access mental health and addiction treatment without waiting lists, bureaucratic barriers, or insurance denials. Full mental health parity enforcement is the legal foundation.
2. Recovery-oriented public safety — law enforcement encounters with people experiencing addiction should connect them to treatment, not simply cycle them through jails and emergency rooms. Stabilization centers, sobering facilities, and treatment-linked diversion programs replace the failed binary of incarceration or nothing.
3. Accountability for outcomes — government and nonprofit service providers must demonstrate measurable outcomes — people housed, people in recovery, public spaces restored — not just services delivered.
4. Public-private partnership — federal seed funding matched with private philanthropic investment to rapidly scale effective programs.

Medicaid is the funding backbone of this entire system. Cuts to Medicaid have impacted addiction treatment, mental health care, and the infrastructure that makes recovery possible. Democrats expanded Medicaid in 40 states and have defended that expansion repeatedly. The current administration has proposed the deepest Medicaid cuts in the program's history.

19. Restore America's Scientific and Public Health Leadership

The United States built the world's gold standard for biomedical research. The National Institutes of Health has produced the science behind virtually every major medical advance of the modern era: cancer treatments, HIV therapies, mRNA vaccine technology, Alzheimer's research, and the rapid COVID-19 vaccine response that saved millions of lives and trillions of dollars. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the

nation's disease surveillance backbone — the early warning system that detects outbreaks before they become epidemics.

Proposed cuts of 40% to NIH and 44% to CDC are not reforms; they are dismantling. Notably, even Republican House appropriators rejected the administration's proposed NIH cuts, advancing legislation maintaining the agency at \$48 billion — a signal that this is not a partisan issue but a security issue.

Four specific commitments:

1. Restore and protect NIH funding at levels that maintain America's global leadership in biomedical research, with funding decisions made on scientific merit rather than ideological alignment.
2. Restore CDC's public health infrastructure, including disease surveillance, outbreak response, and the state and local partnerships that deliver public health where Americans live.
3. Establish a permanent, fully funded pandemic preparedness framework. COVID-19 cost the United States an estimated \$14 trillion in economic impact, making preparedness the highest-return investment available to the federal government.
4. Protect the research pipeline of training grants and early-career investigator awards. The cures we will need in twenty years depend on the scientists we fund today — and on a political party that treats science as infrastructure rather than ideology. The contrast is unambiguous: Democrats will fund the science that finds the cures and prevents the next pandemic.

20. Protect America's Disaster Preparedness Infrastructure — Sky, Land, and Science

America's ability to anticipate, prevent, and survive natural disasters depends on three interlocking systems: the scientific infrastructure that provides early warning, the land management infrastructure that reduces catastrophic risk before disaster strikes, and the emergency response infrastructure that saves lives when it does. All three are being systematically reduced.

1. Early Warning: Restore NOAA, NWS, and NCAR

NOAA's forecasting infrastructure generates an estimated \$31.5 billion in annual economic benefits. A single day of warning before a major storm reduces damage by 30%. Current proposed cuts of over 25% to NOAA's budget, the loss of nearly 600 National Weather Service staff, and the planned dismantling of the National Center for Atmospheric Research represent a false economy. Restore full funding, staffing, and research capacity. Treat this infrastructure for what it is: national security spending.

2. Land Management: Restore the Forest Service and Public Lands Stewardship

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of national forest and grassland. Effective management — hazardous fuels reduction, prescribed burns, forest health monitoring — is the difference between a manageable fire and a catastrophic one. Current reductions have cut the Forest Service workforce by thousands, slashed the budget by up to 65%, and left hazardous fuels reduction at less than half its annual goal — while wildfires burned at 231% of the 10-year average through early 2026. Restore full funding and staffing. Support the bipartisan National Prescribed Fire Act and Wildfire Response and Preparedness Act already moving through Congress.

3. Emergency Response: Fully Fund and Reform FEMA

FEMA is intended to be the nation's disaster response backbone with independent oversight and clear performance standards. Democrats have spent decades insisting that disaster readiness is a federal responsibility. In a country where wildfires, hurricanes, and storms are intensifying, the party that will maintain an effective disaster response system is the party worthy of your vote.

2C — RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITY, AND EQUAL JUSTICE

21. Restore and Codify Federal Civil Rights Enforcement

The Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965, and 1968 represent America’s hardest-won legislative achievements. Until two Supreme Court decisions — *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Louisiana v. Callais* — hollowed out their enforcement, they operated as the law of the land. The statutes themselves have not been dismantled, but the enforcement infrastructure that makes them real has: contractor compliance reviews, disparate impact liability standards, civil rights offices across federal agencies, and the data collection systems used to identify and remedy discrimination. The Democratic commitment must:

1. Restore full enforcement authority and staffing to federal civil rights offices across all agencies.
2. Reinstate disparate impact standards as an enforcement tool.
3. Codify contractor non-discrimination requirements so they cannot be revoked by executive order.

The Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts were Democratic legislation. Their enforcement infrastructure has been built up under Democratic administrations and dismantled under Republican ones, most aggressively by the current administration and the current Supreme Court.

22. Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination in Federal Policy

Federal hiring, contracting, and programming should be based on merit, competence, and equal opportunity. The federal government should neither impose ideological litmus tests on its workforce nor abandon its commitment to ensuring that all Americans have a fair opportunity to compete, serve, and succeed regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. These are not competing principles. Democrats can win the merit-and-fairness argument without surrendering the non-discrimination commitment that has been settled American law for sixty years.

23. Veterans Care: Full Funding and Accountability

Fully fund VA healthcare, mental health services, housing assistance, and employment transition programs. Establish independent oversight with clear performance standards and real accountability for outcomes. Americans who served in uniform were promised care in return. It should be the least controversial item on any American policy agenda — and yet the current administration has cut VA staffing, frozen hiring at critical clinics, and floated privatization schemes that veterans groups across the political spectrum have rejected. Democrats wrote and passed the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the largest expansion of veterans’ benefits in a generation.

2D — IMMIGRATION AND WORKFORCE

24. Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Institute an updated Reagan-era framework: a structured path to legal status for long-term residents with deep community ties, a modernized visa system tied to documented labor market needs, and professional civil immigration enforcement focused on genuine public safety threats rather than paramilitary-style operations against civilian communities.

This pairs border security with human dignity — and addresses critical workforce gaps across the American economy, from high-tech innovation to housing construction, where labor shortages directly drive costs for ordinary Americans. Mass deportation of the established workforce is not a solution to illegal immigration —

it is a disruption to the American economy that costs hundreds of billions of dollars and leaves farms, construction sites, and research laboratories crippled.

Nowhere is this more concrete than in healthcare. More than one in four physicians in the U.S. is foreign-born. So are 41% of home health aides and roughly a quarter of certified nursing assistants — the workers who provide hands-on care to America’s elderly. Immigrant physicians disproportionately serve rural communities and underserved areas that would otherwise have no doctor at all. Current enforcement policies — including the removal of location protections from hospitals, a visa pause covering countries — particularly Mexico and the Philippines — that supply over one in ten healthcare workers, and a \$100,000 application fee for skilled worker H-1B visas — are actively dismantling this workforce at precisely the moment when demand is surging. The communities that will feel this first are rural, elderly, and politically represented by the same legislators who designed the policy. Democrats have repeatedly tried to pass comprehensive reform — including bipartisan legislation that Senate Republicans torpedoed in 2024 on direct orders from the current president.

The immigration court system is in a crisis that comprehensive reform cannot ignore. Nearly 4 million cases are pending with average wait times approaching four years. Newly filed cases in major jurisdictions are being scheduled into the early 2030s. The courts completed a record 700,000 cases in FY2024 and still fell further behind, because new filings outpaced completions by more than two to one. People who entered the country legally, applied for asylum legally, or are waiting on employer-sponsored visas are left in years-long legal limbo — often unable to travel, sometimes unable to change jobs because Congress has chronically underfunded and politically manipulated a court system that is structurally incapable of doing its job.

The current administration has made this worse: since early 2025, the immigration judge corps has been reduced by nearly 30% through firings and forced departures. Twelve courts have lost more than half their judges, two courts have no judges at all, and the San Francisco immigration court — one of the busiest in the country — has been shuttered entirely. The result is a system that can neither process legitimate applicants efficiently nor remove ineligible ones promptly.

The solution is not complicated — it is merely chronically underfunded and politically inconvenient. Comprehensive immigration reform must include four court-specific commitments:

1. Establish immigration courts as an independent judiciary, fully insulated from executive branch control and the politically motivated purges that have crippled the current system.
2. Fund the judge corps to scale, with experts estimating roughly 1,000 fully staffed judge teams could reduce the backlog to manageable levels within a decade.
3. Authorize trained asylum officers to adjudicate straightforward border asylum cases, reserving immigration judges for contested proceedings and reducing the courts’ caseload.
4. Guarantee legal representation in immigration proceedings — research consistently shows that represented individuals resolve their cases faster and more accurately than unrepresented ones, speeding the system for everyone, including those being removed.

A court that processes cases fairly and efficiently is not a concession to illegal immigration. It is the definition of the rule of law — the same standard this platform demands of every other institution in American public life.

2E — AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AT HOME AND ABROAD

25. Restore American Global Leadership and Treaty Reliability

The United States built the post-World War II international order — the institutions, alliances, and rules-based frameworks that have underpinned seven decades of relative global stability and American prosperity.

Unilateral withdrawal from over 60 international organizations and treaties — including Senate-ratified agreements — has damaged American credibility in ways that will require years, perhaps even decades, to repair. Allies make long-term security and economic decisions based on the reliability of American commitments. When that reliability is in question, they build alternative arrangements, seek other partners, and reduce dependence on American guarantees. Specific commitments:

1. Rejoin and restore funding to international institutions consistent with American strategic interests.
2. Establish by statute that withdrawal from Senate-ratified treaties requires Senate approval — restoring the constitutional role of Congress in foreign commitments.
3. Rebuild diplomatic and development infrastructure, including but not limited to USAID, Voice of America, and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as instruments of American influence.
4. Honor existing security commitments to allies, including Ukraine. The post-1945 order was built by presidents of both parties; Democrats will defend the alliance structure, the treaty obligations, and the diplomatic infrastructure that have kept the United States the indispensable power for eighty years.

26. Information Ecosystem: Local News, Media Independence, and Press Freedom

Democracy requires an informed citizenry, and an informed citizenry requires a functioning press. Both are in crisis. Roughly 70 million Americans now live in communities with little or no local news coverage — unable to learn what their city council voted on, whether their school budget was cut, or whether their local officials are corrupt. This is a civic emergency produced by media consolidation, the collapse of the advertising model that sustained local journalism, and regulations that prioritized corporate scale over public interest.

Five specific commitments:

1. Restore and strengthen FCC cross-ownership limits to prevent any single entity from controlling a community's television, radio, and newspaper simultaneously.
2. Establish federal support for nonprofit and locally owned news models: journalism fellowships, tax incentives for community news organizations, and grants for coverage of local government — building on successful state-level models currently operating in New Jersey, California, and elsewhere.
3. Enact a federal journalist shield law protecting reporters from being compelled to reveal confidential sources and prohibit the use of the Espionage Act to criminalize the publication of newsworthy information in the public interest.
4. Prohibit the use of federal regulatory authority — FCC licensing, antitrust review, government contracts — as leverage against organizations based on their editorial content or coverage decisions.
5. Protect and restore public broadcasting infrastructure — NPR and PBS — as rural information networks and emergency communication systems, and pair with continued broadband expansion. Democrats have introduced shield laws, cross-ownership reforms, and local-journalism support in every recent Congress.

PART THREE: How We Pay For It

The bottom line: the platform’s twenty-six commitments cost approximately \$190–345 billion per year in new federal spending. Documented offsets and recoveries — every figure anchored in CBO, GAO, JCT, or Treasury scoring — provide \$235–415 billion per year. The platform pays for itself at every point within the range, with \$45–70 billion in budget surplus at the midpoints.

The simplest objection to any platform of this size is that it costs too much. The Sanity Project takes the objection seriously — Item 15 (Fiscal Responsibility and Honest Budgeting) is in the platform for exactly that reason. The arithmetic below is the honest answer to the honest question: where does the money come from? Four observations frame the answer:

- 1. Several of the largest items here are not new spending — they are restorations of programs the current administration has cut.*
- 2. Two of the largest line items in the federal budget — defense and immigration enforcement — are spending on the wrong things, not too little spending overall.*
- 3. Credible nonpartisan watchdogs (GAO, Inspectors General) have identified hundreds of billions of dollars in documented inefficiency that any serious fiscal-responsibility platform should address before talking about cuts to popular programs.*
- 4. The platform’s revenue items pay for its spending items, with room to spare.*

3A — DEFENSE REALIGNMENT: FUND THE NEXT WAR, NOT THE LAST ONE

The Department of Defense will spend roughly \$895 billion in FY 2025, and the administration’s request for FY 2026 brings the topline near \$1 trillion for the first time in American history. The Sanity Project endorses a strong defense posture. It does not endorse the current allocation of that posture.

The structure of combat has changed during the careers of every currently serving officer. Hypersonic-missile development is reshaping the assumptions that drove carrier-fleet construction a generation ago. Cyber and electronic warfare are now contested domains in which the United States invests less than in any single shipbuilding program.

The Pentagon is, in plain terms, organized around the last war. Recent combat data makes the point in dollars:

- In Ukraine, \$400 drones routinely destroy \$4 million Russian battle tanks — a 10,000-to-1 cost-exchange ratio.
- In Yemen, the U.S. Navy has been shooting down \$2,000 Houthi attack drones with \$2 million SM-2 surface-to-air missiles.
- Over Iran in 2026, a shoulder-fired MANPADS missile costing roughly \$30,000–\$50,000 brought down a U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle valued at more than \$30 million. A second U.S. aircraft — an A-10 Warthog — was also lost to comparable air-defense systems.
- Ukrainian naval surface drones, costing roughly \$250,000–\$300,000 each, have destroyed or damaged more than a dozen Russian warships and forced the Russian Black Sea Fleet to retreat from its Crimean bases to Novorossiysk on the Russian mainland. Russian warships destroyed in those operations are valued between \$65 million and \$400 million each.
- Against that backdrop, the U.S. Navy is now planning the construction of 15 nuclear-powered “Trump-class” battleships. The lead ship’s projected cost exceeds \$17 billion — the most

expensive surface combatant ever built. The 15-ship program is expected to total roughly \$255 billion in procurement, with lifecycle costs projected at \$500–700 billion through 2090. While armed with advanced technology, some of which is still in development, this “put all your eggs in one basket” approach could be vulnerable to drone-swarm attacks, which contradicts the Navy’s doctrine of “distributed lethality.”

A serious realignment does not reduce capability. It changes which capabilities the country pays for. Four specific commitments:

1. **Procurement reform.** Every major Pentagon program purchased in the last two decades has come in late and over budget — the F-35 program is now projected to exceed \$2 trillion over its lifetime, and the Ford-class carrier overran its budget by more than \$2 billion before launch. The Government Accountability Office estimates 10–15% of procurement spending could be recovered through fixed-price contracting, multi-year buy discipline, and stricter cost-plus rules. On a \$300 billion procurement base, that is roughly \$30–45 billion per year.
2. **Sunset legacy platforms.** Every modern military has decommissioned weapons that no longer match the threat. The platform endorses the sunseting of platforms whose mission has been overtaken by drone, cyber, and precision-strike alternatives. The Pentagon’s own internal analyses identify \$20–30 billion per year in such candidates.
3. **Asymmetric reinvestment.** The savings above should be redirected to the drone, cyber, electronic-warfare, laser-guided, autonomous-systems, and counter-drone capabilities that the country’s adversaries are using and that the country’s conflicts already turn on. This is a reallocation, not a cut.
4. **Contractor cost discipline.** The top five defense contractors — Lockheed Martin, RTX (formerly Raytheon), General Dynamics, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman — posted operating margins in 2024 that were higher, on average, than in any peacetime period since the Eisenhower administration. The platform endorses statutory caps on cost-plus markup, mandatory disclosure of executive compensation funded by federal contracts, and renewed application of the Truth in Negotiations Act. Estimated additional savings: \$10–25 billion per year.

Net realignment available without reducing the topline: roughly \$60–100 billion per year, redeployed to address the capabilities adversaries are actually using. With a modest 3% topline reduction — which would still leave the DOD roughly \$970 billion in 2026 dollars — the total rises to \$90–130 billion per year. The result is a stronger, more agile force, not a smaller one.

3B — IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT: RIGHT-SIZED FOR OUTCOMES

ICE, CBP, and related immigration enforcement budgets have grown tenfold since 2003. Reconciliation legislation enacted in 2025 added approximately \$170 billion in additional enforcement spending over four years, an amount larger than the combined annual budgets of the FBI, ATF, DEA, and U.S. Marshals Service.

The return on that investment, by the administration’s own metrics, is declining. Mass-deportation operations targeting long-resident workers cost an estimated \$80,000–\$160,000 per removal when detention, transportation, court costs, and contractor fees are included. The same money would fund border processing, asylum adjudication, and visa modernization at a scale that would actually reduce illegal crossings — the stated goal — by closing the backlogs that create the magnet for unauthorized entry.

Item 24 (Comprehensive Immigration Reform) endorses a professional, accountable enforcement function focused on genuine public-safety threats. Right-sizing enforcement to that mission rather than to mass-deportation theater would free an estimated \$30–50 billion per year while leaving the underlying enforcement infrastructure stronger, faster, and more legally durable than the current model.

3C — WHAT THE WATCHDOGS ACTUALLY FIND

The phrase “waste, fraud, and abuse” has become a cliché in American politics, often to justify cuts to popular programs. The credible numbers tell a different story — and they are not partisan numbers. They come from the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and the federal Inspectors General.

Improper Payments. Federal agencies reported approximately \$186 billion in improper payments in FY 2025, across 64 programs at 15 agencies — an increase of \$24 billion from the prior year. Cumulative improper payments since FY 2003 have reached roughly \$3 trillion. Medicare alone accounted for \$56.7 billion of the FY 2025 total; Medicaid for \$37.4 billion. The remedy is process modernization and investment in verification, not program elimination.

A caveat the political rhetoric usually skips: GAO reports that approximately 82% of improper Medicare and Medicaid overpayments are due to improper documentation, eligibility verification, and administrative errors — not fraud.

The IRS Tax Gap. The IRS estimates the net tax gap — taxes legally owed but not paid on time — at \$606 billion for tax year 2022 alone. CBO and Treasury scored Democratic-passed IRS modernization funding under the Inflation Reduction Act at roughly \$7 in recovered revenue for every \$1 invested. The math is straightforward: every dollar cut from IRS enforcement adds seven dollars to the deficit.

The Pentagon Audit. The Department of Defense failed its eighth consecutive audit in December 2025. Material weaknesses directly affected approximately \$2.1 trillion (50.3%) of the Department’s \$4.6 trillion in reported assets. Auditors could not verify key F-35 spare-parts inventory, part of a program now projected to exceed \$2 trillion over its lifetime. The Pentagon is the only major federal agency to have never passed a financial audit. The statutory deadline for full compliance should be set for 2028.

Program Duplication. GAO’s annual fragmentation and duplication reports have, since 2011, identified specific opportunities yielding approximately \$774 billion in achieved savings, with \$100+ billion in additional savings available from currently open recommendations. One example: 15 federal agencies operate more than 130 distinct broadband internet programs without a unified national strategy — producing cost duplication, coverage gaps, and access barriers. Most of these recommendations are administrative, not legislative.

The pattern is consistent: real federal waste is concentrated in administrative processes that require investment in modernization, in a Pentagon that has resisted accountability for eight straight audit cycles, in an under-resourced tax-collection apparatus whose enforcement budget pays for itself many times over, and in duplicated programs that require management consolidation. None of those fixes fits the political theater of “waste, fraud, and abuse.” All of them produce real savings that the Sanity Project’s arithmetic can credibly draw on. Democrats funded the GAO and OMB, defended the Inspectors General, wrote the IRS funding that returns \$7 for every \$1 invested, and required the Pentagon audit by statute.

Estimated annual recovery from an evidence-based attack on these documented inefficiencies: \$40–80 billion per year. This figure is intentionally conservative. CBO’s scoring of the IRS enforcement provisions alone implies a higher return; meaningful reductions in improper payments and duplicative program consolidation add to that base. The Sanity Project counts only the conservative figure in its Bottom Line.

3D — REVENUE ALREADY IN THE PLATFORM

Three items already in the platform generate substantial revenue or savings:

- **Item 10 — Social Security Tax Cap Removal.** Extends Social Security solvency for 75+ years and brings approximately \$120–150 billion per year into the Social Security trust fund. This

revenue is statutorily walled off from the general fund and does not offset other spending. It does, however, eliminate the projected need to cut benefits or raise the retirement age.

- **Item 11 — Drug Pricing Reform.** CBO scored the existing Medicare negotiation authority at roughly \$25 billion per year in federal savings. Extending negotiation beyond Medicare and capping out-of-pocket costs would more than triple that figure to \$70–100 billion per year in federal savings, plus comparable savings for state Medicaid programs and private payers.
- **Item 12 — Minimum Effective Rate for \$100M+ Earners.** Treasury and Joint Committee on Taxation scoring of similar proposals puts the revenue impact at \$35–55 billion per year.

3E — WHAT THE PLATFORM COSTS

Estimated incremental federal spending under the platform’s remaining items, in approximate annual figures (conservative midpoints from CBO, the Congressional Research Service, and mainstream policy-research scoring):

- Item 13 (Housing — LIHTC expansion, conversion incentives): +\$15–25 billion per year.
- Item 14 (Small Business Investment): +\$5–10 billion per year.
- Item 16 (Energy Generation and Transmission, incremental to BIL and IRA): +\$30–50 billion per year.
- Item 17 (Single-Payer Pathway — public option phase): +\$80–150 billion per year.
- Item 18 (Break the Cycle — addiction and mental health): +\$20–35 billion per year.
- Item 19 (Restore NIH, CDC, and scientific infrastructure): +\$15–25 billion per year.
- Item 20 (Disaster Preparedness — NOAA, FEMA, Forest Service): +\$8–15 billion per year.
- Items 21–23 (Civil rights enforcement, equal opportunity, veterans care): +\$10–20 billion per year.
- Item 25 (Diplomacy, foreign assistance, treaty restoration): +\$5–10 billion per year.
- Item 26 (Information Ecosystem — journalism, CPB, broadband): +\$2–5 billion per year.
- **Annual total:** \$190–345 billion in incremental federal spending.

The wide range reflects design choices in Item 17 (how generous the public-option subsidies are) and Item 16 (how aggressively transmission permitting reform is paired with federal financing).

3F — THE BOTTOM LINE

- Defense realignment: \$60–130 billion.
- Immigration enforcement right-sizing: \$30–50 billion.
- Documented inefficiency recovery (IRS enforcement, improper-payment reduction, duplication consolidation): \$40–80 billion.
- Drug-pricing reform federal savings: \$70–100 billion.
- Minimum effective rate (\$100M+ earners): \$35–55 billion.
- **Annual total:** \$235–415 billion in additional revenue and budget offsets.

Net: the platform pays for itself at every point in the range. At midpoint estimates, it leaves \$45–70 billion per year in budget surplus.

The ranges overlap; the midpoints match; even the low end of the offset range exceeds the midpoint of the cost range. None of this depends on rosy scoring. It depends on four premises:

1. The Pentagon can spend its existing budget more effectively.
2. Immigration enforcement can do its actual job for less than the cost of political theater.
3. Credible watchdogs (GAO, CBO, the Inspectors General) have already identified hundreds of billions of dollars in inefficiency that the country has been unwilling to address.
4. The federal government should not be subsidizing drug prices that no other country tolerates.

This is what fiscal responsibility looks like when it is used as a serious accounting principle rather than a rhetorical weapon to block popular spending.

Document Notes

The Sanity Project is built around twenty-six commitments that already command majority support and that Democrats can defend in any district in the country. The omissions — abortion access, gun reform, climate change — are tactical, not philosophical.

On fiscal responsibility: Every item in Part Two involves either restoring previously funded programs or implementing policies with documented economic returns. The Sanity Project is a priorities platform, arguing that the United States is currently spending in the wrong places (tax cuts at the top, deportation drama, federal contractor giveaways) and failing to invest in the right ones (the power grid, healthcare, scientific research). Democrats have the better arithmetic. The numbers are on the side of the case made here.

On the “D” problem: For too many voters, the party label has become a substitute for thinking about the candidate, the platform, or the record. The Sanity Project does not ask anyone to overlook the things they dislike, often understandably, about Democrats. It asks them to weigh those things against the twenty-six commitments here — and against what the alternative is actively delivering.

On higher education and climate change: Both topics were considered and deliberately deferred. Higher education — student debt, school choice, campus governance, academic freedom — is contested terrain where Democrats already have strong positions, and where the affirmative case is best made in policy briefs rather than in a platform pitched at swing voters. Climate change, as an explicit platform item, invites the framing fights this document is built to avoid. The policies that would matter most — grid investment, disaster preparedness, scientific infrastructure, international cooperation — are already in the document. Democrats can and should run on the substance without picking a fight over the label.

On precedent: Legislative-facing platforms work. The Contract With America in the 1990s and, more recently, Project 2025 demonstrated that a tightly written set of commitments can shape an entire election cycle — and an entire term in office. Democrats have rarely produced anything comparable. The party tends to publish task-force white papers when what it needs is a pocket-sized list of promises it intends to keep. The Sanity Project is one attempt at that list. It is not the only attempt that should exist. It is offered in the hope that more and better ideas will follow.

On hope: While millions march in protest of the current administration’s policies, far fewer voices are saying what the government should be doing instead. Protests communicate that something is wrong. Platforms communicate that someone has a better answer. Democrats need to define the “better.”

Summation

Twenty-six items. Three organizing principles. One underlying conviction.

The first principle is that democracy is not self-sustaining. It requires rules with teeth, institutions with integrity, and officials who are accountable to the people they serve rather than to the donors who fund them or the party leader who intimidates them. Part One of this platform is about restoring those conditions.

The violations of the past decade have revealed how much we had been relying on good manners where we needed enforceable laws. Manners did not survive contact with a party willing to use every available lever, written and unwritten, to consolidate power. The codifications in Part One are the answer. A Democratic Congress is the only path to enacting them.

The second principle is that government exists to solve problems, and most of the problems Americans actually want solved have Democratic answers waiting on the shelf. The solvency of Social Security. The price of medicine. The shortage of affordable housing. The devastation of addiction. The gutting of scientific infrastructure. The erosion of alliances that have kept us secure for eight decades.

The third principle addresses the Achilles' heel of many Democratic proposals — “we can't afford it.” Actually, the arithmetic works in favor of Democrats by allocating the budget in the right places.

None of these problems is a mystery. None of them lacks solutions. What they lack is a congressional majority willing to enact the solutions the Democratic Party has been writing into bills for years — bills the other party has spent those same years blocking, repealing, or unfunding.

The Sanity Project is betting that most Americans are tired of that bargain. They would rather have functioning institutions than performative ones. A government that negotiates drug prices to make medications affordable for more Americans. Alliances restored rather than dismantled for reasons that change with the news cycle. A vote for the party of the platform you just read — not for the personalities, not for the slogans, not for the tribe — but for the platform.

If that bet is right, then what happens next is not complicated. Voters ask their candidates — incumbents and challengers alike — where they stand on these twenty-six items. Democratic candidates should embrace them, run on them, and earn votes by delivering them. Republican candidates must either adopt them or explain why they oppose them. Over time, the platform becomes less a document and more a standard: a *minimum* threshold of seriousness that American voters demand of anyone who asks for their trust.

That is how the conversation changes — and how the “D” on a ballot stops being a toxic marker and starts becoming shorthand for a serious, popular, deliverable platform. Not from the top down, but from the ground up. Not through any single election but through the accumulated pressure of citizens who have decided that sanity is not too much to ask, and that the party offering it deserves their vote.

Citations

Primary sources for the platform’s principal figures, in document order. Entries marked [confirm] rest on secondary reporting and should be verified against the named primary source before publication.

Item 3 (term limits polling). Pew Research Center (2023) and the University of Maryland Program for Public Consultation (2023) both find support for congressional term limits above 80% across party lines.

Item 9 (Kansas SAFE Act). *Fish v. Kobach*, 309 F. Supp. 3d 1048 (D. Kan. 2018), *aff’d sub nom. Fish v. Schwab*, 957 F.3d 1105 (10th Cir. 2020): the court found the law blocked 31,089 registration applicants — roughly 12% of new applicants — while pre-law noncitizen registration was negligible.

Item 9 (SAVE America Act reach). Voter Participation Center analysis (share of eligible voters affected); Center for American Progress, “The SAVE Act Would Disenfranchise Millions of Citizens” (69 million married women whose birth certificates do not match their current legal names); House passage reported February 2026 (The 19th; PolitiFact).

Item 10 (Social Security). Congressional Budget Office, Options for Reducing the Deficit (taxable-maximum options); Social Security Administration, Office of the Chief Actuary solvency memoranda; polling: National Academy of Social Insurance and AP-NORC surveys.

Item 11 (drug pricing). KFF Health Tracking Polls (negotiation support above 80%, including Republican voters); CBO scoring of Inflation Reduction Act negotiation provisions; RAND Corporation international prescription-price comparisons (U.S. prices two to three times peer nations).

Item 12 (minimum effective tax rate). U.S. Treasury, General Explanations of the Administration’s Revenue Proposals (“Greenbook”), billionaire minimum income tax scoring; Joint Committee on Taxation analyses.

Item 13 (housing). H.R. 6644, Housing for the 21st Century Act, passed the House 390–9 on February 9, 2026 (Congress.gov; House Financial Services Committee).

Item 15 (debt and deficits). CBO, The Long-Term Budget Outlook (debt exceeding GDP; rising net interest costs). [confirm the two-thirds public-opinion figure against the specific survey, e.g., Pew Research Center or Peter G. Peterson Foundation polling]

Item 16 (energy polling). [confirm the 90%, 65%, and ~60% figures against the specific surveys — e.g., Pew Research Center on nuclear power and multistate transmission polling]

Item 17 (healthcare). OECD Health Statistics and Commonwealth Fund international comparisons (U.S. spending roughly twice the peer per-capita average); Commonwealth Fund, *Mirror, Mirror 2024* (U.S. last among high-income nations on outcomes); Medicare administrative costs of 1.5–3% vs. 11–20% for private insurance: CBO and peer-reviewed analyses (*Annals of Internal Medicine*); polling on universal coverage trade-offs: KFF and Pew Research Center; foreign-born healthcare workforce (nearly one in six): Migration Policy Institute.

Item 18 (Break the Cycle). San Francisco “Breaking the Cycle” initiative, Office of Mayor Daniel Lurie (2025); Medicaid’s role as the largest payer for behavioral health: KFF and SAMHSA data.

Item 19 (NIH, CDC, pandemic cost). FY2026 President’s Budget (proposed reductions of roughly 40% to NIH and 44% to CDC); House Appropriations Committee action maintaining NIH at approximately \$48 billion; COVID-19 economic cost: USC Schaeffer Center (2023), \$14 trillion through 2023.

Item 20 (disaster preparedness). NOAA and American Meteorological Society valuation research (roughly \$31.5 billion in annual forecasting benefits); National Interagency Fire Center acreage data; NWS staffing losses and proposed NOAA reductions per 2025–26 budget documents and reporting. [confirm the 231% wildfire and 65% Forest Service budget figures against NIFC and USFS budget documents]

Item 21 (civil rights). *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013); *Louisiana v. Callais* (2026).

Item 23 (veterans). Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act, Pub. L. 117–168 (2022).

Item 24 (immigration). Foreign-born physician and direct-care workforce shares: Migration Policy Institute and AAMC data; pending cases (~3.7–4 million): TRAC, Syracuse University; FY2024 completions (~700,000): DOJ Executive Office for Immigration Review; judge corps losses, twelve courts losing more than half their judges, two

courts with none, and the announced San Francisco court closure: NPR reporting, January–February 2026; \$100,000 H-1B application fee: September 2025 presidential proclamation; 2024 bipartisan border legislation: S. 4361.

Item 26 (local news). Northwestern Medill, State of Local News Report. [confirm the 70 million figure against the most recent edition; earlier editions report roughly 55 million]

Part 3A (defense). Topline: FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act (~\$895 billion) and FY2026 budget request (DoD budget materials). Cost-exchange examples: open-source conflict analyses (CSIS; UK Ministry of Defence assessments); Red Sea intercept costs: U.S. Navy statements (2024); April 2026 Iran air losses: Air & Space Forces Magazine and The War Zone. Trump-class battleships (15 ships through 2055; lead ship over \$17 billion): U.S. Navy 2026 long-range shipbuilding plan; DefenseScoop (April 2026); Fortune (May 2026). F-35 lifetime cost exceeding \$2 trillion: GAO-24-106703. Ford-class overruns: GAO and CBO shipbuilding reports. Contractor margins: company 10-K filings.

Part 3B (immigration enforcement). 2025 reconciliation law enforcement funding (~\$170 billion over four years): CBO estimates; American Immigration Council analyses; per-removal cost estimates: American Immigration Council (2024) and ICE budget justifications.

Part 3C (watchdogs). Improper payments: GAO-26-108694 (FY2025 estimate of \$186 billion across 64 programs at 15 agencies; cumulative roughly \$3 trillion since FY2003). Tax gap: IRS Publication 5869, Tax Gap Projections for Tax Year 2022 (net \$606 billion); IRS enforcement returns: CBO and Treasury analyses of Inflation Reduction Act funding. Pentagon audit: DoD Agency Financial Report FY2025 (eighth consecutive failure, December 2025; \$4.65 trillion in reported assets). Duplication: GAO-26-108505, 2026 Annual Report (~\$774 billion in achieved financial benefits; \$100+ billion in open recommendations); broadband fragmentation: GAO reporting on 130+ programs across 15 agencies. [confirm the 82% documentation-error share against GAO/CMS payment-integrity root-cause reporting]

Part 3D (revenue items). Medicare negotiation savings: CBO scoring of the Inflation Reduction Act; minimum-tax revenue: Treasury Greenbook and JCT; Social Security taxable-maximum removal: SSA Office of the Chief Actuary memoranda.

An Affirmative Democratic Platform

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