

# STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

## A STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

The Florida Democratic Candidates believe the time has come for the people of our state to have before them a clear enunciation of the beliefs and principles which have guided Florida to its position as one of the states of the nation. It is upon this philosophy and upon this record of achievement that we draw our convictions. We feel our beliefs are shared by thoughtful citizens of all political faiths who are as disturbed as we are by the steady, insidious growth of Federal power and its attendant disregard not only of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution in the several states, but the rights of the individual citizen as well.

First and foremost, we believe in conservative government. To us this term of government is that which grants to the individual a maximum of freedom with a minimum of governmental control. It is that which perpetuates a spirit of checks and balances both functional and geographic and which clearly defines the powers and responsibilities of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government and by so doing establishes the separation of these powers and responsibilities.

Conservative government is that which leaves to the Federal government those powers and responsibilities intended for it by the Constitution of the United States. Namely, it leaves to the states all powers not specifically granted to the Federal government. It is under such government that local governmental units are free to exercise their inherent rights to work and attain solutions to their own problems.

We believe conservative government creates the climate under which the individual is stimulated to make the maximum contribution not only to the elevation of his own economic status, but to the elevation of his community and of his state. This approach applies especially to our education system. It stimulates solid, lasting progress.

To us, these beliefs are a rallying point around which we gather—called to state with pride that we are the state which has achieved steadfastly in the states' rights philosophy so eloquently enunciated by Thomas Jefferson within the framework of the Democratic Party to resolve it nationally during the period upon which it was founded.

As Democrats, we believe Florida is in an ideal position to lead this fight. There is abundant proof that our state's conservative government is embracing as it does at the state level many of the principles espoused by the founders of our country when they wrote the Constitution of the United States. We believe rather than hindered the advances we have made. The generation of Floridians we demonstrated that a state can

enjoy dramatic growth and prosperity without involvement in radical economic or social governmental experimentation. No state is marching forward in all fields at a faster rate than Florida yet to state has a more stable economic environment. Florida is dramatic proof that vigorous progress can be achieved without sacrificing such cherished ideals as the rights of the states, the separation of powers in government, and the individual liberties of the people.

As proud possessors of our institutions, we shall bring to the people of Florida in the next election campaign, here following a unified state campaign based upon these beliefs and our pride that Florida's state government, under Democratic leadership, has never been turned away from sound governmental principles and the welfare of promoting prosperity therein. We have made all this progress in all these fields without one ounce attempting to usurp the functions of the legislative branch. Nor has it been necessary or desirable to create a separate state in Tallahassee to infringe on the rights of cities and counties and of individual citizens.

We believe that Floridians from all walks of life will join with us in a campaign which will not only retain our present Democratic leadership in November, but which will re-emphasize that our voters are clearly in the hands of the councils of our party and the guiding fingers of Federal intrusion are stifled.

In initiating this campaign we believe it is appropriate that we should set a record of achievement and outline our plans for making the Florida of tomorrow an even better state than the Florida of today.

## STATES' RIGHTS

The best and most effective form of government is that which is closest to the people. Our intention is to leave Florida as a state for the people than ever before, and to vigorously oppose Federal interference in state affairs.

We specifically insist that the Federal Constitution, and especially the Tenth Amendment, reserve to the states all powers not specifically granted to the Federal government. Nowhere in the Federal Constitution can be found authority for the Federal Government to curtail the inherent operations of the states. The Federal government has, as ever-increasingly upon the domain of the states, by itself, as an intruder. We shall insist that they shall intrude in Florida and act with hand, foot, and coloration of state to re-claim our sovereignty.

Recognition is a part of this state's vital issue. We are proud of the progress that has been made in Florida by people of all races and trends in this generation. We believe in

the protection of the lawful rights of all our citizens, and we stand steadfastly for the maintenance of law and order and will not tolerate violence in any form. We further believe that the maintenance of agriculture as Florida's outstanding industry is the backbone of its traditions and community attitudes, is in the best interest of both cases and that within this policy opportunities exist for all people to live in harmony and to establish for themselves a place of honor and of glory.

## ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT

Florida's state government has been financed at a progressive level without any general increase in taxes for more than a decade. Few if any other states can match this record of honest, prudent financial management and responsibility. We pride ourselves in the fact that the taxpayer receives a dollar of value for every dollar spent. We recognize that Florida's continued growth will require additional revenue without any general tax increases. This is particularly true if business activity is maintained at a high level. And we feel certain that a continuation of stable, conservative government under Democratic leadership will help generate this kind of business activity.

## TOURISM

Florida's government has played an important part in helping build tourism to its present government place among the states. In the years ahead, government will continue to assist this great industry through more promotion and through increased development of such recreational areas as our fine system of parks and historical monuments.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### —LABOR RELATIONS

Florida has added new manufacturing plants in recent years which we are proud of by that of any other state. These new plants have provided jobs for our citizens and added prosperity for all. And because our industrial development program has been so active, the boom in manufacturing has not injured the great tourist industry in any way. The overwhelming majority of these plants, besides being clean and attractive, pay above average wages to employees. We pledge ourselves to renewed and intensified efforts to meet existing industry and to encourage new industrial plants. This will be done through promotion and through maintaining the kind of friendly, stable government climate that is attractive to individuals and businessmen.

## GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION

Although we are and have been completely committed to

the philosophy that government should be stable and conservative, we also recognize that changing conditions require changing procedures in order to best serve all the people. That is why we have sponsored a state government reorganization as the reorganization of the state's services to arrive at the creation of the Division of Corrections and the establishment of the Division of Child Training and Mental Health. That is also why we have initiated and supported construction of the state office buildings—branch capitols—in various major cities. This last step has had the desirable effect of decentralizing state government from Tallahassee and has in addition made it more convenient for those citizens who need to transact business with different departments.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

The Florida Democratic Candidates, while opposed to change merely for the sake of change, are determined that we should have a referendum on the amendment of the obsolete provisions, and the archaic language which presently confuses readers. Certainly the people have a positive right to a plain and clear statement of their basic law. The article-by-article method of revision, established under Democratic legislative leadership, holds out the best hope of achieving this month-by-month goal. Substantial progress has been made in working out the basic differences of content among Floridians over the exact extent and wording of the proposed changes.

## EDUCATION

Florida's educational program has made more progress in the number of qualified teachers, for example, Florida stands with the best in the country. All present 30,000 per cent of public schools are now under a teacher's contract or better, a higher percentage than any other state in the Southeast. The schools, both the public schools and the institutions of higher learning, have made great strides forward and will continue to progress under Democratic leadership. We recognize the continuing need for steadily increasing basic research and modern procedures.

## LEGISLATION

### —APPROPRIATION

We stand for fair appropriation of the Legislature. Our party's program for the reorganization for strengthening this to the Legislature at the time of its creation. We are confident that this reform program on other state government will be enacted.

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## STATEMENT OF BELIEFS—Continued

### CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Florida has taken its place in the front ranks of progressive states in its program for rehabilitation of those who have broken the laws of society. A new Division of Corrections has been created and an excellent system of separating first offenders from hardened criminals has been installed. Educational programs have been improved at correctional institutions, so it is possible for inmates to receive the equivalent of a high school education. Although great progress has been achieved in the field of correctional institutions and programs, we feel that Florida can and will make even greater strides in this field. We are especially interested in strengthening these programs designed to rehabilitate offenders so they can again become useful members of society.

### AGRICULTURE

Florida farmers, ranchers, and grove owners have enjoyed a steady prosperity that is the envy of most other states. In 1948, for instance, Florida led all Southern states—and was fourth in the entire nation—in total net agricultural income on a dollar-per-farm basis. The state government always has been sympathetic to the needs of the farmers. Under Democratic leadership, it will continue to provide adequate funds for research, marketing facilities, and for control of plant and animal diseases and of pests. The reorganization of the state's services to agriculture just accomplished by Democratic state officials and a Democratic Legislature will enable the Department of Agriculture to do an even better job in the future than it has

in the past. We also propose to help both farmers and consumers by improved marketing programs and techniques.

### PUBLIC WORKS

No one can hope to enjoy the continued growth to which Florida looks forward without a devoted effort to fully develop its resources, not to protect its wildlife and its natural heritage. We therefore, pledge ourselves to an expanded program of highway development ultimately to insure all sections of this state with a superior system of roads. The further development of other public works essential for transportation, communication, recreation, drainage and flood control in Florida designed to meet the needs of the future, shall receive our enthusiastic leadership and support.

### WATER CONTROL

Florida has made great progress toward final solution of one of its most serious problems—the control and beneficial use of its water resources. Although Florida's requirements in this field are far more complex than those of most states, governments at all levels will continue to press forward until the needs are met. It is becoming increasingly apparent that even though many parts of this problem have been solved, an even broader approach to it may be necessary in the future than in the past.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Florida today is meeting its responsibilities to the mentally ill, both adults and children. Since 1941, for instance, hospitals for the adult mentally ill have been increased from one to four, 1600 a rehabilitation center for alcoholics. Where the state provided in-

stitutions for only 600 retarded children in 1947, present capacity is 3,872. We do not propose to permit this program to retrogress. We recognize that as the population of the state grows, additional facilities will be needed. We propose to look to these as needed.

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

In a state like Florida, where resident and tourist automobile traffic is increasing at a very rapid rate, highway safety becomes a major problem. We have attacked the problem on several fronts and are proud of the fact that the National Safety Council has given recognition to the efforts that have been made. We know that one of the surest and most effective ways to make the highways safer is through strict enforcement of the traffic laws. We, therefore, pledge ourselves through the exercise of legislative initiative and executive leadership to carry forward an aggressive program designed to insure Florida's continued leadership in the matter of saving lives through effective highway safety.

### A GOVERNMENT CLIMATE OF PROGRESS

Florida's unique system of checks and balances, functioning in part through its elected and independent Cabinet officers, has earned the confidence of Floridians, both old and new, and of people throughout the nation. This confidence in the integrity of Florida's government has naturally helped attract the investment capital which is essential to economic expansion and growth and to general prosperity.

The economic and social gains mentioned briefly here have been equalled or exceeded in numerous other respects in recent years. In percentage in-

crease in personal income, for instance, Florida has been the consistent leader among the states. In every field Florida's approach to government—the conservative approach—has stimulated progress, has laid a sound foundation for progress.

These, then, are the basic principles which guided a succession of Democratic state officials and the continuous Democratic legislative majorities as they developed the climate of government in which Floridians generally look today. We expect, in the weeks to come, to discuss fully in every section of the state the broad scope of government we have just touched on here. We will discuss our beliefs, for it is upon these beliefs and with the solid backing of this demonstrated record that we, the Florida Democratic Candidates, ask all Floridians to grant us their continuing support and to join us in this Democratic crusade.

THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS was issued on September 2, 1950, by the Democratic candidates for Florida Statewide offices listed below. It is their pleasure to make this copy of the complete text available to you for personal and reference.

Governor **Faeta Bryant**  
Secretary of State **Tom Adams**  
Attorney General **Richard W. Ervin**  
Comptroller **Ray E. Green**  
Treasurer **J. Edwin Larson**  
Superintendent of Public Instruction **Thomas D. Bailey**  
Commissioner of Agriculture **Doyle E. Cooper**  
Railroad & Public Utilities Commissioner **Edwin L. (Ed) Mason**

## FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

