



WE THE PEOPLE NOW.org

Peace, Jobs, Justice & Accountable Government!

Draft

People's Vision and Agenda for a Peaceful, Prosperous, Just World

(Updated May 6, 2011)

(Readers - please provide constructive comments and additional items to
info@WeThePeopleNow.org)

To:

- Permanently end worldwide poverty, hunger, wars, occupations, environment degradation and natural resource depletion
- Solve climate change, health care, immigration, money in politics, peak oil, nuclear power and other crises.
- Develop and maintain a sustainable economy, environment and world free from want.

We The People Must:

1. Work together from a common vision, goals and agenda by refining and using the People's Vision and Agenda for a Peaceful, Prosperous, Just World outlined below as a starting point.

Vision for All Humankind

A peaceful, prosperous just world where healthy, happy, free, secure individuals, freed from the stress of securing the necessities and needs of life, care for and cooperate with one another.

This agenda provides the following open-ended lists and brief descriptions of the following where individuals can add their own items:

- A. Goals include ensuring that [the necessities and needs of life and society are available for all humankind](#). (These necessities and needs include those in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "[economic bill of rights](#)" proposed in his State of the Union Address on January 11, 1944)
- B. [General Problems](#) that stand in the way of insuring these goals are met, these necessities and needs are available for everyone and that the vision is realized.
- C. [General underlying causes of these problems](#). Unless the underlying causes of problems are identified and corrected the problems will likely reoccur.
- D. [All proposed actions](#) to correct all the problems and their underlying causes, ensure the necessities and needs of life and society are available for all humankind and that the vision is realized.

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By providing a comprehensive list of actions, cooperative efforts can be found. For example, deteriorating roads and bridges can be repaired by an underemployed workforce using funds and manpower now being wasted on wars, occupations and unneeded offensive weapon systems.

Introduction

Before the invention of the steam engine and other technologies a little over 200 years ago, it took over 95% of the world's population to provide the food, clothing and housing for all the people of the world.

Today worker productivity, new technologies, methodologies, education and training make it possible for less than 5% of the world's population to provide food, clothing and housing for all the people of the world.

A. GOALS

Necessities and needs of life and society for all humankind¹:

1. Meaningful employment opportunities for all at living wages, primarily providing these necessities and needs. Where possible, individuals should be able to choose the type work they do and it's location.
2. Affordable:
 - a. Decent residences/homes
 - b. Healthy, tasty food
 - c. Clean water for homes, businesses and industry.
 - d. Clean energy for heating, cooking, manufacturing and transportation
 - e. Quality, comprehensive, universal healthcare (physical, dental, emotional, vision and hearing) and long term care
 - f. Meaningful, pre-K through college education or equivalent and lifetime vocational training
 - g. Comprehensive public transportation
 - h. Personal and commercial community banking, savings, and loan services
 - i. Broadband access
 - j. Recreation, sports, entertainment, theater, art, vacations, etc. (live and via multimedia)
3. Safety nets for the aged, disabled, unemployed and those living in poverty.
4. Safe, stable, secure, clean, protected and preserved neighborhoods, environments, natural resources, water and air.
5. World peace
6. Protected civil rights
7. Economical rights including freedom from unfair competition and monopolies
8. Repaired, modernized infrastructure that expands as the population grows

¹ These necessities and needs include those in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "[economic bill of rights](#)" proposed in his State of the Union Address on January 11, 1944; and must accommodate a growing U.S. and world population noting that once people get jobs the rate of growth in the population decreases.

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9. A sustainable, green economy

10. Equitable, economic (distributive), social, humane, restorative justice for all

11. Governments organized and staffed with public servants truly dedicated to insure that these necessities and needs are available for all. *"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."* --Thomas Jefferson

Since this is a world of plenty, all the people of the world can have these necessities and can realize this vision.

B. Problems, Roadblocks, Concerns, Challenges and Issues

1. **"Poverty in the midst of plenty"** was the problem of the 20th Century [and now the 21st Century] according authors, Willard and Marguerite Beecher, in their outstanding, 1981 essay [The Problem of the Twentieth Century](#), in which they state:

"... the Age of Abundance is upon us. Man need never again go hungry or cold unless he wishes to do so. Natural resources abound, machines necessary to convert them into goods exist, and men are trained to operate these machines. Furthermore, we can manufacture as many machines as we desire"

"... Nevertheless, many people today are still cold, hungry, and sick.. In the past, when men starved, they did so because it was impossible for them to produce enough to eat. The Twentieth Century was the first, however, to see men cold, hungry, and idle in the midst of plenty!"

The Beecher's explain in detail why this is so. Please read [The Problem of the Twentieth Century](#) which is available at www.WeThePeopleNow.org

2. **Wars, conflicts, empire building, violence**, using military force to coerce resources from and find markets in other countries, etc. .

- a. Iraq and Afghanistan occupations
- b. Illegal US, threats, covert operations, and/or attacks against Pakistan and Iran
- c. Other wars and conflicts, e.g. West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Darfur and Kosovo
- d. U.S. history of use of force and violence
- e. Nuclear weapons and fissile material proliferation
- f. The United States government spends as much on weapons, munitions and a standing army as all the rest of the world combined.
- g. The United States arms industry exports more weapons and munitions than any other country in the world. Some of the explosive material in these munitions are used by adversaries in improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
- h. Large numbers of U.S. troops are needlessly stationed in Germany, South Korea and the Middle East with detachments and in over eighty countries.
- i. The U.S. spends considerably more on foreign military aid than on foreign economic aid.
- j. Israel says Gaza is no longer occupied; yet it denies Palestinians access to jobs, travel, commerce, education, and medical care. Its military has turned the Gaza Strip into an open-air concentration camp controlled by land, sea and air. In the past year, the people of Gaza have barely had enough to eat, as Israel withholds food and energy in an attempt to starve them into submission.
- k. The Military Industrial Complex exercises control over our governments.

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3. Lack of employment “opportunities at living wages” and chronic worldwide unemployment and low and stagnant wages for many workers with jobs.

a. Worker productivity, automation, education and training, worker productivity make it possible today for less than 5% of the world’s population to provide the food, clothing and housing for all the people of the world. Businessmen have not increased wages commensurate with the increases in productivity.

b. Employment opportunities also being lost due to consolidations and mergers, outsourcing and free trade versus fair trade agreements.

c. This has resulted in decreasing tax revenues and social security deposits and hurt the nation’s fiscal health increased unfunded obligations (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.), budget deficits, balance of payment deficits.

d. Without job opportunities and employees being paid reasonable wages, there will be less customers to buy goods. With less purchases there will be more lay-offs and lower wages, loss of tax revenues, etc., and the economy will spiral downward with increasing budget deficits.

4. Money in Politics and Election

Corporate executives, special interest groups and lobbyists exercise excessive control over legislation and policy decisions with bribes in the form of campaign contributions and job offers. As payback for these bribes, our public servants:

a. Have put individuals in the government who are plundering the Treasury.

b. Have unconstitutionally surrendered its responsibilities for appropriations in a large part to the executive branch, the Federal Reserve and special interest groups.

c. Is failing provide anything near adequate oversight.

d. Spends excessive funds on pork-barrel and earmarks. Much of the funds for earmarks comes from the Department of Defense and Services O&M (operations and maintenance) accounts which would normally be used for such things as body armor and hardening vehicles against roadside bombs.

e. Have illegally and unconstitutionally given or committed \$23.7 trillion to stockbrokers and bankers which they have used for massive bonuses, to acquire other banks and financial institutions and for risky investments, which are being guaranteed by the federal government.

f. Are rewarding defense contractors with profits from:

i. Two illegal, unconstitutional wars/occupations and illegal attacks on Pakistan.

ii. Manufacturing massive sales of unneeded weapons.

g. Have repealed aspects the Glass-Steagall Act and other regulations and are inadequately enforcing hardly any regulations on commodity, trading, the stock market and insurance companies.

h. Are rewarding insurance companies by not providing single payer or a public health insurance options.

i. Are awarding bankers by allowing predatory interest rates and unconscionable late fees by banks.

j. Have allowed corporations to violate anti-theft laws.

k. Are not enforcing the rule of law.

l. Have turned over major aspects of health care systems to big drug and insurance companies and energy policy to big oil companies.

m. Most of our legislators and senior public officials:

i. Are under the control of corporate executives and their lobbyists.

ii. Are spending about one trillion dollars a year on the military industrial complex, illegal wars and occupations. Russia spends less than one fifteenth of what the U.S. spends. China about one tenth

iii. Have given or committed over \$23.7 trillion of taxpayers dollars to banks and other financial institutions as of June 30, 2009.

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iv. Are providing billions of dollars to private health insurance companies which continue to raise their rates and deny coverage.

v. Have passed over 100 laws that have injurious effects on human beings.

vi. Are talking about cutting Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

5. **Party politics.** The majority of career politicians from the two major parties:

a. Are unwilling to address and solve the issues of war, health care, environment, education, immigration, trade, net neutrality etc.

b. Answer mainly to campaign contributors and special interest groups and their party leadership, not to the people.

c. Are unwilling to fix our electoral process in ways that make it fair for all to participate.

6. **Property divide.** The exponentially increasing wealth and property in the hands of a very few rich individuals and corporations

7. Total individual and national federal debt is \$42 trillion.

8. The people's faith in Congress, government officials and the is failing everywhere."

9. Instead of protecting individual's rights, government officials are violating the rights of many people.

10. Congress has passed well ave a hundred unconstitutional laws and laws with unconstitutional including for example:

a. The Patriot Act

b. The Joint Resolution on Iraq

c. Military Commission Act of 2006

d. FISA Supplement

11. Shortages of affordable housing/shelter

12. Chronic water shortages for drinking, hygiene, irrigation, industry, etc.

13. The stock market, instead of being a means to raise capital for businesses and provide investment opportunities has become more like a gambling casino where insiders and the rich take money from small investors.

14. High percentage (90%) of mass media owned and controlled by five major corporation.

15. Election campaigns and elections:

a. Divisive politics

b. Individuals putting parties ahead of the people and the country

c. Campaign finance

d. Endemic gerrymandering so that "politicians can pick voters instead of voters picking politicians"

e. 50% of all elections have only one name on the ballot

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16. Voices of many small groups and individuals are not being heard resulting in the loss of valuable inputs.

17. The rights of emigrants are being violated in the U.S. and other countries.

18. The Senate is very ineffective due largely to the filibuster and other antiquated rules that could easily be corrected.

C. Underlying Causes of the Concerns and Challenges

Unless the underlying causes of problems are identified and corrected, the problems will reoccur and reoccur.

1. Many of our senior public servants are not doing their jobs, are violating their oaths of office and committing corrupt acts and crimes. The Department of Justice is an abject failure.

2. Deficiencies in early child development and education Including:

- a. Stern parent versus nurturing parent approach
- b. Cooperation versus competition
- c. Pampering versus child solving own problems
- d. Ostentatiousness

3. Lack of understanding of:

- a. Semantics, linguistics, framing, communications, etc.
- b. Human nature, character, reasoning, ethics, values, principles, integrity, accountability, teamwork, courage, democracy, humane instincts including cooperation, civility, caring for others, etc.
- c. The U.S. Constitution, international treaties, rule of law, civil rights, meaning of sovereignty of the people, democratic processes, the legal system, restorative justice, etc.

4. Individuals spending considerable time on electronic media (the average grade school student 6.5 hours per day) at the expense of socially interacting with each others, sports, exercising, etc.

5. Individuals, primarily the rich, obsessed with financial and material wealth and are supporting and helping to elect and reelect leaders using taxpayer's money and military force to coerce resources from the rest of the world.

6. Negative traits: vindictiveness, bullying, apathy, greed, etc.

7. Waste, abuse and fraud

8. Corrupt acts by individual public servants

9. Public servants failing to provide honest services

10. Bureaucracy

11. Debt

12. Deficiencies in democratic skills

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- 13. Lack of educational opportunities
- 14. Personnel errors
- 15. Lack of or improper education or training
- 16. Poor or faulty information, rules, regulations, documentation, legislation

D. Proposed Actions

Actions, which address concerns, problems, issues and their underlying causes, that must be taken to have a peaceful, prosperous, just world.

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Our Public Servants Must:

1. **Refine and execute the Outline of a [Plan to End U.S. Wars and Occupations Reduce Annual Military-Industrial Complex \(MIC\) Spending by 90% and Have the MIC Support a Peaceful, Green Economy with No Layoffs](#)**

2. **End the so called "war on terror" and treat terrorist acts as criminal acts.**

Eliminate all funding for the war on terror, torture, assassinations, secret arrests, renditions, abusive treatment and spying on citizens. Congress and the Administration must:

a. Cease use of the metaphor "war on terror," eliminate specific funding for the war on terror. Treat acts of terrorism as crimes and use police forces, not armies, to resolve terrorist threats.

b. Eliminate all funding for torture, assassinations, secret arrests, renditions, abusive treatment and spying on citizens

c. Identify the underlying cause of acts of terrorism and proposes short and long range solutions including in particular supporting wide spread economic development and education and training programs all over the world.

d. Develop a comprehensive Plan to Address and Reduce/Eliminate **Acts Of Terrorism.**

e. Close the Guantanamo Bay prison

3. **Put America and the world to work at living wages by [Providing Employment Opportunities For All.](#)** This will provide customers for businesses and rapidly grow the economy around the world.

a. Establish a new Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Projects Administration (WPA). Areas of work include:

i. Vital public and social services including replacing "unemployment and training offices" where the unemployed find employment opportunities or be paid to be trained and/or train others

ii. Affordable housing, healthy food, clean water, energy, transportation, etc.

iii. Comprehensive Medicare (single payer) health care and long term care.

iv. Publicly supported pre-K through a college education and vocational training for life

v. A modern, nationwide, energy efficient, affordable rail based transportation system

vi. Non-polluting alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures

vii. Comprehensive reuse, recycling and/or composting of everything

viii. Retooled factories building rail, rail cars, electric and hybrid cars and buses, etc.

b. Change unemployment offices to employment offices. **Extend unemployment benefits** until there are employment opportunities for all.

4. **Replace the recently past Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010 (RAFS) with meaningful legislation** that basically includes what is outlined in [What Must be Done to Reform Financial Systems.](#) In particular:

a. Set aside **The Federal Reserve Act of 1913.** Incorporate the Federal Reserve into the U.S. Government and only government create new money as money, not interest-bearing debt, to be spent into circulation to promote the general welfare and end fractional reserve banking by enacting H.R. Monetary Reform Bill 6550.

b. Integrate the functions of the Federal Reserve into the Government

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- c. Government provide low/no-interest loans directly to states, manufacturers and small businesses
- d. Recoup at least \$5 trillion of the over \$23.7 trillion provided or committed to financial institutions
- e. Seize large, insolvent financial institutions and make them into government owned contractor operated (GOCO) entities
- f. **Freeze all foreclosures and evictions for 5 years**
- g. Enact a "Tobin Tax"—sales tax on stock market sales.
- h. Outlaw trading of credit default swaps, derivatives, adjustable rate loans/mortgages, naked short sales and unregulated hedge funds
- i. **Limit interest rates** to 4% on all secured mortgages and loans and 6% on unsecured loans, retroactive to the origination of the mortgage or loan with legislation that replaces [the Monetary Reform Act](#) (P. L. No. 96-221; 94 Stat. 132) (1980).
- j. **Re-implement the equivalent of the Glass-Steagall Act** of 1933 with legislation that replaces the [Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act](#)
- k. Enforce the "Sherman Anti-Trust Act"

5. Replace the so called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and Medicare Part D Pharmaceutical Legislation with meaningful legislation, e.g. National Health Act (H. R. 676) or substantially similar legislation that:

a. Provides publicly supported nationwide **medicare (single payer) for all**² (comprehensive, universal, physical, dental, mental health), long term care (LTC) and free prescription drugs under a streamlined medicare system.

According to the report, [Single Payer /Medicare Healthcare for All](#) would:

- i. Create 2,613,495 million new permanent, good-paying jobs
 - ii. Boost the economy with \$317 billion in increased business and public revenues
 - iii. Add \$100 billion in employee compensation
 - iv. Infuse public budgets with \$44 billion in new tax revenues
- b. **Do not establish private social security investment accounts.** Increase Social Security payments so that they equate to 50% of retirement income instead of the current 39%
- c. Reduces Health Care and Social Security cost by for example:
- i. Pay reasonable salaries/wages for doctors, dentists, nurses, staff personnel, other healthcare and LTC professionals and family, care-givers taking care of disabled, mentally retarded or the elderly for the time they spend rather than by individual patient appointments/treatments/procedures
 - ii. Entire Government including DoD, VA, Medicare, Medicaid, Public Hospitals and clinic negotiate reasonable prices for volume sales of pharmaceuticals, over the counter drugs, bandages, tools, equipment and essentially all other items and supplies used in hospitals
 - iii. Develop and employ universal standard, comprehensive, private, digitized, health records to be used everywhere
 - iv. Study and implement lessons learned from health care systems in other countries and Medicare/Medicaid and Tri-Care for Life programs which are "single payer" systems
 - v. Study and implement lessons learned from health care systems in other

² "For all" obviously includes Native American health care. In 2008 the Senate passed legislation that would dramatically improve health care for nearly 2 million Native Americans by bringing modern health care services such as hospice and mental health care to Indian Country. Unfortunately, the House has so far failed to act.

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countries and Medicare/Medicaid and Tri-Care for Life programs which are "single payer" systems

- vi. Publicize and employ best practices
- vii. Promote healthy lifestyles and preventive care
- viii. Use Tele-medicine and other modern technology
- ix. Phase out the use of Latin terminology
- x. Prohibit corporations from owning patents
- xi. Eliminate unconstitutional patent extensions
- xii. Incorporate auxiliary services such as radiology, anesthesiology, pathology in

the hospital with one bill.

d. Make Walter Reed (which is scheduled to be closed) and other city, county, state and federal hospitals/clinics and community health centers) into government owned and operated or government owned, not for profit contractor operated (GOCO)

Medicare/Medicaid, hospitals/clinics that educate, train and qualify doctors, nurses, dentists, nurses aids and other health care personnel

e. Build 1000 new modern hospitals and clinics equipped with the latest technology

f. Pay family and friend care-givers as who are taking care of disabled, mentally retarded or elderly needing long term care.

g. Forbid government funds, including medicaid and medicare, being used to buy health insurance from private companies. Approximately one-third of all money that goes into insurance companies is not used for health care. These companies make additional money denying coverage

h. Oppose forcing individuals to buy health insurance from for-profit companies.

i. Ban stock market investments from individual social security accounts.

j. Reward individuals who practice preventative medicine, eat properly, exercise, control their weight, etc. expanding the number of individual eligible for free prescription drugs under Medicare/Medicaid.

k. Provides Enhanced Social Security for all

6. Build and operate a modern comprehensive, nationwide, rail based transportation/transit system.

a. Trains and trolleys including high speed interstate rail, light rail and city metro systems along existing right-of-ways

b. No privately owned toll roads and toll lanes for example around the beltway

c. Dedicated bus lanes on highways and in cities

d. Natural gas powered and hybrid buses.

e. Develop comprehensive open ended integrated international, national, regional, state, district, and locality plans that consider global warming, energy prices and progressing technologies.

7. Provide meaningful, publicly supported pre-k through college education and vocational training for all for life.

a. Immediately provide publicly supported universal pre-kindergarten programs that ensure all children 3, 4 and 5 years old have access to a high-quality full-day, full-calendar-year pre-kindergarten education, H.R. 4060, the "Universal Pre-kindergarten Act" ("<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.4060:>"), or equivalent.

b. Rescind certain features of "No Child Left Behind" including emphasis on test results, necessity to "teach to the test" and punitive measures based on low test scores.

c. Use encouragement and nurturing to decrease/eliminate school drop outs and suspensions.

d. Create broader vocational education opportunities in high school for everyone and in particular for students who do not intend to go to college.

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- e. Track students after their graduation to obtain feedback for schools.
- f. Students who do not master grade level reading, writing and arithmetic should receive special attention and encouragement.
- g. Encourage parents to be involved in their children's schools and their education, attend parent-teacher conferences, PTA meetings, etc.

8. Reform and reorganize Congress and the Executive Department:

- a. Congress eliminate [The Senate Filibuster Rule](#) and other injurious items outlined in [Injurious Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Court Rulings and Orders that Should Be Set Aside](#). Most of the hundred or so items outlined were obtained by fraud used to commit fraud and/or unconstitutional and therefore [null and void](#).
- b. End the control that corporate executives and special interest groups exercise over our public servants with campaign contributions, job offers and hoards of lobbyists.
Banish lobbyist and former legislators and staff members from Capitol Hill and White House.
- c. End the control that political party officials and congressional leadership exercises over our public servants with funds for elections and committee assignments
- d. Get money, corporation executives and their lobbyists out of politics and insure that the people have control over their government.
- e. Eliminate duplicated authorization and appropriation committees/subcommittees and duplicated departments and agencies of the executive department. Have parallel Committees/subcommittees and matching government departments organized by function - primarily the necessities of life. For example, everyone on the Agriculture Committee and the Department of Agriculture should be responsible for insuring that everyone in the country has access to affordable, healthy food. Similarly, there should be health, clean water, clean air, affordable housing, etc. committees/subcommittee and corresponding Departments, agencies or sections.
- f. Enforce Congress's Constitutional checks against presidential power
- g. Eliminate pork, wasteful or unnecessary spending, and "pay backs" to special interest groups.
- h. Enact the *Twelve Step Program* from "Wastrels of Defense: How Congress Sabotages U.S. Security", by Winslow Wheeler. Get money, corporation executives and their lobbyists out of politics and insure that the people have control over their government.

9. **Rapidly phase out all nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and ultimately all offensive weapons world wide.** Nuclear weapons are illegal [also immoral and no longer a deterrent] as stated in the book **Nuclear Weapons are Illegal, The Historic opinion of the World Court and how it will be enforced**, edited with an introduction by Ann Fagan Ginger, Executive Director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, Berkeley, California.

- a. Congress and the Administration must:
 - i. Resolve the United States-Iran situation and commence the phase out of all nuclear weapons.
 - ii. Cease any and all U.S. threats to attack Iran, conduct any clandestine or offensive operations against or invoke economic sanctions against Iran or any other country unless Congress has specifically declared war on that country.
 - iii. **Assist in maintaining the Middle East WMD/Nuclear Weapons Free Zone** and insure that there are no nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction on any U.S. Ships or in possession of any other U.S. forces deployed in the Middle East as required by Article 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 (1991). This resolution calls for

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"establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery."

iv. **Take the lead on the cessation of the nuclear arms race** and complete disarmament as required by Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which requires: *pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.*

v. **Cease expending any funds on any nuclear weapon development programs** or to improve or refine existing programs.

vi. Build on ongoing initiatives and develop a comprehensive **Plan for the United States Role in Global Nuclear Disarmament** which includes identifying obstacles and the underlying reasons for these obstacles and proposes short and long range solutions.

vii. Provide full funding and attention to securing all nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon materials as rapidly as possible.

viii. Conduct meaningful negotiations with all of the world's nuclear powers and Iran on the phase out of all nuclear weapons.

ix. Immediately remove all U.S. weapons of mass destruction including any nuclear weapons from the Mideast as required by Article 14 of UN Security Council resolution 687.

x. Eliminate funding for nuclear weapon development and improvement programs including bombplex/"complex transformation", the reliable replacement warhead (RRW) programs and any other nuclear proliferation initiatives. This is required by Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

b. Eliminate all funding and outlaw:

i. Anti-ballistic missile systems and their deployment anywhere in the world.

ii. Depleted uranium

iii. Armed drones

iv. Napalm

v. Agent Orange

Accomplishing the above will strengthen the U.S. government's position when requesting that other states such as Iran and North Korea not develop nuclear weapons and will encourage other countries to help with other serious problems.

10. Enforce the rule of law and protect civil rights

a. **Ensure any public servants and others who have broken or break the law are humanely and privately prosecuted** as outlined in HumaneJustice.org and ProsecuteOfficials.org. and those who will not do their jobs are replaced. This is not optional. [Title 18 US Code Section 4](#), *Misprision of felony*, requires: *"Whoever, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, conceals and does not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both."*

b. Enforce the rule of law with civil, human, economic, etc., rights observed for all the people of America and the world.

c. Strengthen and make the United Nations, UN Agencies, UN peacekeeping forces, the International Criminal Court (ICC), Interpol, etc. more functional.

d. Oppose restrictions on Habeas Corpus and all other rights,

e. Overturn the U.S. Patriot Act.

f. Implement restorative justice programs (rehabilitation) based on confining only those who are a threat to society or themselves, restitution, contrition, keeping detainees busy, etc.

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throughout the criminal justice system.

- g. Cease the use of the metaphor "war on drugs", and reform many aspects of this program.
- h. Oppose and eliminate the death penalty.
- i. Break up media monopolies by enforcing anti-trust laws and taxation.
- j. Retain Roe v. Wade, while taking actions to reduce unwanted pregnancies.
- k. Close prisons at Guantanamo immediately.
- l. Insure detainees are treated humanely, their rights are observed and end "advanced interrogation techniques" (mental/physical abuse and torture), warrant-less arrests and searches, secret detentions and renditions.
- m. Rescind the FISA Amendment Act and insure warrant-less wiretapping of people is not done.
- n. Oppose constitutional bans on same sex civil unions and marriages.
- o. Support the right to same-sex civil unions.
- p. Support the right to same-sex marriages.
- q. Insure Internet neutrality.
- r. Oppose Presidential signing statements as unconstitutional, null and void

11. [Reform criminal justice systems](#)

a. Following is paraphrased from a description of the proposed National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009 introduced in the Senate on March 26, 2009 by Senator Jim Webb of Virginia.

1. *With 5% of the world's population, our country now houses 25% of the world's reported prisoners.*
2. *Incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1200% since 1980. Four times as many mentally ill people are in prisons than in mental health hospitals.*
3. *Approximately 1 million gang members reside in the U.S.*
4. *Post-incarceration re-entry programs are haphazard and often nonexistent, undermining public safety and making it extremely difficult for ex-offenders to become full, contributing members of society.*

America's criminal justice system has deteriorated to the point that it is a national disgrace. Its irregularities and inequities cut against the notion that we are a society founded on fundamental fairness. Our failure to address this problem has caused the nation's prisons to burst their seams with massive overcrowding, even as our neighborhoods have become more dangerous. We are wasting billions of dollars and diminishing millions of lives.

We need to fix the system. Doing so will require a major nationwide recalculation of who goes to prison and for how long and of how we address the long-term consequences of incarceration.

[Humane, restorative justice and reconciliation](#) as outlined here can play a major role in fixing the system.

12. Provide humane, fair and constitutional immigration policies, practices and legislation. The current problems with immigration have resulted primarily from the lack of job opportunities all over the world and bigotry.

Congress, the Administration and Courts must:

- a. Implement and provide humane, fair, and constitutional immigration policies, legislation and, practices

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- b. Set-aside and/or repeal Arizona SB1070.
- c. Take measures to reduce the underlying causes of increased immigration:
 - i. replace free trade agreements with fair trade agreements,
 - ii. eliminate subsidies for and ban dumping of corn, wheat and other commodities,
 - iii. increase foreign aid and assist other countries/areas to produce what they need.
 - iv. Rescind funding for the immigration border fence
- d. Pass the USA Family Act (HR 440 or equivalent) which will:
 - i. Offer immigrants a clear road map to legal status in the United States.
 - ii. Grant legal permanent residence to immigrants who have been living in the U.S. for five or more years.
 - iii. Offer conditional legal status and work authorization to all law-abiding immigrants living in the United States for less than five years.
 - iv. Revoke current laws that bar certain people who live abroad from re-entering the U.S. for a period of three to 10 years, as well as portions of the law that place immigrants at risk of deportation for having committed minor, nonviolent offenses in the past.
- e. The U.S. cannot continue with a system in which millions of workers and their families live in fear and are subject to economic exploitation. There is no place in our country for second-class status.
- f. Protect the rights of all the people including immigrants protected and fair and constitutional policies and practices put in place for all its people including immigrants. These policies and practices should recognize that the U.S. is an immigrant nation and affirms that we are a nation of the people and for the people not just these citizens. Constitutional and other rights apply equally to all the people of the U. S. not just citizens. Certain immunities and privileges such as voting are reserved for citizens.

13. Reform Tax Codes. Provide progressive income and property taxes on individuals and businesses with high thresholds and generous deductions for worthwhile causes.

To raise required revenue for the government, insures businesses have customers, help eliminate poverty and because individuals can hide income and property taxes in businesses and vice versa we must.

- a. Simplify tax codes
- b. Repeal the legislation extending the Bush tax cuts.
- c. Enact very progressive:
 - i. Taxes on personal income and business revenue with very reasonable (high) zero tax thresholds (e.g. about \$40,000 annual income for a family of four). Income should include all salaries, wages, inheritances, capitol gains, interest income, stock dividends both domestic and offshore.
 - ii. Property taxes on "net assets" of individuals and businesses with very reasonable (high) zero tax thresholds (e.g. about \$300,000 for a family of four) and generous deductions for contributions. Net assets should include all property, cash, bank deposits, stock, land, buildings, and mineral rights minus all debts, mortgages
- d. Provide very generous tax deductions up to almost tax credits for contributions for

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worthwhile causes that promote the general welfare. Encourage prosperous individuals to take on important projects that promote the general welfare. For example T. Boone Pickens could fund and help manage the development of wind power. Others could take on water, solar power, prison reform, clean air, power distribution, "adopt" cities, entire countries, etc. These projects should roughly mirror the committees and departments/agencies in a newly re-organized congress and executive department.

e. Phase out/eliminate the inheritance tax, sales taxes, the many minuscule taxes that show up on phone and cable bills and other digressive taxes.

f. Eliminate unjust tax loopholes

14. Enhance environmental protection

a. Take steps to lessen both the degree and the effects of climate change.

b. Support development of clean, renewable energy sources and energy conservation.

c. Do not permit ANWR or off-shore drilling at this time.

d. Freeze the sale or lease of off-shore drilling areas.

e. Oppose Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.

15. Reform corporation legislation, policies and practices

a. Eliminate any notion of **Corporate Personhood**.

b. Indict corporation executives who commit unlawful acts and not the corporation

c. End corporation ownership of patents.

16. Improve government spending practices. Adjust current and planned government spending.

a. Reduce/eliminate unneeded nuclear and other offensive weapons, corporation subsidies and other unnecessary government spending.

b. Drastically reduce Department of Defense budgets and spending.

c. As required by the Constitution return control to Congress of all Federal government appropriations, loans, grants, expenditures, and all other distribution of funds, including those made by the Federal Reserve.

d. Oppose the Federal Reserve providing grants, loans, guarantees etc. to bond dealers, investment banks, stock brokers, etc. without prior, express Congressional approval.

e. Eliminate corporate welfare/subsidies.

f. Eliminate funding for the School of the Americas.

g. Use management and services type contracts that in general pay by the hours, day, or month instead of fixed prices and profit as a percentage of the gross amount of the contract.

h. Drastically reduce government spending on other programs that do not promote the general welfare.

i. Use time and material type contracts with no profits or fees everywhere in the government

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17. Election Reform

a. www.CommonCause.org has a comprehensive approach to election reform as outline on their website: <http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQlwG&b=4773589>. Their approach begins with *“Since the electoral meltdown in the 2000 presidential election, each Election Day has raised new alarms that the foundation of our democracy - the right to vote in free and fair elections - remains beset with problems. Years after serious problems were exposed to the public, it has become increasingly apparent that our elections system is technologically, legally, and administratively inadequate and unfair.”* [Read more.](#)

b. Set aside the **Supreme Court’s Rejection of Corporate Spending Limits** (2010) (Ruling No. 08-205), in Citizens United V. Federal Election Commission.

c. Determine and implement ways to identify, nominate and elect/confirm cooperative, ethical public officials, legislators, judges, executives, etc. throughout the public and private sectors who care for all people, promote the general welfare, follow the rule of law, protect peoples rights, etc.

d. Eliminate gerrymandering, Use contiguous democratic logical districts (see www.fixthelines.com)

e. Uniform, fair ballot access for federal candidates.

f. Loosen third party ballot restrictions.

g. Universal voter registration.

h. Elect the President by popular vote (www.nationalpopularvote.com). Get rid of the Electoral College.

i. Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) which allows voters to rank their choices. If no candidate gets a majority of the vote – over 50% - then the lowest number of first place votes is eliminated and the second place votes are counted. This continues until a candidate secures a majority.

j. Extended Election Hours. Either hold elections on weekends or move it to a holiday.

k. Media Access for third party contenders to include broadcast time on public airwaves and inclusion in debates.

l. Secure the Vote - Ensure the security of our voting instruments whether it is via a paper trail or some better method. Six years since the Florida debacle should have provided secure voting machines. Electronic machines subject to manipulation are not the answer.

m. Public Campaign Financing - Instituting a fair and equitable method of public campaign financing that reduces taxpayer burden. Here’s how: It costs the country more now under the current system that forces candidates to raise exorbitant sums of money from corporate and private donors (read: elitists). The winner is then beholden to the group of financiers that paid for that victory which creates a corrupt system of pay backs (no-bid contracts) and legislation (energy bill subsidizing oil and gas; prescription drug bill favoring pharmaceutical companies) that raids our Treasury at an enormous cost to the taxpayer - the real owners of our country.

n. Voting representation in Congress for the citizens of the federal District of Columbia (which also gives them an Electoral College vote).

o. Recruit and encourage citizens to run for office as Independents because career politicians from the two major parties have proven themselves incapable of solving the complex issues of war, health care, environment, education, immigration, trade, net neutrality etc. which the current members of the two major parties are not willing to address. who only answer to campaign contributors.

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18. Refine, reintroduce and pass meaningful legislation left over from the 111th Congress, including:

- a. DREAM Act
- b. Disclose Act
- c. Employee Free Choice Act
- d. Paycheck Fairness Act
- e. America's Great Outdoors Act (S. 303)

19. Set aside Free Trade Agreements.

20. Funding Sources. Congress provide funding for all of this in particular:

a. Reduce annual Military-Industrial Complex (MIC) spending by 90% (about \$900 billion), End U.S. wars and occupations, Close U.S. overseas bases and facilities. Drastically reducing the size and roles of the standing Army, Navy and Air Force.

b. Integrate the Federal Reserve into the Federal government and government providing zero percent interest loans directly to states, manufacturers and small businesses.

c. Recoup at least \$5 trillion of the over \$23.7 trillion provided or committed to financial institutions.

d. End the extension of the Bush Tax Cuts and provide progressive income and property taxes with high thresholds on individuals and businesses while providing generous deductions for worthwhile causes.

- e. Enact a "Tobin" (sales) tax on stock sales
- f. Eliminate all military aid to foreign countries
- g. Eliminate farm subsidies and oil depletion allowances