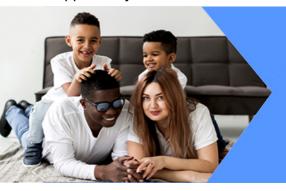
### **DEMOCRATIC COST OF LIVING AGENDA:**

A LOW-COST FRAMEWORK FOR HELPING FAMILIES BUILD ABUNDANT HOMES, CARE, AND ENERGY

### Why a Cost of Living Agenda?

- Cost of living is voters' top concern
- Highest costs are in **supply-constrained sectors**: housing, care, energy
- Scarcity is a major factor driving unaffordability and lack of climate progress
- **Republicans' only solution** is shifting costs to consumers with privatization and higher import taxes
- **Existing Democratic solutions are insufficient**: Corporate greed is a small factor; subsidizing demand pushes prices even higher
- Opportunity to define Democrats' next agenda

### **KEY PRINCIPLES**



- 1. Democratic supply solutions are proven successes
- 2. Competition will increase choice and reduce prices
- 3. Increasing supply promotes equity and fairness
- 4. Avoid raising taxes with zero-and low-cost solutions
- 5. Advance popular policies to win voters over

### WHAT CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO?

#### HOUSING

## Reform zoning to deliver housing where people want to live

- Technical assistance and grants to support communities with zoning reform
- Fiscal carrots and sticks on local zoning CDBG, transit grants

# Embrace innovative housing types to lower construction costs

Create streamlined national standards for mass timber

- Create model code for smaller, fabricated elevators
- Re-legalize single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings in states with high homelessness

READ THE FULL AGENDA

Eliminate the chassis rule for small manufactured homes

#### Reduce cost of construction inputs

- Remove tariffs on imports from allies of key construction inputs
- Ensure that immigration enforcement does not undermine homebuilding

#### **ENERGY**

### Accelerate green energy construction and transmission

- Reform NEPA for green energy construction
- Allow FERC to designate more high-capacity electricity transmission lines, particularly along interstate highways
- Repeal the Jones Act to lower costs for goods transportation and offshore energy construction
- Accelerate nuclear energy licensing
- Adopt international standards for advanced refrigerants in heat pumps

# Unlock production and imports of key green energy inputs and enable more competition in transportation

- Support green steel/cement through the Industrial Demonstrations Program to compete with Europe
- Negotiate an Environmental Goods Trade Agreement to reduce tariffs on green goods
- Restore the Bureau of Mines to consolidate permitting and fund innovation
- Allow foreign airlines to serve United States domestic routes, increasing competition



### WHAT CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO? (CONTINUED)

#### **HEALTHCARE**

# Increase the number of providers to expand access and lower cost

- Make 2000 more residency positions eligible for education payments under Medicare annually
- Permanently cover testing and vaccines for COVID and flu in pharmacies under Medicare

 Allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat federal employees in workers' comp cases

#### Promote healthcare competition

- Designate greater funding for antitrust enforcement on hospital systems
- Categorize sunscreen as a cosmetic to allow imports from places with high standards

#### **CHILDREN**

### Provide a better safety net for kids

- Expand the Child Tax Credit by \$300 per month for children under 6
- Adopt Medicare for Kids
- Fund universal free school lunches

 Prevent baby formula shortages by updating standards and allowing more imports of safe formula

#### Childcare

 Remove the Trump moratorium on growing the au pair program and increase the time limit to four years

#### **INCLUSIVE FUTURE**

#### Embrace promising technologies

- Expand satellite broadband for underserved areas by updating FCC rules & including satellite in BEAD program
- Facilitate remote health monitoring with data protocol guidelines to promote interoperability
- Accelerate disability assistive technologies by enabling greater experimentation at early stages
- Encourage vehicle innovation by making rules neutral between human-driven and autonomous vehicles
- Allow Medicare to cover weight loss drugs like GLP-1s (Ozempic, Wegovy)

### WHAT CAN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DO?

#### **HOUSING**

#### Reform zoning

- Allow mixed use zoning, especially in commercial areas
- Legalize duplexes and triplexes on all residential lots
- Streamline permitting for accessory dwelling units
- Reduce minimum lot sizes to 1400 square feet
- Eliminate parking minimums
- Embrace Five-Over-Ones, removing restrictions
- Allow single-stair point access block apartments up to six stories

# Embrace innovative housing types to lower construction costs

Adopt the IBC 2021 standards for mass timber

#### **CHILDREN**

- Consider small relaxations of child-teacher ratios
- Ensure zoning does not inhibit creating in-home or center-based child care
- Avoid excessive occupational licensing requirements
- Fund universal free school lunches

#### **ENERGY**

# Accelerate green energy construction and transmission

Reform state-level "baby NEPAs" for green construction

#### Reduce transportation costs

- Right-size transit designs to improve efficiency
- Add bike lanes
- Facilitate work-from-home by updating tax treatment and reciprocal license recognition

#### **HEALTHCARE**

# Increase the number of providers to expand access and lower cost

- Allow NPs and Physician Assistants to have "full practice" up to their level of education and training
- Allow experienced international doctors to practice under provisional licenses
- Facilitate telemedicine with special licenses or simple registration processes

#### Promote healthcare competition

Repeal Certificate-of-Need laws

