

DEMOCRATIC JOBS AGENDA



Tax Incentives to Spur Immediate Job Growth

Democrats are committed to creating an environment that will improve job growth as soon as possible. We will focus on targeted tax relief for small businesses, tax incentives for infrastructure and take steps to shore up important safety nets like unemployment insurance and COBRA.

Job Creation Tax Credit – Tax credits for employers adding new employees in 2010.

UI and COBRA Extensions – Extensions of unemployment insurance and COBRA tax credits for millions of Americans.

Small Business Investment Depreciation – Help for small businesses to write off the costs of major purchases, freeing up capital and allowing businesses to grow.

Highway Extension – Extends the current Surface Transportation Act to allow for billions more in infrastructure investment nationwide.

Build America Bonds – Provide a much-needed funding mechanism for state and local governments at lower borrowing costs, enabling them to pursue necessary projects such as work on public buildings, courthouses, schools, roads, public safety facilities, water and sewer projects and public utilities.

Helping Small Businesses Grow and Hire More Workers

Small businesses are the engines which drive our economy. And at the heart of the Democratic jobs agenda are proposals to help these businesses prosper and grow. We support programs to help small businesses more easily access the credit they need to expand and hire more workers, to export their products to foreign markets and to create a *Small Business Lending Pool* to help community banks more quickly lend to small businesses.

SBA Lending Program Improvements – Will give small businesses greater access to credit by improving and streamlining several current Small Business Administration lending programs.

Export Promotion – Creation of a new partnership with the Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative to help small businesses increase their exports by identifying ready markets and promoting U.S. small business products in those markets.

Small Business Lending Pool – New lending pool will allow community banks and other local financial institutions to access new capital to quickly lend to small businesses.

Creating Jobs Through Energy Efficiency

Home builders and contractors across the nation are struggling to make ends meet; homeowners are finding it hard to keep up with the rising costs of energy. Our jobs agenda will help both by putting contractors to work providing much need energy efficiency renovations to homes and businesses. We will also create a mechanism through which affordable housing and manufacturing plants can improve their energy efficiency while ensuring renovations remain affordable for consumers and businesses.

Home Star Residential Energy Efficiency Renovations – Will provide rebates to consumers on qualifying energy efficiency renovations and will provide thousands of contractors projects on which to work.

Affordable Housing Preservations and Energy Efficiency Renovations – Will provide grants for energy efficiency renovations for affordable housing.

Manufacturing Plant Energy Efficiency Renovations – Will provide grants for energy efficiency renovations for manufacturing plants.

Energy Efficiency Project Financing Improvements – Will help the Department of Energy distribute energy efficiency program funding more quickly.

Rebuilding America

One of the best ways to put Americans back to work is to focus on improving our crumbling infrastructure. The Democratic jobs agenda will improve our nation's critical infrastructure by making investments in all of the major transportation modes, including airports, highways, intercity rail, and mass transit. We expand on existing programs to upgrade our nation's schools and our drinking and waste water infrastructure. And we will put an emphasis on regional economic development projects through existing agencies and programs.

Transportation Investments – Direct investments for transportation investments including roads, bridges, highways, transit systems, airport improvements. Will also include TIGER grants which are multi-modal grants which could be used to upgrade several modes of transportation (e.g., road repair; transit upgrades and airport improvements) in a number of specific communities.

School Infrastructure Improvements – Will provide grants to upgrade school buildings nationwide.

Investments in Water Infrastructure – Will provide grants to upgrade the nation's drinking and waste water infrastructure (e.g., community water filtration systems; sewer and wastewater treatment plants; etc.).

Regional Economic Development Grants – Will provide grants through the Economic Development Administration to support regional development projects such as intermodal facilities, ports and regional business development projects.

Investing in Critical Public Services

States and municipalities - faced with budget deficits and shrinking tax bases - are being forced to downsize or eliminate critical jobs like firefighters, police officers and teachers. We offer assistance to local governments so they can retain and hire firefighters and police. We will ensure our children can learn in constructive environments by providing them with quality teachers. We support efforts that help unemployed young people find work improving the towns in which they live. And we will help jobless workers build the skills that employers are seeking so that they can more quickly get back to work.

Aid to States to Retain and Hire Firefighters, Police Officers, and Teachers – Direct aid to states and local governments so they can retain and hire firefighters and police.

Summer Youth Job Programs – Fund and support local job programs for young people in targeted communities nationwide.

Dislocated Worker Training Programs – Provide grants for programs which retrain unemployed workers in new skills and trades.