

EDUCATION FIRST PARTY

Socially Liberal, Fiscally Conservative, Globally Responsible

Our Vision

*That every child born reaches her full potential for
joy and productivity*

The Three Keys

To realize this vision, kids need safe streets, great schools, and stable homes.

The Daily, Silent Katrina

One hundred and twenty seven years after Plessey v Ferguson and sixty three years after Brown v. Board., schools in America are very separate and very unequal. In some zip codes in America kids can walk safely to and from school. In others they can not. In most zip codes in America, most children have stable, safe homes. In others not. This triple tragedy is a daily but silent and largely ignored Katrina. It is a catastrophe of unrealized potential.

Leaders of both major parties – from Barack and Michelle Obama to George W. Bush and Mitt Romney - have spoken eloquently of this problem but neither party has given this tragedy the priority it deserves.

The mission of the Education First Party is to cast a spotlight on what we think should be our #1 priority as a nation: our kids.

If you agree with our sense of priorities, please join us now. Please consider setting up a local chapter. Please consider running for office.

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Our Eight Point Program:

The Big Three

1. The Zip Code Safety Gap Amendment: Safe Streets

The first job of government is to provide physical safety for its citizens. A state that fails to do so is a failed state. In most zip codes in America, children feel safe walking to school, walking to the playground, walking back home. Other zip codes are war zones in which parents and children fear for their lives on a daily basis. In these zip codes the US is a failed state. It is impossible to focus on physics or chemistry if you are worried about being stabbed in the bathroom or being shot on the way home. There can be no more egregious violation of the 14th amendment's equal protection clause. We need a Constitutional Amendment to end this tragedy now.

2. The Equal Schools Amendment: Great Schools

In many zip codes in America children have great public schools with fabulous academic, arts, and athletics programs. Schools with great teachers, high standards, and high expectations. In others they do not. This is unacceptable. This is not equal protection of the laws. We need a second constitutional amendment laying out in very specific terms the meaning of equality of schools in terms of rigorous programs across the curriculum, quality of instruction, and height of standards whether academic, athletic, artistic, or behavioral.

3. Family Structure Inequality Act: Stable Homes

Education begins at home. The first few years of life are critical to cognitive development. The stability of home life is key to long term social mobility. Family structure matters. This is the clear message of research from the left, right, and center: from Kathy Edin, Robert Putnam, and scholars at the Brookings Institution to Charles Murray,, Heather MacDonald and researchers at the American Enterprise Institute. The economic, cultural, and political causes of the disintegration of the American family must be acknowledged and addressed. We need legislation that reduces the economic incentives for unready parenthood and promotes parenthood education. including abstinence. We support universal access to all reproductive serves including especially Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) which have been shown to drastically reduce unwanted pregnancies.

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Our Eight Point Program (cont)

4.) End the War on Drugs:

We also need an end to the well-intentioned war on drugs which has turned many zip codes into battlefields – just as Prohibition did in the 1920s. If there is one lesson of American history it is that Prohibition was a mistake. It took the nation 13 years to reverse its error. The Second Prohibition has ravaged neighborhoods across America and countries around the world for 45 years. How much longer shall we collectively deny the devastating costs of this failed experiment?

5.) National Civic Literacy Curriculum

Civic literacy matters. An informed citizenry is essential to a true democracy. The current educational system fails to adequately prepare citizens for the responsibilities of democratic citizenship. The simple test for civic literacy is the ability to make a strong case for both sides in the next election marshalling principles, facts, and solutions for each of the issues that the citizen thinks is so important it should influence her decision. The overwhelming majority of college graduates are incapable of doing so. This is a national disaster. But the solution is fairly simple. The backbone of the civics curriculum K through 12 should be weekly writing and public speaking exercises that address the most important issues of our time in a debating format. This is analogous to musical or athletic training which if begun early results in very impressive performance by age 14 and quasi-professional mastery by 18. True civic literacy demands mastery of the fundamentals of constitutional law, economics, ethics, history, political science, statistics, rhetoric, demography, engineering, and science. This is hard work. It can be done.

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Our Eight Point Program (Cont)

6.) West Point for Teachers, Annapolis for Statesmen:

We need to raise the status of teaching and statesmanship.

7.) National Televised Weekly Teaching Competition

Call it Academic Idol in which on a weekly basis selected members of the Cabinet , Congress, and the Supreme Court act as judges of a competition between teachers to teach most effectively the most important topics worth teaching across the curriculum and win a substantial prize. This too would tend to add to the glamour and appeal of a career in teaching. The competition should have a graphic component. Pictures are worth a thousand words. What better way to plaster the now blank walls of so many of our public schools than with the most powerful thought provoking graphics that emerge from this national competition.

8.) Political Campaign Pledge:

Education happens in political campaigns. An ancient saying holds that teaching has three rules: example, example, and example. Politicians should model the values that children should learn in school – particularly gratitude, kindness, courage, self-mastery, honesty, and civility. They should also avoid rhetorical tricks and statistical manipulation. We pledge to do our best.

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Education First Party

Education is the civil rights issue of the 21st century.

EFP: Beyond Education

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Liberal

Liberal derives from liberty. A liberal, as we see it, puts freedom first. No freedom, no justice. No justice, no peace. If there is one word that encapsulates America at its best it is freedom. **We believe in cultural *and* economic freedom.** We believe in cultural tolerance. And we believe that the key to long term prosperity for all is maximizing the free exchange of ideas, goods, and services. We believe in championing freedom around the world. We are liberals because we believe that true freedom is not possible if you are shackled at the starting gate of life or if the first rungs of the ladder of economic opportunity are too high for you to reach. We believe that health care is public good, that environmental externalities should be taxed, and that massive investments in nuclear power and alternative energy should be made.

Conservative

We embrace fiscal conservatism because one foundation of a just society is truth and truth demands acknowledgment of budgetary limits. We embrace conservatism, too, in the sense of the importance of fundamental values that lie at the core of all the great world's religions – gratitude, kindness, courage, self-mastery, diligence, responsibility, excellence. We believe in a simplified, efficient tax system. We believe it is unethical to pass on to future generations burdens of taxation that we are unwilling to shoulder ourselves.

Globally Responsible

We embrace global responsibility because we believe that if you have the power to stop genocide or its equivalent you have the duty to do so. We believe that we are not truly free if others elsewhere in the world are languishing in slavery. We believe America has a mission to be a model for the world and should play a leadership role in it. We believe that free trade is an axiom of economics not a matter of opinion. To paraphrase Adam Smith, you should not make at home what you can buy cheaper from someone else. We believe that globally the biggest gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be is the mistreatment of women.

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Education First Party

Education is the civil rights issue of the 21st century

Summary

If a child feels unsafe on the streets, he will find safety in numbers and join a gang.

If a child is worried about getting stabbed or mugged in the bathroom, she will have a hard time focusing on physics.

If a school does not reinforce the message of high academic standards and strict discipline set at home, then the odds that the message will get through are low.

If a parent does not reinforce the message of high academic standards and strict discipline set at school, the message is unlikely to get through or stick.

If the community does not reinforce the message of high academic standards and strict discipline, the message is easily lost.

To realize the vision of equal opportunity requires coordinated action on three fronts: the school, the home, and the community.

To deny the severity of the problem in any one of these spheres is a recipe for defeat.

This has been the pattern over the half century. This first step forward is to get over the denial.

If you are in fundamental agreement with Education First Party, please join us.

Please consider setting up a local chapter or running for office.

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Who said “Education is the civil rights issue of our time.”?

- a.) Barack Obama
- b.) Michelle Obama
- c.) George Bush
- d.) Mitt Romney
- e.) John McCain
- f.) All of the Above

The correct answer is: f.

If you agree with them:

Join the Education First Party!

Vote _____ for US Senate in 2018!

www.educationfirstparty.com

EDUCATION FIRST PARTY

OUR VISION

*Every Child born reaches her full potential
for joy and productivity.*

In America. In the world.

If you share our vision:

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EDUCATION FIRST PARTY

Why don't politicians put kids first?

- a.) Kids don't vote*
- b.) Kids don't have money*
- c.) If kids do have money, they don't control the purse strings.*
- d.) Kids aren't organized*
- e.) All of the above.*

The correct answer is e.

Support our kids!

Vote Education First in 2018!

Join the Education First Party Now!

www.educationfirstparty.com