

- First, *values* coming out of a basic progressive vision
- Second, *principles* that realize progressive values
- Third, *policy directions* that fit the values and principles

The Basic Progressive Vision

The basic progressive vision is of community—of America as family, a caring, responsible family. We envision an America where people care about each other, not just themselves, and act responsibly both for themselves and their fellow citizens with strength and effectiveness.

Democracy means acting on that care and responsibility through the government to provide public resources for all—from the needy to the average citizen to those running businesses, great or small. In short, the private depends on the public. And if you used those public resources to become wealthy on the basis of taxes paid by others for the resources you used, then fairness requires that you pay a higher share of your wealth in taxes so that others may benefit as well.

We are all in the same boat—that's what democracy means. Red states and blue states, progressives and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats. United, as we were for a brief moment just after September 11, not divided by a despicable culture war.

So far as I know, every progressive shares those values and that view of democracy.

The Logic of Progressive Values

The progressive core values are family values—those of the responsible, caring family. You could characterize them as **caring and responsibility, carried out with strength of commitment and effort**. These core values imply the full range of progressive values, listed below, together with the logic that links them to the core values.

- **Protection, fulfillment in life, fairness.** When you care about someone, you want them to *be protected from harm*, you want their *dreams to come true*, and you want them to be *treated fairly*.