

## Rep. Katsunobu Kato Policy Vision — “Co-Creating a New Japan”

- Reviving Japan’s strengths and materializing every person’s vision. The “dynamic engagement of Japan.”
- Co-creation: A framework to resolve challenges by accepting each individual’s values and characteristics to create new power.
- Pledging party reform: Party reform that ties into “co-creation.”
  - A resolution of the “money and politics” problem and improving transparency
- Campaign pledges
  - Envisions a country trusted across the globe and one in which every individual feels happy; a society where everyone can feel safe and prosper in
  - Policies: Reviving Japan’s strengths and materializing every person’s vision toward the “dynamic engagement of Japan”
- Five promises — takeaways from the five points in the oath —

### Pledges Toward Party Reform

- The LDP currently faces a crisis shaking public trust in the party due to the “politics and money” issue.
- Now is the time to return to the founding principles of the party (“politics is for the people”) and execute party reform/political fundraising reform.
- Accountability and thoroughly implementing party governance
  - Thoroughly ensure accountability is taken, taking to heart the situation in which submitted bills to the Diet require explanations and citizens demand explanations
  - Strengthen structure for adherence to law within the party by including an external expert panel including lawyers, etc.
- Legislation on the “important considerations” in the revised Political Funds Control Act by the end of the year
  - Cap on and disclosure mechanism for policy activity fees
  - Establish an independent third-party body related to political funding
  - A mechanism to cease political party grants
  - Take necessary measures on other items before legislation takes effect
- Toward a party that listens to and utilizes the voices of party members and citizens
  - Party member think tank initiative (e.g., utilizing proposals and opinions of party members collected through annual opinion polls and mail)
  - Conducting hybrid town hall meetings with party members by prefecture/blocks
  - Thoroughly reflect the opinions of party members through the party convention and national secretary general meetings

### Campaign Pledges — Eight Point Plan with Pillar of “Doubling Citizen Income”

- The goal is to realize a country that is trusted across the globe and a society where every individual feels happy and safe and can thrive in.

- Revive a vibrant Japan through the implementation of the eight point plan, which positions “doubling citizen income” as the centerpiece.
- Formulate an effective and drastic supplementary budget and craft an economic policy package swiftly.
- Plan #1: Economic growth through doubling income and promoting domestic investment
  - First step is to raise wages and double income. Expand domestic consumption and increase corporate profits. Improve efficiency through domestic investment to promote DX/GX, etc. For this, marshal budget/tax system measures and regulatory reform to realize a furthering of the positive cycle toward economic growth.
  - Key Policies
    - Enhancing the wage hike promotion tax scheme and fostering an environment in which people can work without thinking about the income barrier
    - Promoting comprehensive labor market reform through measures like supporting the improvement of capabilities via reskilling and smoothing labor mobility toward growth sectors
    - Enhancing support for those suffering under higher prices
    - Transferring labor costs and further improvement of work conditions for nursery staff, teachers, medical and elderly care staff, etc.
    - Revising basic tax deductions and pricing for public works in response to wage hike and price increases
    - Accelerating investment in energy conservation
    - Utilizing the industrial base which includes top global firms across industries to promote AI use, development of data foundation, and AI talent development. Secure standing as an advanced AI nation
    - Maximizing utilization of decarbonized energy like renewables and nuclear power toward a new energy strategy in which Japan can produce the energy it uses
    - Strengthening development and export of contents industry through the use of Japan’s soft power
    - Faster achievement of the ¥1,500 minimum wage target and strengthening support toward ¥2,000
    - Drastic reform including raising the cap on iDeCo spending
- Plan #2: Strengthening growth capacity of regional firms and developing a “co-creation” society
  - Thoroughly support the development of supply chains and export capacity to respond to serious rural depopulation and to support the improvement of competitiveness of companies supporting these areas. Develop a “co-creation” society that combines capacity and protects necessary services for livelihood. In

addition, realize regions that are livable by promoting multi-tasking through measures like multiple certifications for the medical and welfare sectors to provide flexible services.

- Key Policies

- Supporting the matching of companies supporting regions and firms both at home and abroad
- Streamlining SME support through the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation and Yorozu Support Centers
- Promote national spatial planning that effectively utilizes and transfers land to secure regional sustainability, including increasing industrial land by 10,000 hectares and taking measures related to empty houses
- Flexibly providing social security services for remote regions
- Maintaining regional public transportation through various measures like public-private management
- Developing industrial base and environment to live in remote islands that fulfill the responsibility of securing Japan's territory, utilizing marine resources, and securing the natural environment
- Developing a framework to develop and sustain regional talent through industry-academia-government coordination, including the enhancement and reinforcement of the community-reactivating cooperator squad and the utilization of scholarships
- The GW 2050 initiative, including the utilization of the ruins of MCAS Futenma
- Promoting the use of post offices

- Plan #3: Realizing the “three zeros” of lunch, child medical fees, and child rearing burden

- The significant decline in the birth rate as of late is a major crisis that threatens the sustainability of Japanese society. Aim for the “three zeros” to eliminate lunch fees, child medical fees, and child rearing burden to fundamentally reinforce

childrens' policy. Enhance nursery education and after school childcare, realize tailor-made high-level school education through education DX, and work toward reducing the burden in higher education.

- Key Policies

- Further improving the working conditions for nursery teachers and teachers
- Enhancing measures to address children on the waiting list and after school childcare
- Enhancing support including swift responses to things like absenteeism and *hikikomori*
- Resolve the teacher shortage by developing a framework that flexibly responds to maternity/paternity leave and leave for elderly care workers

- Promoting the child death review (CDR) system to prevent the death of children
  - Enhancing support for higher education, including grant-style scholarships
  - Establishing a “Youth Council” to reflect younger voices in politics
- Plan #4: Social security reform to ensure “health and happy” lives in the era of 100-year life expectancy
  - Japan’s social security system, something that can be proudly presented to the world, faces a major challenge of sustainability due to the rapidly aging population. With 2040 in mind, develop a framework where necessary services are provided to people in need and the burden is shared based on capability. Realize a society where people can live healthily and happily in the era of 100-year life expectancy through measures like push-style “support grants” that provides support to those in need before requested.
  - Key Policies
    - Furthering improvement of working conditions for medical, elderly care, and welfare staff, and securing talent in these fields by promoting medical/elderly care DX, etc.
    - Improving the standard of care by reinforcing medical examinations through the utilization of AI
    - Promoting a regional medical initiative in which care can be received in regions across the country
    - Providing state-of-the-art medical services by utilizing a combined method of health insurance grants and out-of-pocket expenses (exceptions for combined care/treatment)
    - Revising drug prices based on inflation, stable supply of drugs and drug discovery promotion
    - Free provision of cancer examinations and lifestyle-related diseases, push-style health guidance
    - Introducing dental examinations for all citizens
    - Enhancing medical/elderly care through multidisciplinary coordination, including nutrition, oral care, and rehabilitation
    - Enhancing mental health, including through expert support
    - Improving the pension standards for low-income pensioners
- Plan #5: Doubling private time by promoting women’s empowerment and workstyle reform
  - Key Policies
    - Redressing the gender pay gap
    - Improving the ratio of women in boardrooms, ministries and agencies, and the Diet

- Improving literacy for women's health problems and strengthening the promotion of the women's health national center
  - Creating opportunities for senior citizens to thrive
  - Fostering an environment that is easy to work in, including by reinforcing measures related to customer harassment
  - Promoting human capital investment and investment to improve labor efficiency
  - Promoting resilient workstyles
- Plan #6: Sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries through the improvement of efficiency and harmony with the environment
  - Key Policies
    - Supporting the introduction of smart agriculture and promoting land improvement
    - Product refinement and development, utilization of freezing and vacuum sealing technology with an eye toward exporting ¥5 trillion
    - Supporting farmers in mountainous areas by reinforcing the branding of naturally cultivated products and the direct payment scheme
    - Improving self-sufficiency by promoting the export of agricultural products and the promotion of strategic crops like rice for rice flour
    - Shaping fisheries into a growth industry by promoting community based fisheries management and aquafarming
    - Reinforcing the competitiveness of the forestry industry by establishing sustainable forestry management and promoting the utilization of domestic cross-laminated timber (CLT)
    - Responding to higher prices for fertilizer and resource materials, implementing measures toward stable management of businesses
- Plan #7: Strategic diplomacy to protect peace and prosperity and reinforcing security apparatus, immediate return of all abductees
  - Key Policies
    - Developing strategic defense and diplomacy, including strategic diplomacy with an eye toward the future and defense policy dialogue/defense cooperation
    - Developing and strengthening the security apparatus including deepening the Japan-U.S. alliance and coordination with allies
    - Promoting the free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)
    - Strengthening the defense structure of Japan
    - Developing and vitalizing the defense manufacturing base and industry
    - Reinforcing cybersecurity, strengthening information/intelligence collection capabilities

- Swift realization of a Japan-North Korea summit toward the immediate return of all abductees
- Plan #8: Realizing the amendment of the Constitution and developing a crisis management apparatus
  - Key Policies
    - Drafting up the insertion of the JSDF and emergency situation clause with broad support within the Diet and swiftly proceed with a national referendum
    - Reforming the electoral system, including the dissolution of at-large districts
    - Establishing a “Crisis Management Agency” directly under the prime minister to streamline talent, know-how, and storage (of goods)
    - Reinforcing measures to respond to a large-scale earthquake like the Nankai trough earthquake and earthquake that directly hits Tokyo
    - Foster an environment for evacuation sites that protect individual privacy and health by enhancing storage (of goods) and air conditioning facilities
    - Promoting recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula earthquake
    - Supporting reconstruction and the rebirth of Fukushima from the Great East Japan earthquake and nuclear disaster
- Kato’s strengths: Realized key policies and protected Japan as a key figure in the Abe, Suga, and Kishida administrations
  - Protecting the country
    - **Diplomacy:** As deputy chief cabinet secretary, went to over thirty-six countries with Prime Minister Abe and attended summits. Experienced the summit-level interactions firsthand.
    - **Constitution:** As secretary-general of the HQ for the Implementation of Revision of the Constitution, drafted the draft amendments and led discussions toward a national referendum.
    - **Bureaucratic Reform:** As the inaugural director-general of the Cabinet Bureau of Personnel Affairs, promoted the appointment of women to senior positions and new hires.
    - **Abduction Issue:** As the state minister in charge of the abductions issue, made efforts toward securing the safety and return of abductees.
  - Protecting livelihoods
    - **Children’s Policy:** As chief cabinet secretary, pushed forward the establishment of the Children and Families Agency and worked toward zero children on the waitlist and free nursery education as the inaugural minister in charge of promoting dynamic engagement of all citizens. Also

finalized and concluded party discussions on the Basic Act on Children's Policy.

- **COVID-19 Response:** Led the development of a swift vaccine mechanism, the loosening of conditions for the employment adjustment subsidy, and transitioning the pandemic from Class 2 to Class 5.
- **Social Security:** As a three-time labor minister, led the reform of the all-generation social security system. Promoted medical/elderly care DX and the improvement of working conditions for medical/elderly care/welfare workers.
  - Protecting employment and the economy
    - **Economic Policy/GX:** As chair of the Growth Strategy Council, compiled the Suga administration's green strategy and other policies.
    - **Labor Policy:** As a cabinet member, promoted workstyle reform, redressed long labor hours, and developed the equal pay for equal work scheme.
    - **Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens:** Promoted women's empowerment through measures like hosting the International Women's Conference WAW! And led the globally top level participation of senior citizens in the workforce, promoted recurrent education, and promoted the employment of disabled persons.

### **The Five Pledges — Takeaways From the Five Point Oath**

- Sincerely engage with the voices of all citizens
  - Listen to the voices of all citizens, including party members, and develop policies based on dialogue. Aim for an open political system where citizens can actively take part in.
- Respect diversity and develop a society in which everyone cooperates and can feel safe
  - Realize a safe “co-creation” society in which people from all genders, age groups, careers, regions can work together.
- Create a framework which respects the freedom and challenge of each individual
  - Create opportunities for all individuals by securing private time in which they can learn, work, and take on challenges. Foster an environment that encourages challenges and draws out vitality in the whole of society.
- Break from old traditions and realize a fair society
  - Remove old traditions and corruption and work toward a transparent and fair political system. Revise old systems and develop a society in which every individual is given the same opportunity.
- Take in knowledge and technology from the world and create a strong Japan

- Proactively learn from the world's knowledge and technology and utilize these for Japan's future. Introduce advanced technologies and new workstyles, promote innovation, and aim for sustainable development.
- [Reference] The five point oath (1868)
  - Hold a wide-ranging dialogue and reach a consensus on the best course of action.
  - Unite our minds above and below, and conduct our sutras in a spirit of sincerity.
  - Aim for a society in which all people, from government officials to samurai and commoners, can transcend differences in status and realize their own aspirations.
  - Eliminate old bad habits and to follow the right reason (international law) common to the world.
  - Develop a nation in search of wisdom