

2012 Poweshiek County Platform certified

Preamble

The principal concern of the Democratic Party remains the well-being of all the people. This concern is based upon the promise of the Declaration of Independence that “all are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Our liberties we prize, and our rights we defend; our responsibilities we accept on behalf of all.

- We believe in tax fairness in which everyone is taxed progressively according to income and wealth.
- We support campaign reform as a matter of principle to reduce the undue influence of special interests and to eliminate the bribery of elected officials.
- We believe that quality education should be made available to all as a way to improve our lives.
- We believe that it is past time to solve the problems of health care in our country.
- We defend the right of workers, farmers and merchants to organize to achieve a sustainable income and fair working conditions.
- We would end discrimination based on race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, occupation, national origin, veteran status, age, disability or ethnic identity.

A. Agriculture, Environment and Energy

We support:

1. The immediate elimination of the pollution control property tax exemption for animal confinements, including poultry. (S)
2. Local control of confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) siting and the number of facilities with state standards of operation. (S)
3. Creation of a contract growers' Bill of Rights. (S)
4. Funding for the Land and Water Legacy Trust as established by a Constitutional Amendment. (S)
5. Increased soil and water conservation and improved quality of our waterways. (S) (F)
6. Establishment of an Iowa Environmental Quality Act that protects the natural environment and species within. (S)
7. Iowa Utility Board regulation of community and individual/cooperative-owned renewable energy. (S)
8. Production of alternative, renewable and sustainable clean energy sources and continued federal support. (S) (F)
9. Increased funding for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. (S)
10. Policies promoting local and organic foods in schools and public institutions; including permanent funding of the Local Foods Initiative. (S)
11. Eliminating subsidies for new development and promotion of land use ordinances that protect tillable land. (S)
12. Policies that encourage smart growth and redevelopment inside our communities (S)
13. Continued state ownership and IDNR management of Honey Creek Resort. (S)
14. A ban on the use of lead shot. (S)
15. An increase in the fuel tax. (S)
16. Repeal of the "Right to Work" law. (S)
17. No relaxing of Iowa's gun laws. (S)
18. The elimination of all direct payments to producers of grains, oilseeds and fiber. (F)
19. Policies that force industries to internalize the cost of pollution and encourage responsible environmental practices. (F)
20. The "Right to Know" country of origin and GMO labeling. (F)

21. A cap on carbon emissions and progressive fines on emissions above this cap. (F)
22. A return to higher collateral rates for grains, used to determine loans to producers. (F)
23. Farm Bill benefits for those producers who enact effective conservation practices, e.g. the Conservation Security Program. (F)
24. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) benefits targeted to soil conservation and to non-confined animal operations. (F)
25. Assessment of a fee on all trades made on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). (F)
26. Banning fracking because of the risk to drinking water. (F)
27. Banning the Keystone pipeline because of the risk of polluting the Ogallala aquifer. (F)
28. No packer ownership of livestock.(F)

We oppose:

29. Building new coal-fired or nuclear plants in Iowa. (S)
30. Foreign and/or non-farm corporation operations participations in farm income support programs. (S)
31. Support for large land development operations by US citizens in other countries. (S)
32. House File 2434 concerning sale of state-owned property. (S)

B. Economy and Labor

We support:

33. Raising the minimum wage in Iowa and in the United States. (S)(F)
34. Passage of the Free Choice Act by the U.S. Congress and other efforts to protect worker rights to organize and bargain collectively. (F)
35. Fair and legal amnesty for undocumented immigrants. (F)
36. A re-focus of rural/agricultural economic development funds on sustainable, entrepreneurial, independent farms and small businesses. (S)
37. Government policies that encourage returning jobs to the United States. (F)
38. Closing the tax loopholes that allow multi-state corporations not headquartered in Iowa to avoid paying Iowa income tax. (S)
39. Vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws to prohibit further integration and concentration

of food processing and retailing. (F)

We Oppose:

40. The exploitation of undocumented workers by any employer in the United States. (F)

41. Efforts by the federal and state governments to limit or end overtime pay. (S)(F)

C. Education

We Support:

42. Increased funding of student loans for post-secondary education with loan interest 100% tax deductible. (F)

43. The repeal of “No Child Left behind Act”. (F)

44. Funding meaningful professional development for teachers. (S)

45. Additional tax revenues dedicated to strengthening public education at all levels. (S/F)

46. Maintaining and funding the local County Extension Service. (S)

47. Increased funding to improve access to quality and affordable child-care programs for families. (S)

48. Increased public pre-school funding for all children. (S)

49. Increased public funding for at-risk programs in public schools. (S)

We oppose:

50. The tax credits used to offset private donations to private schools. (S)(F)

51. Retention of students before all other avenues are pursued. (S)

52. Use of public money to private schools as part of a voucher system. (S)

D. Government and the Law

We support:

53. Elimination of all subsidies for fossil fuels.

54. All sources of income be taxed at the same progressive rate.

55. Major reform of mandatory sentencing laws. (S) (F)

56. We support legislation, in response to the Citizens’ United Decision, which would require anonymous SuperPacs make public disclosure of the names of individuals and corporate

donors and their donation amounts no later than the broadcast or publication of the advertisement. (F)

57. Fully funding and protection of the Social Security Trust Fund. (F)
58. The adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. (F)
59. Expansion of civil-rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. (S) (F)
60. The Federal Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) be adopted. (F)
61. Expansion of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act to include offenses based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. (F)
62. Cuts in the defense budget in order to fully fund essential domestic programs. (F)
63. Repeal of the Patriot Act. (F)
64. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and oppose any weakening of that act.
65. Reproductive freedom of choice, as established in Roe vs. Wade. (F)
66. Funding for reproductive health and family planning services and age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education. (S)(F)
67. Federal funding for voluntary international family planning. (F)
68. Renewal of the federal ban on assault weapons. (F)
69. Continuing the Brady Bill and closing the “gun show loophole.” (F)
70. Funding to restore and expand railroad passenger service. (S)(F)
71. Mandatory funding for veterans’ health care, including enhanced specialized treatment and research for service-related illnesses, and retirement pay without a tax on disability compensation. (F)
72. Increased services for homeless veterans. (S)(F)
73. Iowa’s continued refusal to impose the death penalty. (S)
74. Continued recognition of out-of-state marriages and recognition of out-of state civil unions. (S) (F)
75. Restoring voting rights to felons upon completion of their sentence and conclusion of parole or probation. (S)
76. Iowa’s system of selecting judges based on merit. (S)
77. A fair and independent judiciary. (S)(F)
78. The diversion of mentally ill offenders into appropriate treatment programs and institutions instead of imprisonment. (S)

- 79. An increase in well-funded community substance abuse treatment programs instead of imprisonment. (S)
- 80. Increased funding for correctional treatment programs, including drug courts. (S)
- 81. Funding for the IA Department of Corrections to open community residential facilities for probation violators and re-entry of parolees. (S)
- 82. Increasing the redemption value for beverage containers including an expansion of container types. (S)
- 83. The addition of a provision in the Iowa Constitution for the recall of elected officials. (S)

We oppose:

- 84. SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect Internet Protocol Act). (F)
- 85. The privatization of public services. (S)(F)
- 86. Tort reform that would limit a victim's compensation. (S)(F)
- 87. The elimination of the federal estate tax but support raising the exemption to protect family farms and other small businesses. (F)
- 88. Amending the Constitution of the United States to define marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. (F)
- 89. Amending the Constitution of the State of Iowa to define marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. (S)
- 90. Additional casinos in Iowa. (S)
- 91. Provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) designed to expand the role of federal defense in community policing programs.

E. Health Care

We support:

- 92. The establishment of a single-payer health insurance system for all Americans. (F)
- 93. Making family planning and contraceptives affordable and available to all people. (F)
- 94. Patients' access to medical marijuana prescribed by a licensed physician. (F)
- 95. Equitable funding of Medicare and Medicaid. (F)
- 96. The nation-wide regulation of prescription drug advertising. (F)

- 97. Medicare negotiations for prescription drugs to lower costs. (F)
- 98. The State of Iowa directly negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to obtain lowest prices on prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients. (S)
- 99. A ban on pharmaceutical companies giving personal financial benefits to health care professionals. (F)
- 100. Full access to a health provider's professional history. (F)
- 101. Increasing distances CAFOs need to be from existing residences to protect pulmonary health. (S)
- 102. Fighting global poverty and disease because these are critical to America's interests. (F)
- 103. Requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives prescribed by medical professionals. (S)
- 104. All pharmacists being required to assist in the filling of all prescriptions, including contraceptives. (F)
- 105. Increased Title 19 funding to medical professionals, specifically to support children in State custody. (F)
- 106. Health care policies that includes coverage of the mental/psychological health needs of all individuals. (F)
- 107. Alternatives to placing sex offenders in care facilities. (S)

We oppose:

- 108. Any efforts to privatize Medicare. (F)

F. International Affairs

We Support:

- 109. Greater use of NATO and the United Nations to solve international problems and crises and less unilateral military action by the United States. (F)
- 110. A timely withdrawal of all military forces, including contractors, from Iraq and Afghanistan. (F)
- 111. A criminal investigation and prosecution of war crimes and treasonous offenses by all

persons involved in Iraq, Afghanistan and related conflicts. (F)

112. International laws and trade agreements that protect workers' rights, human rights and environmental quality. (F)
113. Aggressive action now to address climate change. (F)
114. United States leadership in world agreements concerning climate change. (F)
115. Continued international cooperation in the non-military, peaceful scientific exploration of space and sea depths. (F)
116. The elimination of secret prisons, maintained by the United States, which abuse civil and human rights, in violation of our Constitution. (F)
117. A re-evaluation or repeal of NAFTA and the WTO. (F)
118. United States' even handedness in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the world at large. (F)
119. Recognizing democratically elected officials and governments. (F)

We oppose:

120. The continued funding of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation (AKA, School of the Americas). (F)
121. War with Iran. (F)
122. The continued use of the Guantanamo Bay prison. (F)