

2017 Poweshiek County Democratic Platform

Preamble

The principal concern of the Democratic Party remains the well-being of all the people. This concern is based upon the promise in 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 potential 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, sex and gender identity, sexual orientation, occupation, national origin, veteran status, age, disability or ethnic identity.
- We support the local and independent ownership of livestock and grain farms.
- We support responsible stewardship of the earth's resources, including clean air, clean water, and renewable energy.

Agriculture, Environment and Energy

We support:

1. Immediate elimination of pollution control property tax exemption for animal confinements, including poultry. (S)
2. County control determining numbers and appropriate locations of CAFOs with state regulation of operations. (S)
3. Taxing CAFO buildings at commercial rates. (S)
4. Requiring a permit to build any CAFO over 500 animal units. (S)
5. Tripling the acceptable distances of CAFOs from other residences, fresh water, schools, public facilities, and incorporated and non-incorporated communities allowed in the Master Matrix. (S)
6. Mandating use of the Master Matrix in all counties. (S)
7. Increasing from 20 to 150 the points allowed for tree shields in the Master Matrix. (S)
8. Increasing the points required to pass the Master Matrix from 440 to 600. (S)
9. Proof of notification sent to residents and landowners within a two mile radius to accompany the request to the DNR for a permit to build a CAFO. (S)
10. Clean Water Act Permits for every CAFO every year. (S)
11. Increased funding for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. (S)
12. Creation of a contract growers' Bill of Rights. (S)
13. Farm bill benefits for those producers who enact effective conservation practices; e.g. the Conservation Stewardship Program. (F)
14. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with benefits targeted to soil conservation and to non-confined animal operations. (F) (S)

15. A return to higher collateral rates for grains used to determine loans to producers. (F)
16. Policies promoting local and organic foods in schools and public institutions; including permanent funding of the Local Foods Initiative. (S)
17. Financial assistance to facilitate the creation of local hubs that are cooperatively owned and operated by local food producers. (S)
18. Tax and financial incentives for new state-inspected meat processing plants including mobile slaughtering units. (S)
19. Funding for Land and Water Legacy Trust as established by a Constitutional amendment. (S)
20. Establishing an Iowa Environmental Quality Act that protects the natural environment and species within. (S)
21. Increased soil and water conservation and improved quality of our waterways by tighter regulations and fully funding enforcement agencies. (F) (S)
22. Promoting land use ordinances that protect tillable land and eliminate subsidies for new development. (S)
23. Policies that encourage smart growth and redevelopment inside our communities. (S)
24. Continued state ownership and IDNR management of Honey Creek Resort. (S)
25. Policies that force industries to internalize the cost of pollution and encourage responsible environmental practices. (F)
26. A cap on carbon emissions and progressive fines on emissions above this cap. (F)
27. Increasing the redemption value for beverage containers including an expansion of container types. (S)
28. Iowa Utility Board regulation of community and individual/cooperative-owned renewable energy. (S)
29. Continued state and federal support of the production of alternative, renewable and sustainable clean energy sources. (S) (F)

30. Removing hemp from the *Schedule I* drug list so it can be grown for industrial uses. (F)
31. A statewide moratorium on new CAFOs until Iowa's waterways are no longer Impaired. (S)
32. The seeding of 40 acres of Poweshiek County roadside with native grasses and wildflowers every year. (S)
33. Fully funding the Iowater Testing Program. (S)
34. Increasing Iowa's renewable energy standards to 40% by 2020. (S)
35. 100% of Iowa's energy from renewable sources by 2050. (S)
36. The Renewable Fuel Standard as written. (F)

We oppose:

37. CAFOs located on plots less than 80 acres. (S)
38. Giving points in the Master Matrix to CAFO's selling manure to contractors for handling of such after it leaves the facility. (S)
39. Packer ownership of livestock. (F) (S)
40. Fracking because of the risk to drinking water. (F)
41. The Keystone pipeline because of the risk of pollution. (F)
42. The use of lead shot. (S)
43. Building new coal-fired or nuclear plants in Iowa. (S)
44. Foreign and/or non-farm corporate operations participating in farm income support programs. (F)
45. Support for large land development operations by US citizens in other countries. (S) (F)
46. The Environmental Audit Law. (S)
47. Incentivizing the use of animal fertilizer in the Conservation Stewardship Program. (S)

Economy and Labor

We support:

48. Raising the minimum wage in Iowa and in the United States to \$12 per hour and indexing annual increases in it to the CPI. (S)(F)
49. Passage of the Free Choice Act by the U.S. Congress and other efforts to protect workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively. (F)
50. Fair and legal amnesty for undocumented immigrants. (F)
51. A re-focus of rural/agricultural economic development funds on sustainable, entrepreneurial, independent farms and small businesses. (S)
52. Government policies that encourage returning jobs to the United States. (F)
53. Combined corporate reporting for tax purposes. (S)
54. Vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws to prohibit further integration and concentration of food processing and retailing. (F)
55. Adoption of the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). (F)

We Oppose:

56. Exploitation of undocumented workers by any employer in the United States. (F)
57. Efforts by the federal and state governments to limit or end overtime pay. (S) (F)

Education

We Support:

58. Current state law requiring timely appropriations for education. (S)
59. Laws requiring schools to try to identify students at risk for violence and referring them to appropriate mental health professionals for evaluation and treatment. (S)
60. Increased funding of student loans for post-secondary education with loan interest considered

100% tax deductible. (F)

61. Interest rates on student loans for post-secondary education set to one percentage point above the US Federal Funds Rate.(F)
62. Funding meaningful professional development for teachers. (S)
63. Additional tax revenues dedicated to strengthening public education at all levels. (F) (S)
64. Maintaining and funding the local County Extension Service. (S)
65. Increased funding to improve access to quality and affordable child-care programs for families.
(S)
66. Increased public preschool funding for all children. (S)
67. Increased public funding for programs for at-risk children in public schools. (S)
68. Pursuing all other avenues before retention of students in current grade level. (S)
69. In-state college tuition for minor immigrants brought to Iowa by their parents.(S)
70. Creation of and funding for school vegetable garden programs. (S)
71. Increased funding for summer food programs for all students. (S)

We oppose:

72. The use of public money to support private schools as part of a voucher system. (S)
73. Tax credits offsetting private donations to private schools. (S) (F)

Government and the Law

We support:

74. Reopening the juvenile home in Toledo. (S)
75. Repeal of the “Right to Work” law. (S)
76. Voter Owned Clean Elections, a system for public financing, campaign limits, and universal voter registration.(S)(F)
77. A Constitutional Amendment overturning the Citizen's United ruling. (S) (F)

78. Having all sources of income be taxed at the same progressive rate. (S) (F)
79. Eliminating the Federal Tax deduction.(S)
80. Eliminating all special targeted tax breaks to business. (S) (F)
81. The elimination of the income tax on poverty level income, including FICA, with credit recorded for number of years worked. (F)
82. Removing the cap on income subject to FICA tax. (F)
83. Eliminating all subsidies for fossil fuels.(S)(F)
84. The “Right to Know” country of origin for all products. (F)
85. Requiring Super PACs to make immediate easily accessible public disclosure of the names of individual and corporate donors and their donation amounts. (S) (F)
86. Full funding and protection of the Social Security Trust Fund. (F)
87. The adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. (F)
88. The expansion of civil-rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. (S) (F)
89. Cuts in the defense budget in order to fully fund essential domestic programs. (F)
90. Repeal of the Patriot Act. (F)
91. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and oppose any weakening of that act. (F)
92. Reproductive freedom of choice, as established in Roe vs. Wade. (F)
93. Funding for reproductive health and family planning services and age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education. (S)(F)
94. Federal funding for voluntary international family planning. (F)
95. Renewing the federal ban on assault weapons. (F)
96. Continuing the Brady Bill and closing the “gun show loophole.” (F)
97. Funding to restore and expand railroad passenger service. (S)(F)
98. 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)
99. Increased services for homeless veterans. (S)(F)
100. A law and funding for developing policies and procedures for various types of emergencies in schools and public buildings. (S)
101. Major reform of mandatory sentencing laws. (S) (F)
102. Expansion of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act to include offenses based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. (F)
103. Iowa's continued refusal to impose the death penalty. (S)
104. Restoring voting rights to felons upon completion of their sentence and conclusion of parole or probation. (S)
105. Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit. (S)
106. A fair and independent judiciary. (S) (F)
107. Diversion of mentally ill offenders into appropriate treatment programs and institutions instead of imprisonment. (S)
108. An increase in well-funded community substance abuse treatment programs instead of imprisonment. (S)
109. Increased funding for correctional treatment programs, including drug courts. (S)
110. Funding for the IA Department of Corrections to open community residential facilities for probation violators and re-entry of parolees. (S)
111. Assessing a fee on all transactions on all stock exchanges by a very small amount. (F)
112. The addition of a provision in the Iowa Constitution for recalling elected officials. (S)
113. Internet freedom and net neutrality. (F)
114. Public services remaining in the public domain. (S) (F)
115. The Federal Estate tax as now written. (F)

116. Provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) designed to expand the role of federal defense in community policing programs. (F)
117. A call for Governor Branstad to renounce his relationship with the American Legislative Exchange Council. (S)
118. Raising postal rates for high volume bulk business mail. (F)
119. Policies reversed that require the Postal Service to pay 75 years into the future for employees' benefits. (F)
120. Refunding over-payments by the USPS. (F)
121. Monetary and policy-based reparations to Black and Native Americans. (F)
122. Socioeconomic-based affirmative action policies. (S) (F)
123. The creation of low-cost, high-speed internet connectivity in Iowa. (S)
124. Term limits at the federal level. (F)
125. The cessation of active benefits upon loss of seat in Congress. (F)
126. The use of public funds only for federal, state, and local elections. (S) (F)

We oppose:

127. Relaxing Iowa's gun laws. (S)
128. Tort reform that would limit a victim's compensation. (S) (F)
129. Attempts to reduce free speech and innovation online. (F)
130. Additional casinos in Iowa. (S)
131. Gerrymandering of legislative districts. (F)
132. For-profit prisons. (F)
133. The use of eminent domain on behalf of private interests. (F) (S)
134. Requiring disclosure of criminal records on employment forms. (F)

Health Care

We support:

- 135.A universal single-payer health insurance system. (F)
- 136.Making family planning and contraceptives affordable and available to all people. (F) (S)
- 137.Patients' access to prescribed medical marijuana. (F) (S)
- 138.Equitable funding of Medicare and Medicaid. (F)
- 139.The nation-wide elimination of prescription drug advertising. (F)
- 140.Medicare negotiations for lower prescription drug costs. (F)
- 141.The State of Iowa negotiating with manufacturers to obtain lowest prices on prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients. (S)
- 142.A ban on pharmaceutical companies giving personal financial benefits to health care professionals. (F)
- 143.Full access to a health provider's professional history. (F)
- 144.Protecting the pulmonary health of rural residents by requiring increased distances between them and CAFOs. (S)
- 145.Fighting global poverty and disease. (F)
- 146.Requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives prescribed by medical Professionals. (F)
- 147.Requiring pharmacists to fill all prescriptions, including contraceptives. (F)
- 148.Increased Title 19 funding to reimburse medical professionals. (F)
- 149.Health care policies that include coverage of the mental/psychological health needs of all individuals. (F)
- 150.Alternatives to placing sex offenders in care facilities. (S)
- 151.Iowa's legislators beginning to pay an increased portion of their health care premiums. (S)
- 152.Funding that will increase the size of the mental health workforce. (S)
- 153.The creation and implementation of a children's mental health system. (S)

We oppose:

154.Any efforts to privatize Medicare. (F)

155.Repeal of the ACA. (F) (S)

International Affairs

We Support:

156.Greater use of NATO and the United Nations to solve international problems and crises and less unilateral military action by the United States. (F)

157.A timely withdrawal of all military forces, including contractors, from Iraq and Afghanistan. (F)

158.A criminal investigation and prosecution of war crimes and treasonous offenses by all persons involved in Iraq, Afghanistan and related conflicts. (F)

159.International laws and agreements protecting workers' rights, human rights and environmental quality. (F)

160.Aggressive action now to address climate change with United States providing leadership in world agreements. (F)

161.Continued international cooperation in the non-military, peaceful scientific exploration of space and sea depths. (F)

162.The elimination of secret prisons, maintained by the United States, that abuse civil and human rights, in violation of our Constitution. (F)

163.A re-evaluation or repeal of NAFTA and the WTO. (F)

164.United States' even-handedness in conflict and international affairs. (F)

165.Recognizing democratically elected officials and governments. (F)

166.Closing Guantanamo Bay prison. (F)

We Oppose:

167.Continued funding of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation (AKA

School of the Americas). (F)

168.War with Iran or any other country in that part of the world. (F)

169.Fast track authority. (F)

170.Trade pacts, especially, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that do not guarantee fairness to the

American worker. (F)

171.Immigrant detention center quotas. (F)