

2014 Poweshiek County Platform

Proposed

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.

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 permit to build any CAFO over 500 animal units.(S)
5. No CAFOs located on plots less than 80 acres. (S)
6. 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)
7. Mandating use of Master Matrix in all counties. (S)
8. No CAFO selling manure to contractors can be given points on the Master Matrix for handling of such after it leaves the facility.(S)
9. Increasing from 20 to 150 the points allowed for tree shields in the Master Matrix. (S)
10. Increasing points to pass the Master Matrix from 440 to 600.(S)
11. 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)

12. Clean Water Act Permits for every CAFO every year.. (S)
13. Increased funding for Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (S)
14. Creation of a contract growers' Bill of Rights. (S)
15. No packer ownership of livestock.(F)
16. Farm bill benefits for those producers who enact effective conservation practices, e.g. the Conservation Security Program. (F)
17. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) benefits targeted to soil conservation and to non-confined animal operations. (F)
18. A return to higher collateral rates for grains, used to determine loans to producers.(F)
19. Policies promoting local and organic foods in schools and public institutions; including permanent funding of the Local Foods Initiative. (S)
20. Financial assistance to facilitate the creation of local hubs that are cooperatively owned and operated by local food producers. (S)
21. Tax and financial incentives for new state-inspected meat processing plants including mobile slaughtering units. (S)
22. Funding for Land and Water Legacy Trust as established by a Constitutional amendment. (S)
23. Establishing an Iowa Environmental Quality Act that protects the natural environment and species within. (S)

24. Increased soil and water conservation and improved quality of our waterways by tighter regulations and fully funding enforcement agencies. (S)
25. Promoting land use ordinances that protect tillable land and eliminating subsidies for new development.(S)
26. Policies that encourage smart growth and redevelopment inside our communities. (S)
27. Continued state ownership and IDNR management of Honey Creek Resort. (S)
28. Policies that force industries to internalize the cost of pollution and encourage responsible environmental practices. (F)
29. A cap on carbon emissions and progressive fines on emissions above this cap. (F)
30. Banning fracking because of the risk to drinking water. (F)
31. Banning the Keystone pipeline because of the risk of pollution. (F)
32. Increasing the redemption value for beverage containers including an expansion of container types.(S)
33. A ban on the use of lead shot.(S)
34. Iowa Utility Board regulation of community and individual/cooperative-owned renewable energy. (S)
35. Production of alternative, renewable and sustainable clean energy sources and continued state and federal support. (S) (F)

We oppose:

36. Building new coal-fired or nuclear plants in Iowa. (S)

- 37. Foreign and/or non-farm corporate operations participating in farm income support programs. (S)
- 38. Support for large land development operations by US citizens in other countries. (S)(F)

B. Economy and Labor

We support:

- 39. Raising the minimum wage in Iowa and in the United States to \$12 per hour and increasing with the CPI. (S)(F)
- 40. Passage of the Free Choice Act by the U.S. Congress and other efforts to protect worker rights to organize and bargain collectively. (F)
- 41. Fair and legal amnesty for undocumented immigrants. (F)
- 42. A re-focus of rural/agricultural economic development funds on sustainable, entrepreneurial, independent farms and small businesses. (S)
- 43. Government policies that encourage returning jobs to the United States. (F)
- 44. Combined corporate reporting for tax purposes. (S)
- 45. Vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws to prohibit further integration and concentration of food processing and retailing. (F)
- 46. Adoption of the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). (F)

We Oppose:

- 47. Exploitation of undocumented workers by any employer in the United States. (F)

- 48. Property tax cuts given businesses to the detriment of counties.(S)
- 49. Efforts by the federal and state governments to limit or end overtime pay. (S)(F)

C. Education

We Support:

- 50. Current state law on requiring timely appropriations for education. (S)
- 51. Law requiring schools to try to identify students at risk for violence and referring them to appropriate mental health professionals for evaluation and treatment.(S)
- 52. Increased funding of student loans for post-secondary education with loan interest 100% tax deductible. (F)
- 53. Student loans for post-secondary education set at the same rate that big banks and Wall Street receive. (F)
- 54. Repeal of “No Child Left behind Act”. (F)
- 55. Funding meaningful professional development for teachers. (S)
- 56. Additional tax revenues dedicated to strengthening public education at all levels. (S/F)
- 57. Maintaining and funding the local County Extension Service. (S)
- 58. Increased funding to improve access to quality and affordable child-care programs for families. (S)

- 59. Increased public preschool funding for all children. (S)
- 60. Increased public funding for programs for at-risk children in public schools. (S)
- 61. Pursuing all other avenues before retention of students in current grade level.(S)
- 62. No use of public money to support private schools as part of a voucher system. (S)
- 63. In-state college tuition for minor immigrants brought to Iowa by their parents.(S)

We oppose:

- 64. Tax credits offsetting private donations to private schools. (S)(F)

D. Government and the Law

We support:

- 65. Reopening the juvenile home in Toledo. (S)
- 66. Repeal of the “Right to Work” law. (S)
- 67. Voter Owned Clean Elections, a system for public financing, campaign limits, and universal voter registration.(S)(F)
- 68. Constitutional Amendment overturning Citizen's United ruling. (S) (F)
- 69. All sources of income be taxed at the same progressive rate. (S)(F)
- 70. No tax on veterans' military pension. (S)
- 71. Eliminating the Federal Tax deduction.(S)
- 72. Eliminating all special targeted tax breaks to business.(S)(F)
- 73. No tax on poverty level income, including FICA, with credit recorded for number of years worked. (F)
- 74. Removing income cap for FICA tax. (F)
- 75. Eliminating all subsidies for fossil fuels.(S)(F)

76. The “Right to Know” country of origin and GMO labeling. (F)
77. Requiring Super PACs to make immediate easily accessible public disclosure of the names of individual and corporate donors and their donation amounts.
78. Full funding and protection of the Social Security Trust Fund. (F)
79. The adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. (F)
80. Expansion of civil-rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. (S) (F)
81. Cuts in the defense budget in order to fully fund essential domestic programs. (F)
82. Repeal of the Patriot Act. (F)
83. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and oppose any weakening of that act.

(F)
84. Reproductive freedom of choice, as established in Roe vs. Wade. (F)
85. Funding for reproductive health and family planning services and age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education. (S)(F)
86. Federal funding for voluntary international family planning. (F)
87. No relaxing of Iowa's gun laws. (S)
88. Renewing the federal ban on assault weapons. (F)
89. Continuing the Brady Bill and closing the “gun show loophole.” (F)
90. Funding to restore and expand railroad passenger service. (S)(F)

91. 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)
92. Increased services for homeless veterans. (S)(F)
93. Continued recognition of out-of-state marriages and recognition of out-of state civil unions. (S) (F)
94. A law and funding for developing policies and procedures for various types of emergencies in schools and public buildings. (S)
95. Major reform of mandatory sentencing laws. (S)(F)
96. Expansion of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act to include offenses based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. (F)
97. Iowa's continued refusal to impose the death penalty. (S)
98. Restoring voting rights to felons upon completion of their sentence and conclusion of parole or probation. (S)
99. Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit. (S)
100. A fair and independent judiciary. (S)(F)
101. Diversion of mentally ill offenders into appropriate treatment programs and institutions instead of imprisonment. (S)
102. An increase in well-funded community substance abuse treatment programs instead of imprisonment. (S)
103. Increased funding for correctional treatment programs, including drug courts. (S)

104. Funding for the IA Department of Corrections to open community residential facilities for probation violators and re-entry of parolees. (S)
105. Assessment of a fee on all trades made on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).(F)
106. Taxing each transaction on the various stock exchanges by a very small amount.
107. The addition of a provision in the Iowa Constitution for recalling elected officials. (S)
108. Internet freedom and net neutrality and are against SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect Internet Protocol Act). (F)
109. Public services remaining in the public domain. (S)(F)
110. The Federal Estate tax as now written. (F)
111. Provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) designed to expand the role of federal defense in community policing programs. (F)
112. A call for Governor Branstad to denounce his relationship with ALEC. (American Legislative Exchange Council)(S)
113. Raising postal rates for high volume bulk business mail. (F)
114. Policies reversed that require the Postal Service to pay 75 years into the future for employees benefits. (F)
115. Refunding over-payments by the USPS.(F)

We oppose:

116. Tort reform that would limit a victim's compensation. (S)(F)

- 117. Additional casinos in Iowa. (S)
- 118. Constitutional Amendments to define marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. (F) (S)

E. Health Care

We support:

- 119. A universal single-payer health insurance system. (F)
- 120. Making family planning and contraceptives affordable and available to all people. (F)(S)
- 121. Patients' access to prescribed medical marijuana. (F) (S)
- 122. Equitable funding of Medicare and Medicaid. (F)
- 123. The nation-wide elimination of prescription drug advertising. (F)
- 124. Medicare negotiations for lower prescription drug costs. (F)
- 125. The State of Iowa negotiating with manufacturers to obtain lowest prices on prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients. (S)
- 126. A ban on pharmaceutical companies giving personal financial benefits to health care professionals. (F)
- 127. Full access to a health provider's professional history. (F)
- 128. Protecting the pulmonary health of rural residents by requiring increased distances between them and CAFOs. (S)

129. Fighting global poverty and disease. (F)

130. Requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives prescribed by medical Professionals. (F)

131. Requiring pharmacists to fill all prescriptions, including contraceptives. (F)

132. Increased Title 19 funding to reimburse medical professionals. (F)

133. Health care policies that include coverage of the mental/psychological health needs of all individuals. (F)

134. Alternatives to placing sex offenders in care facilities. (S)

We oppose:

135. Any efforts to privatize Medicare. (F)

F. International Affairs

We Support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

144. United States' even handedness in conflict and international affairs.

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

146. Closing Guantanamo Bay prison. (F)

We Oppose:

147. Continued funding of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation (AKA, School of the Americas). (F)

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

149. Fast track authority. (F)

150. Trade pacts that do not guarantee fairness to the American worker.