

BLACK HAWK COUNTY DEMOCRATS

2018 Platform

Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain

(Iowa State Motto)

PREAMBLE

We envision a truly free, democratic and just society where we: 1) come together and solve our problems by consensus; 2) take personal and collective responsibility for civic involvement, and participation in decision-making; 3) learn to live in harmony and embrace the principles of tolerance and respect for diversity and differing views; 4) secure the labor, civil, economic, and human rights of all from violation; 5) ensure that political, economic, and judicial institutions serve all; 6) provide full and affordable education to everyone, not merely to get meaningful jobs, but to grow and flourish as human beings; 7) value human needs and a standard of living necessary for effective democracy and a healthy society; and 8) work together to protect, preserve, and restore the global environment to ensure that present and future generations will have safe and clean air, water and, food supplies, and will be able to benefit from the beauty and bounty of nature that past generations have enjoyed.

We believe the Democratic Party should promote progressive government that serves all the people consistently and fairly, irrespective of age, race, gender, disability, religion, national origin, native language, sexual orientation, income level, marital status, non-religion or lack of religion or geographic residence. We safeguard our country, our democracy, our rights and our basic human dignity. We support strengthening individuals and families by increasing opportunities for all. We strive for viable, safe, secure and livable communities without sacrificing our liberties. In addition, we expect accountability and transparency in government at every level.

We are concerned with issues of local, state, national and international impact. We desire policies that address a range of issues including the environment, our economy, education, health and human services, government, and international affairs. We are committed to platform planks that represent the concerns expressed by fellow citizens who attended Black Hawk County Democratic Caucuses. We believe that this platform reflects the heritage of our Party; and it demonstrates our commitment to combining the accomplishments of our past with

the ideas of the present to realize our dreams for the future. We further believe these planks serve as a guide for our elected and appointed officials.

I. AGRICULTURE, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture

We Support:

- A. Preservation of family farms, organic farming, crop diversification, agriculture-based jobs, and local food systems.
- B. Clear labeling of food origin, irradiation, genetically engineered foods (GMO), antibiotics and hormones.
- C. Cultivation and processing of industrial hemp.
- D. Protecting pollinators by banning neonicotinoid pesticides.
- E. Moratorium on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) construction and/or expansion.
- F. Local control of CAFO sitings; and elimination of tax exemptions for CAFO facilities, taxing CAFO buildings at commercial rates.
- G. Humane treatment of animals in CAFOs; reducing antibiotic and growth hormone use.
- H. Aid to beginning and small farmers.
- I. Enforcement of laws to prevent animal abuse, including pet breeding operations.

Energy

We Support:

- J. Developing a smart transmission system for Iowa power.
- K. Retain subsidies for renewable energy (RE), wind, solar, and geothermal; including the windmill tax credit.
- L. Development of alternative bio-fuels, beyond corn or soybeans.
- M. Renewable energy standards (RES) requiring all utilities in Iowa to produce or purchase 50% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025.
- N. Net-metering and feed-in tariff for all utilities, including REC and Municipal.

- O. Maintaining Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all vehicles.
- P. Promoting electric vehicles and charging stations.
- Q. Researching new energy sources.
- R. Geothermal Energy in new construction.

Environment

We Support:

- S. Methods to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere to below 350 parts per million (ppm).
- T. Increased funding for Nutrient-Reduction Strategies, mandating participation, and establishing numerical standards.
- U. Assessing industrial & agricultural polluters for costs of environmental cleanup.
- V. Incentives to developers, contractors, and individuals to build “green” carbon-neutral buildings.
- W. EPA setting limits on the amount of hydrogen sulfide and ammonia emitted.
- X. Designating the Iowa Loess Hills as a state preserve.
- Y. Smart Growth policies for urban development.
- Z. Regulations to measure, publicly post, and reduce the amount of phosphorus, mercury, and nitrates in Iowa’s soil and water.
- AA. Funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation trust fund.
- BB. Full funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP).
- CC. Reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics, electronics, and batteries.
- DD. Increasing the bottle deposit to ten cents, including all beverage cans and bottles, and increasing the redemption fee for recycling centers.
- EE. Banning lead shot and lead tackle.
- FF. Adding “Protection of the Environment” to the Iowa Constitution

We Oppose:

- GG. Large-scale vertical integration of livestock production and marketing.
- HH. The “Ag-Gag” bill
- II. Use of 2,4-D resistant corn and soy seeds
- JJ. Growing pharmaceutical GMOs in open fields
- KK. Deep water and arctic oil drilling
- LL. Construction of pipelines that transport tar sand oil
- MM. Fracking for oil and gas extraction
- NN. Depositing coal ash and industrial waste in unlined and unmonitored fill sites
- OO. Subsidies for fossil fuels.

II. ECONOMY, COMMERCE & LABOR

We Support:

- A. Tax policies and/or subsidies for small businesses that maintain the social contract with their employees including: livable wages, reasonable benefits and pensions and safe work places.
- B. Positive “fair trade” policy and enforcement which protects workers’ rights and the environment worldwide.
- C. Pension portability and efforts to protect and preserve workers’ pensions and health care benefits.
- D. Fully funding Iowa Public Employment Retirement System (IPERS), the Favorable Experience Dividend (FED), and the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa to maintain their long-term financial health.
- E. A \$15 minimum wage by 2024, indexed thereafter based on COLA.
- F. Allowing Iowa workers who are injured on the job to choose their own licensed medical care provider.
- G. The objectives and rigorous enforcement of comprehensive Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) standards.
- H. The federal Employee Free Choice Act.
- I. State Prevailing Wage Law; expanding the Davis Bacon Act.

- J. Restore pre-2017 status of collective bargaining rights for all public employees.
- K. Repealing Right to Work.
- L. A statewide health insurance program for public employees.
- M. Continuation of unemployment benefits beyond 26 weeks.
- N. Providing unemployment benefits for Education Support Personnel (ESP).
- O. Expansion and enforcement of laws to prohibit predatory lending.
- P. Manufacturing U.S. military supplies primarily in the United States.
- Q. Rebuilding America's infrastructure with a Works Progress Administration (WPA) type program.
- R. Expanding public transportation and prioritizing federally funded high-speed rail.
- S. Keeping manufacturing and jobs in the U.S.
- T. Reenacting Glass-Steagall Act.
- U. Restoring and enforcing Dodd-Frank Act.
- V. Providing assistance and incentives for stateside U.S. businesses to invest in factory start up, job training and job placement.
- W. Cost-conscious wealth creation and economic growth in blighted communities.
- X. Strengthening inner-city neighborhoods by encouraging investment through tax breaks.
- Y. Legislation comparable to Restore the American Dream for the 99% Act.
- Z. Equal pay for equal work including women and minorities.
- AA. Increased funding for public radio and television.
- BB. Improving local and state transportation systems (bus and rail).
- CC. Improving existing highways instead of building new.
- DD. Construction and maintenance of any nuclear power plants in Iowa be performed by union workers.
- EE. Penalizing companies that move operations outside the United States.

- FF. Wage Theft Investigators by IWD with full funding and increasing fines and penalties for violations.
- GG. Paid maternity, paternity, and family leave.
- HH. Reinstate Pre-2017 status Net Neutrality.
- II. Technology consumer protection policies.
- JJ. Uniform Law Commission Uniform Regulation of Virtual Currency Businesses Act.

We Oppose:

- KK. Tax cuts undermining the ability of governments to provide essential services or which increase deficits or reduce progressiveness of the income tax system.
- LL. U.S. companies establishing factories in foreign countries to access cheap labor, to avoid U.S. income taxes, environmental protection or fair labor standards.
- MM. Tax cuts for the wealthy contributing to massive deficits.
- NN. “Trickle-down” economics.
- OO. Privatizing public sector services.
- PP. Eroding overtime pay protections.
- QQ. Eroding injured workers’ rights in the name of “economic development”, “regulatory reform” or “tort reform.”
- RR. National “right to work” laws.
- SS. Increasing taxes on credit unions.
- TT. Immunity for telecommunications companies and other parties violating privacy laws.
- UU. Corporate consolidation of news organizations.
- VV. Trade Promotional Authority, known as “fast track”.
- WW. Secretive, undemocratic trade agreements.

- XX. Public employers removing Permissive Subjects of Bargaining in collective bargaining agreements.
- YY. We oppose implementing dual purpose public safety officers instead of separate police and fire positions.

III. EDUCATION

We Support:

- A. Fully funding Early Head Start and Head Start for all defined and qualified at-risk children.
- B. Ample funding for:
 - 1. Public schools, area education agencies, community colleges, trade schools and public universities.
 - 2. Public pre-schools and early childhood programs beginning at birth.
 - 3. Special education and school services for students with disabilities.
 - 4. Support and integration of students learning English as an additional language
 - 5. Federal TRIO and Upward Bound educational programs.
 - 6. The arts in K-12 education.
 - 7. Public libraries.
- C. Increased state funding ratio for the University of Northern Iowa.
- D. Fully funding adult education in prisons.
- E. Reducing tuition and other educational costs for students attending public post-secondary education.
- F. Two years of tuition-free public post-secondary education.
- G. Expanding the Pell Grant Program and tuition assistance grant programs.
- H. Expansion of and increased funding for secondary educational programs that provide internship opportunities.
- I. Raising Iowa teachers' salaries to be nationally competitive.
- J. Multicultural education integrated in Pre-K-12 public schools.

- K. A requirement for licensed school guidance counselors, media specialists, and registered nurses in all public schools.
- L. Applying research-based best practices in organizing and delivering student instruction.
- M. Reducing K-12 class sizes based on evidence-based research.
- N. Early recognition of and intervention with students at-risk of violent and aggressive behavior.
- O. Trauma-informed professional development to support people from birth to grade 12.
- P. Multiple interventions, services, and assessments to support and report student learning in Pre-K-12 education, including decisions regarding retention and graduation.
- Q. High curriculum, assessment, and attendance standards for home school, on-line, and for-profit instructors.
- R. Title IX and its enforcement.
- S. Full repeal of the Solomon amendment.
- T. Including the study of non-English languages in pre-school, elementary, and secondary curricula.
- U. Age appropriate financial planning and career education for all students.
- V. Teaching of the sciences in the public school curriculum based on a foundation of scientific knowledge.
- W. High schools in Iowa creating philosophy programs and classes.

We Oppose:

- X. State and federal funding of abstinence-only sex education.
- Y. Diverting public monies away from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits, educational savings accounts, private or for-profit educational businesses.
- Z. Standardized tests as the sole and/or mandatory criteria for grade retention in public school.
- AA. Mandated high stakes testing to evaluate students, teachers, and schools.

IV. GOVERNMENT & LAW

We Support:

- A. Improving homeland security without eroding civil liberties.
- B. Repealing “USA PATRIOT Act”
- C. Increasing Legal Aid and Public Defenders Office funding.
- D. Diversion of mentally ill and addicted offenders into appropriate treatment programs.
- E. Funding reentry programs for offenders, employer tax credits and employment bonding programs.
- F. Voting rights for all persons.
- G. Reinstating government benefits for offenders re-entering society.
- H. “Banning the Box” on job/housing/education applications.
- I. Banning capital punishment.
- J. Funding for expansion of drug, mental health and family courts.
- K. Eliminating racial disparity in the criminal justice system.
- L. Repealing mandatory sentences, including mandatory minimums.
- M. Fully funding IA Department of Corrections.
- N. Iowa’s system of selecting judges on merit.
- O. Improving standards of pre-trial detention, affirming only flight to avoid prosecution and/or danger to the community.
- P. Prohibiting unrelated riders to Congressional Bills.
- Q. Enforcing strict rules governing the practices of lobbyists.
- R. Establishing a comprehensive immigration policy that:
 - a. provides an expeditious system of legal entry
 - b. prioritizes reunification of immediate families and response to persecution or humanitarian crisis
 - c. provides requirements to earn legal status for those out of status

- d. provides an up-to-date electronic identification system for employers verifying employee citizenship or immigration status with penalties for employers who violate the law.
- S. Passage of the DREAM Act.
- T. Full appropriation for government mandated programs.
- U. Reforming Tax Increment Financing (TIF) laws.
- V. Open and competitive bidding and full disclosure in government contracting.
- W. Limiting Eminent Domain to public projects demonstrated to be for the public use and good with adequate due process.
- X. A progressive Tax Code.
- Y. Taxing all stock market transactions.
- Z. Enforcement of anti-discrimination in health care, housing, and home ownership.
- AA. Increasing funding for Iowa's emergency assistance programs (EAPs).
- BB. Fully funding the Job Access Reverse Commute Program.
- CC. Gender equity in the military.
- DD. Using the discretionary portion of the Pentagon budget for the benefit of Veterans.
- EE. Reducing the federal military budget and expenditures.
- FF. Preservation of Roe v. Wade.
- GG. Reintroduction of the ERA, continuation of Affirmative Action, and enforcement of the ADA.
- HH. Defending equal rights of all persons without regard to sexual orientation or gender identification, including civil marriage.
- II. Congressional voting representation for D.C. and all U.S. territories.
- JJ. Impartial Congressional redistricting.
- KK. A U.S. Constitutional Amendment defining a "person" to mean a "human being," not a corporation, reversing Citizens United, and clarifying money is not speech.

- LL. Publicly funded election campaigns, and campaign finance reform, limiting campaign expenditures.
- MM. Providing for timely public disclosure of all contributions to any candidate or issue campaign or PAC from any source.
- NN. Same day registration and a verifiable paper trail for each vote cast.
- OO. 14-day waiting period, background checks for all weapons sales, closing the Gun Show loophole, and banning assault weapons, bump stocks and expanded magazines.
- PP. Requiring gun owners to carry liability insurance.
- QQ. Postal Banking by the USPS.
- RR. That Civil rights apply to all, including all faiths and Black Lives Matter.
- SS. Elimination of corruption, excessive force, brutality and racial profiling by law enforcement through sufficient training and public accountability.
- TT. Eliminating the cap for Social Security contributions.
- UU. Attacks on abortion clinics being considered terrorist attacks.
- VV. Driver licenses for undocumented immigrants.
- WW. Replacing the Voters' Rights Act of 1965 with a formal amendment to the United States Constitution.
- XX. Legalizing recreational marijuana use.
- YY. Expanding legislative action on medical marijuana.
- ZZ. Fiscal transparency at all levels of the party.
- AAA. Equal financial opportunity from the Democratic Party for all primary candidates.

We oppose:

- BBB. All acts of voter suppression.
- CCC. Predatory lending and excessive interest on pay day loans.
- DDD. Using unelected super delegates in the process of choosing our nominee.
- EEE. For-profit jails.

FFF. Federal/State tax income tax cuts that give benefits to one group of citizens over others.

GGG. Erosion of the ADA

HHH. Iowa's "Stand-your-ground" law.

V. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

We Support:

- A. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid as national programs, with cost of living increases for Social Security and disability benefits.
- B. The ACA and expanding it to Universal Healthcare.
- C. Research, including stem cell research, partnerships for medical advances, and incentives for providers to invest in programs to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of care for those with chronic diseases and terminal illnesses.
- D. Empowering individuals through education and preventive care to actively manage and improve their health.
- E. Equipping employers with information, incentives and assistance to improve workforce wellness.
- F. Healthcare coverage for all children, and funding for CHIP (HAWK-I).
- G. Engaging families, schools, and communities in combating childhood obesity.
- H. Funding scholarships, grants, forgivable loans and other programs addressing shortages of medical and mental health professionals in Iowa.
- I. Making Iowa nurses and healthcare workers' salaries nationally competitive.
- J. Negotiating lower drug prices for all.
- K. Fully funding and removing any cap on Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Redesign, with increased funding for home health and waiver services.
- L. Increased funding and oversight for the Department of Human Services to protect children and dependent adults from abuse and neglect.

- M. Funding for immediate physical and behavioral health assessments and ongoing physical and behavioral healthcare for all inmates and persons in jail diversion programs.
- N. Increasing access to birth control, a woman's right to control healthcare decisions, including abortion, and appropriations and facilities to make this possible.
- O. Regulating nicotine products by the FDA as a drug.
- P. Decriminalizing possession of controlled substances and providing treatment to those addicted to these substances.
- Q. Whole plant and CBD medical cannabis for treatment of all applicable medical conditions.
- R. Strengthening laws protecting victims and dependents from domestic violence; full funding for programs to prevent sexual violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, and to assist victims; and measures to ensure that federal monies collected under the Victims of Crime Act reach victims.
- S. Providing food, shelter and healthcare for people impacted by national disasters, with resources allocated promptly and fairly.
- T. Paid sick leave for all workers, including for childcare, dependent care, and other caregiver supports.
- U. Increasing funding for childcare, dependent care, and other caregiver supports.
- V. Immunizations for entry to any public or private schools that receive federal funds, including home schoolers who participate in school activities.
- W. Research-based sexual education in schools.
- X. "Death with Dignity Act".
- Y. Designating EMS as an essential service for the state of Iowa.
- Z. Increasing capacity of mental health facilities with adequate funding and staffing, and a statewide real-time database of available psychiatric beds.
- AA. Require insurance companies cover holistic, alternative therapies for pain management.
- BB. Adopting the 5 legislative priorities of NAMI

- CC. Funding to the CDC for research on preventing gun violence.
- DD. Bullying prevention
- EE. Funding for research, prevention and treatment to address the opioid epidemic, expand the Good Samaritan Law, and increased availability of Naloxone.
- FF. Requiring any prescription ordered by a physician be covered by insurance and filled by the pharmacist.

We Oppose:

- GG. Privatizing, undermining, or cutting Social Security benefits of current and future recipients.
- HH. Voucher program for funding Medicare.
- II. Block grants for funding Medicaid.
- JJ. Unequal health insurance premiums based on gender and age.
- KK. Diversion of surplus FICA funds into the General Fund.

VI. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We Support:

- A. All international efforts to end genocide, gender violence, and human rights violations.
- B. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Geneva Conventions.
- C. Escrowing aid to Israel until it stops further building of settlements and recognizes a contiguous, viable Palestinian state, with UN membership.
- D. U.S. leadership in the Paris Climate Agreement.
- E. U.S. leadership to reduce nuclear stockpiles.
- F. Complete and timely U.S. participation in the United Nations system and full payment of assessments and voluntary contributions on time and without reservation.
- G. U.N. Sustainable Development Goals – expanding the Millennium Development Goals by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

- H. Full implementation of the U.S. Action Plan on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- I. Ratification of and full participation in the:
 - a. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
 - b. Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - c. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - d. Rome Statute creating the International Criminal Court
 - e. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
 - f. Biological Weapons Convention Protocol
 - g. Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines
 - h. Convention on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons
 - i. Cluster Munitions Treaty
 - j. Convention on the Law of the Sea
 - k. Arms Trade Treaty
 - l. Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture
 - m. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- J. Immediate closure of all U.S. prisons in foreign nations including the one at the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- K. Normalizing relations with Cuba.
- L. Concluding U.S. military participation in Afghanistan
- M. Providing appropriate assistance for returning troops.
- N. Reducing U.S. military bases abroad.
- O. Taxes and tariffs on imports from any country equal to what it imposes on U.S. products.
- P. Payments to UNESCO
- Q. Increasing financial support for UN Commissioner for Refugees, WFP, and UNICEF.

R. Right of just compensation for displaced peoples.

S. Equal human rights for Palestinians and Israelis

We Oppose:

T. U.S. military action against any sovereign nation without a treaty obligation or a constitutional declaration of war.

U. Torture by any entity or contractor representing the U.S.

V. Continued operation of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas).

W. Additional sanctions against Iran.

X. The Israel Separation Barrier.

Y. Israeli settlement activities.