

# **BLACK HAWK COUNTY DEMOCRATS**

## **2022 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) 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 all for meaningful jobs, growth, and flourishing as human beings; 7) value individual human needs with a standard of living necessary for a healthy society; and 8) work to protect and preserve the global environment, ensuring present and future generations will have safe, clean air, water and food supplies, and benefit from the beauty of nature afforded to past generations.

We believe the Democratic Party should promote progressive government that serves all the people consistently and fairly, irrespective of age, race, national origin, native language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or lack thereof, income level, marital status, 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, nurturing and thriving communities while protecting our liberties. We require 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, as 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 and aid of family, organic, beginning farms, 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 and ensuring CAFO sites are taxed at commercial rates while enforcing humane treatment of animals and reduction of antibiotics and hormones.
- G. Enforcement of laws preventing animal abuse, including pet breeding operations.

### **Energy**

#### ***We Support:***

- H. Developing a smart transmission system for Iowa power.
- I. Development of alternative biofuels, beyond corn or soybeans.
- J. Renewable energy standards (RES) requiring all utilities in Iowa to produce or purchase 75% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025.
- K. Net-metering and feed-in tariff for all utilities, including REC and Municipal.
- L. Maintaining Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all vehicles.
- M. Promoting electric vehicles and charging stations.
- N. Researching new energy sources and storage technologies.
- O. Geothermal Energy in new construction.

## **Environment**

### ***We Support:***

- P. Methods to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere to below 350 parts per million (ppm).
- Q. Increased funding for Nutrient-Reduction Strategies, mandating participation, and establishing numerical standards.
- R. Assessing industrial and agricultural polluters for costs of environmental cleanup.
- S. Incentives to developers, contractors, and individuals to build “green” carbon-neutral buildings.
- T. EPA setting limits on the amount of hydrogen sulfide/ammonia emitted.
- U. Expanding and enforcing protections for state preserves such as the Iowa Loess Hills.
- V. Smart Growth policies for urban development.
- W. Supporting water quality improvements and regulations with clear goals and benchmarks as well as testing and reporting to achieve the goals.
- X. Funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation trust fund.
- Y. Full funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP).
- Z. Reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics, electronics, and batteries.
- AA. Increasing the bottle deposit to ten cents while including all beverages and increase recycling centers redemption fee.
- BB. Banning lead shot/tackle.
- CC. Remain in and adhere to the Paris Accords.
- DD. Strengthening the EPA while stopping the rollback of their policies.
- EE. Adding “Protection of the Environment” to the Iowa Constitution.

### ***We Oppose:***

- FF. Large-scale vertical integration of livestock production and marketing.

- GG. The “Ag-Gag” bill.
- HH. Use of 2,4-D resistant corn and soy seeds.
- II. Growing pharmaceutical GMOs in open fields.
- JJ. Deep water and arctic oil drilling.
- KK. Construction of pipelines that transport tar sand oil.
- LL. Fracking for oil and gas extraction.
- MM. Depositing coal ash and industrial waste in unlined and unmonitored fill sites.
- NN. 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 workplaces.
- B. Positive “fair trade” policy and enforcement which protects workers’ rights and the environment.
- C. Pension portability, and protection and preservation of pensions and health care benefits.
- D. Fully funding Iowa Public Employment Retirement System (IPERS) and the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa maintaining 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 Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act).
- I. State Prevailing Wage Law; expanding the Davis Bacon Act.
- J. Restoring 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 USA.
- Q. Full funding of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).
- R. Improve federal, state and local transportation systems, expanding public transportation options including bus and rail.

- S. Keeping manufacturing and jobs in the U.S.
- T. Reenacting Glass-Steagall Act.
- U. Restoring and enforcing the 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 urban cores by encouraging investment through economic incentives.
- Y. Favorable policies for small community credit unions and community banks.
- Z. Equal pay for equal work including disabled persons, women and minorities.
- AA. Increased funding for public radio and television.
- BB. Equal taxation on labor and capital including dividends, capital gains, carried interest and other passive income.
- CC. Improving existing vertical and horizontal infrastructure over building new.
- DD. Construction and maintenance of nuclear power plants in Iowa be performed by union workers.
- EE. Penalizing companies moving operations outside the United States.
- FF. Wage Theft Investigators by IWD with full funding and increasing penalties for violations.
- GG. Reinstate Pre-2017 status Net Neutrality.
- HH. Technology consumer protection policies.
- II. Uniform Regulation of Virtual Currency Businesses Act.
- JJ. Implementation of Fair Share.

***We Oppose:***

- KK. Tax cuts that undermine the ability of governments to provide essential services, increase deficits, or reduce the progressive income tax system.

- LL. U.S. companies establishing factories in foreign countries to access cheap labor or to avoid income taxes, environmental protection or fair labor standards.
- MM. Tax cuts for the extremely wealthy individuals and corporations 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. Immunity for telecommunications companies and other parties violating privacy laws.
- TT. Corporate consolidation of news organizations.
- UU. Trade Promotional Authority, known as “fast track”.
- VV. Secretive, undemocratic trade agreements.
- WW. Public employers removing Permissive Subjects of Bargaining in collective bargaining agreements.

### III. EDUCATION

#### *We Support:*

- A. Fully funding:
  - 1. Early Head Start and Head Start for all defined and qualified at-risk children.
  - 2. Adult education in prisons.
- B. Prioritize substantial funding:
  - 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 English Language Learner students.
  - 5. Federal TRiO and Upward Bound educational programs.
  - 6. The arts, visual arts and music in K-12 education.
  - 7. Public libraries.
- C. Increased state funding ratio for the University of Northern Iowa.
- D. Reducing tuition and other educational costs for students attending public post-secondary education.
- E. Two years of tuition-free public post-secondary education.
- F. Expanding the Pell Grant Program and tuition assistance grant programs.
- G. Expansion of and increased funding for secondary educational programs that provide internship opportunities.
- H. Raising Iowa teachers' salaries to be nationally competitive.
- I. Multicultural education integrated in Pre-K-12 public schools.
- J. A requirement for licensed guidance counselors, media specialists, registered nurses, and content-certified teachers in all public schools.
- K. Applying research-based and teacher experience-based best practices in organizing and delivering student instruction.
- L. Reducing K-12 class sizes based on evidence-based research.

- M. Staff training, counselor or other specialist leadership, and early recognition of and intervention with students:
  - 1. At-risk of violent and aggressive behavior.
  - 2. Suffering from trauma.
  - 3. At-risk of grade retention or failure to graduate.
- N. Equally accountable curriculum, assessment, and attendance standards for home school, on-line, and for-profit instructors.
- O. Non-discrimination, diversity, and equality efforts in public schools based on protected classes and Title IX enforcement.
- P. Repealing the Solomon amendment.
- Q. Including the study of non-English languages in pre-school, elementary, and secondary curricula.
- R. Age-appropriate financial planning and career education for all students.
- S. Teaching the sciences in the public-school curriculum based on a foundation of scientific knowledge.
- T. Iowa high schools creating philosophy programs and classes.
- U. Whole-child wellness, including healthy, low-processed meals and nutrition education.

***We Oppose:***

- V. State and federal funding of abstinence-only sex education.
- W. Diverting public monies away from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits, educational savings accounts, private or for-profit educational businesses.
- X. Standardized tests as the sole and/or mandatory criteria for grade retention in public schools.
- Y. 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 formerly incarcerated persons.
- G. Reinstating 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 criminal justice systems.
- L. Repealing mandatory sentences, including mandatory minimums.
- M. Fully funding IA Department of Corrections.
- N. Selecting Iowa’s judges on merit.
- O. Improving standards of pre-trial detention.
- P. Prohibiting unrelated riders to Congressional Bills.
- Q. Enforcing strict rules governing lobbyists.
- R. Establishing a comprehensive immigration policy that:
  - 1. Expedites legal entry.
  - 2. Prioritizes reunification of families and response to persecution or humanitarian crisis.
  - 3. Provides requirements to earn legal status.
  - 4. Provides an up-to-date identification system verifying employee citizenship or immigration status with penalties for employers who violate the law.

5. Provides more paths to citizenship.
  6. Closes detention/retention camps.
- S. Passage of the DREAM Act.
  - T. Full appropriation for government-mandated programs.
  - U. Reforming TIF laws.
  - V. Open, competitive bidding and full disclosure in government contracting.
  - W. Limiting Eminent Domain to public projects for the public use and good with adequate due process.
  - X. Progressive Tax Codes.
  - Y. Enforcement of anti-discrimination in health care, housing, and home ownership.
  - Z. Increasing funding for Iowa's emergency assistance programs.
  - AA. Fully funding the Job Access Reverse Commute Program.
  - BB. Gender equity in the military.
  - CC. Using discretionary Pentagon funds to benefit Veterans.
  - DD. Reducing military budget and expenditures.
  - EE. Preservation of Roe v. Wade.
  - FF. Publishing ERA in the Constitution, continuation of Affirmative Action, and enforcement and expansion of the ADA.
  - GG. Defending equal rights of all persons without regard to sexual orientation or gender identification, including civil marriage.
  - HH. Congressional voting representation for D.C. and U.S. territories.
  - II. Impartial Congressional redistricting.
  - JJ. A Constitutional Amendment defining a "person" to mean a "human being," not a corporation, reversing Citizens United, and clarifying money is not speech.
  - KK. Publicly funded election campaigns, and campaign finance reform, limiting campaign expenditures.
  - LL. Providing for timely public disclosure of all contributions for any candidate, issue, or PAC from any source.

- MM. Same day registration and a verifiable paper trail for each vote cast.
  - NN. 14-day waiting period, background checks for firearms sales, closing the Gun Show loophole, and banning assault weapons, bump stocks and expanded magazines.
  - OO. Requiring gun owners to carry liability insurance.
  - PP. Postal Banking by the USPS.
  - QQ. Ensuring Civil rights apply to all, including all faiths and Black Lives Matter.
  - RR. Elimination of corruption, excessive force, brutality and racial profiling by law enforcement through sufficient training and public accountability.
  - SS. Eliminating the cap for Social Security contributions.
  - TT. Considering attacks on abortion clinics as terrorist attacks.
  - UU. Driver licenses for undocumented immigrants.
  - VV. Replacing the Voters' Rights Act of 1965 with a formal amendment to the Constitution.
  - WW. Legalizing recreational marijuana use.
  - XX. Separation of church and state.
  - YY. Fiscal transparency at all levels of the party.
  - ZZ. Equal financial opportunity from the party for all primary candidates.
  - AAA. Term limits for US Senate and Congress.
  - BBB. Ranked-choice voting.
  - CCC. Investigation and prosecution of executive branch officials who violate the law.
- We oppose:***
- DDD. Acts of voter suppression.
  - EEE. Predatory lending and excessive interest on payday loans.
  - FFF. Using superdelegates in the process of choosing nominees.
  - GGG. For-profit jails.
  - HHH. Iowa's "Stand-your-ground" law.
  - III. Privatization of USPS.

JJJ. White Christian Nationalism.

## 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 investment 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 and weight levels.
- E. Employer workforce wellness programs.
- F. Healthcare coverage for all children, and funding for CHIP (HAWK-I).
- G. Funding scholarships, grants, forgivable loans and other incentive programs that address shortages of medical and mental health professionals in Iowa.
- H. Making Iowa nurses and healthcare workers' salaries nationally competitive.
- I. Negotiating lower drug prices for all.
- J. Fully funding and removing any cap on Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Redesign, with increased funding for home health and waiver services.
- K. Increased funding and oversight for the IDHS to protect children and dependent adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- L. Funding for immediate physical and behavioral health assessments and ongoing physical and behavioral healthcare for all inmates and persons in jail diversion programs.
- M. Increasing access to birth control, a woman's right to control healthcare decisions, including abortion, and appropriations and facilities to make this possible.
- N. Regulating nicotine products by the FDA as a drug.
- O. Provide treatment to those addicted to controlled substances.
- P. Whole plant and CBD medical cannabis for treatment of all applicable medical conditions.

- Q. Strengthening laws protecting and assisting victims and dependents from domestic violence; fully funding programs to prevent sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking; and ensuring federal monies collected under the Victims of Crime Act reach victims expeditiously.
- R. Prompt, fair provision of food, shelter and healthcare for people impacted by natural disasters.
- S. Paid sick leave for all workers, including childcare, dependent care, and other caregiver supports.
- T. Increasing funding for childcare, dependent care, and other caregiver supports and increasing licensed staff ratios.
- U. Immunizations for entry to any public or private schools that receive federal funds, including home schoolers who participate in school activities.
- V. Research-based sexual education in schools.
- W. Death with dignity laws.
- X. Designating EMS as an essential service for Iowa.
- Y. Increasing capacity, funding and staffing of mental health facilities/services and a statewide real-time database of available psychiatric beds.
- Z. Require insurance companies cover holistic, alternative therapies for pain management.
- AA. Adopting the legislative priorities of NAMI.
- BB. CDC research funding on preventing gun violence.
- CC. Bullying prevention.
- DD. Funding research, prevention, and treatment of the opioid epidemic, expand the Good Samaritan Law, and increased availability of Naloxone.
- EE. Requiring any prescription ordered by a physician be covered by insurance and filled by the pharmacist.
- FF. Ensuring safe and appropriate health care for LGBTQ+ community.
- GG. Funding to identify people with high numbers of Adverse Childhood Events and provide targeted services.
- HH. Creating affordable universal design, ADA-compliant housing options for the disabled population through builder incentives.

II. Strengthen immunization laws to eliminate gaps in regulations.

***We Oppose:***

JJ. Privatizing, undermining, or cutting Social Security benefits of current and future recipients.

KK. Funding voucher programs and block grants for Medicare/Medicaid.

LL. Unequal health insurance premiums based on gender and age.

MM. 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.
- 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:
  - 1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
  - 2. Convention on the Rights of the Child.
  - 3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
  - 4. Rome Statute creating the International Criminal Court.
  - 5. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
  - 6. Biological Weapons Convention Protocol.
  - 7. Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines.
  - 8. Convention on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons.
  - 9. Cluster Munitions Treaty.
  - 10. Convention on the Law of the Sea.
  - 11. Arms Trade Treaty.
  - 12. Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture.

13. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- J. Immediate closure of all U.S. prisons in foreign nations including Guantanamo Naval Base.
  - 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. The rights of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
  - T. Equal human rights for Palestinians and Israelis.
  - U. Taiwanese independence and democracy.

***We Oppose:***

- V. U.S. military action against any sovereign nation without a treaty obligation or a constitutional declaration of war.
- W. Torture by any entity or contractor representing the U.S.
- X. Continued operation of WHINSEC (formerly School of the Americas).
- Y. Additional sanctions against Iran.
- Z. The Israel Separation Barrier.
- AA. Israeli settlement activities.

## **Glossary of Acronyms**

### **Agricultural, Energy, and Environment**

CAFE The Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards

CAFO Confined/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

GMOs Genetically Modified Organisms

PPM Parts Per Million

RE Renewable Energy

REAP Resource Enhancement and Protection

REC Rural Electric Cooperative

RES Renewable Energy Standards

### **Economy, Commerce, and Labor**

COLA Cost-of-Living Adjustment

ESP Educational Support Personnel

IPERS Iowa Public Employees Retirement System

IWD Iowa Workforce Development

MSHA Mine Safety and Health Administration

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PBGC Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

PRO ACT Protecting the Right to Organize Act

### **Education**

COLA Cost-of-Living Adjustment

IPERS Iowa Public Employees Retirement System

TRiO Includes eight programs targeted to special needs students and is not an acronym

## **Government & Law**

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

DC District of Columbia

DREAM ACT Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act

ERA Equal Rights Amendment

PAC Political Action Committee

TIF Tax increment financing

USA PATRIOT ACT Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001

USPS United States Postal Service

## **Health & Human Services**

(PP)ACA Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

CBD Cannabidiol

CDC Center for Disease Control and Prevention

CHIP Children's Health Insurance Program

EMS Emergency Medical Services

FDA Food and Drug Administration

FICA Federal Insurance Contributions Act

HAWK-I Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa

IDHS Iowa Department of Human Services

LGBTQ+ Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Plus Sign to recognize the limitless sexual orientations and gender identities used by members of the community

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness

**International Affairs**

BDS Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

UN United Nations

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WFP World Food Program

WHINSEC Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, a Department of Defense education facility