

1 **Platform Committee Report**

2
3 **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

4 Seldom has it been more necessary for us, as Democrats, to state who we are, what we
5 stand for, and what our vision is for the future of our country. We have learned that our
6 democracy is fragile and needs to be protected; our collective health has been threatened
7 and needs to be protected and our planet is suffering catastrophic consequences of
8 climate change and needs to be protected.

9 All Americans have a stake in local, state, national, and global economic and
10 governmental systems that provide first and foremost for basic human needs: safe
11 shelter, nourishment, health, education, and the right to achieve our highest self with
12 financial security and dignity. All individuals have value to society and these values should
13 be reflected in the budget.

14 Our respect for the earth should be demonstrated by our environmental policies and laws.
15 We must work together with all peoples of the world to develop policies and technologies
16 to protect our planet. We must address the inequities of climate change, whereby the
17 poorest are most affected by the devastation of climate change and pollution. Time is
18 running out to solve this problem which affects us all. We call for decisive action.

19 We believe in accessible, affordable, and high-quality education. Adequate funding,
20 accountability, innovation, and cost-effective programming are essential. We believe the
21 way to address the dark chapters of our history is not to whitewash them or, teach “both
22 sides”, or never mention them, but to develop further appropriate curriculums The best
23 approach to books that deal with challenging topics is not to remove them, but to welcome
24 their discussion. We cannot build a more equitable society if we cannot acknowledge the
25 evils of the past and learn from them.

26 The legitimate function of government is to accomplish social goals we cannot achieve
27 as individuals. We have both our rights and responsibilities which together give us our
28 freedoms. We will continue to work for a truly representative government which strives
29 to work for the good of the people; compassionately, progressively, responsibly, and
30 fairly.

31 We take seriously our obligation to preserve, protect, and secure our basic constitutional
32 and civil rights. We believe in equal opportunities and justice for all.

33 We believe in meaningful checks and balances among the legislative, judicial, and
34 executive branches of government. We insist on an orderly transfer of power,
35 unblemished by illegal activity, threat of insurrection, or unwarranted martial law. We
36 believe elections should be free, fair, and organized to promote, rather than restrict,
37 participation.

38 We stand with people everywhere who demand freedom, justice, opportunity, dignity, and
39 the free exchange of ideas. We acknowledge that not every successful government will

40 mirror ours, but we cannot support innocent people being crushed by authoritarian
41 regimes.

42 The Democratic Party welcomes all people. We will not always agree, but we will strive
43 to reach consensus. To this end, we present our statement of principles and platform.

44 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

45 US Agricultural Policy

46 **We support:**

47 Diversified agriculture that grows our rural communities and production/market
48 infrastructure

49 Programs promoting local food production and consumption

50 Restricting over-use of pesticides

51 Commercial hemp production

52 Small-scale farms

53 Encouraging new farmers, including those among traditionally underrepresented
54 demographics

55 Legal frameworks for collective farming

56 Facilitating easier entry into organic farming

57 Voluntary and mandatory soil conservation measures that reduce soil erosion and
58 nutrient loss

59 Livestock Management

60 **We support:**

61 Moratoriums on new or expanded CAFO's until Iowa has 100 or fewer impaired
62 waterways

63 Local control over the final approval/denial of CAFO's by the County Board of
64 Supervisors subject to statewide or stricter standards with notification to adjoining
65 residents upon application

66

67 Stronger enforcement, fines, and penalties for farm polluters including individuals and
68 all parties to production contracts

69 Master Matrix revisions to adequately protect communities and the environment

70 Integrated crop-livestock systems

71 **We oppose:**

72 Introducing recycled animal parts, manure, or bedding into animal feed

73 **Food Security and Safety**

74 **We support:**

75 Programs and policies to end food insecurity

76 Farm-to-school programs

77 Policies to alleviate food deserts

78 **Energy and Climate Change**

79 **We support:**

80 Declaring climate change a state of emergency

81 A long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit for clean energy producers

82 Locally-produced clean energy

83 Achieving net-zero GHG emissions and 100% clean energy by 2030

84 Incentivizing carbon sequestration through farming practices

85 Joining the US Climate Alliance

86 Funding research and development of nuclear energy

87 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (HR 763)

88 The Green New Deal

89 Closing of exemptions in the Renewable Fuel Standard for biofuel production

90 **Environmental Stewardship and Rural Livability**

91 **We support:**

92 Efforts to reduce the environmental impact of ethanol production

93 Strong enforcement of the Endangered Species Act

- 94 Statewide support for recycling/composting markets and systems
- 95 A statewide 3/8 cent sales tax to fund the Iowa Land & Legacy goals
- 96 Fully funding ISU's Leopold Center and Nutrient Reduction Center

97 **Planning and Zoning**

98 **We support:**

- 99 Sustainable development and redevelopment inside cities and towns
- 100 Prohibiting eminent domain for purely private/commercial uses
- 101 Requiring an appropriate bond for any hazardous materials pipeline
- 102 Requiring a minimum of four inches of topsoil be preserved at new construction sites

103 **We oppose:**

- 104
- 105 Off-shore drilling and public land fossil fuel extraction
- 106
- 107 Divesting public lands

108 **Watershed Management (includes soil erosion)**

109

110 **We support:**

- 111 Adopting approved farm-level water quality plans
- 112 Voluntary and mandatory measures to restore and preserve Iowa's waterways
- 113 Providing benchmarks and incentives to completely implement the Iowa Nutrient
- 114 Reduction Strategy
- 115 Enforcing clean water standards
- 116 Using diverse native vegetation in farm bill programs
- 117
- 118 Funding for urban and rural water quality monitoring

119 **Rural Quality of Life**

120

121 **We support:**

- 122 Increased penalties for abusing or neglecting animals
- 123 Greater regulation of companion animal breeders
- 124 Making veterinarians and support personnel mandatory reporters for animal abuse
- 125 Protecting state parks/monuments

126

127 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE, AND LABOR**

128 **Worker's Rights and Safety**

129

130 **We support:**

- 131 Workers right to choose providers for workplace injuries
- 132 The right of public and private workers to strike while maintaining essential services
- 133 Non-restroom workplace lactation rooms
- 134 Non-punitive paid family, medical, and parental leave
- 135 Stronger protections against wage theft and worker misclassification
- 136 Restricting employer access to their employee's internet presence
- 137 Full and comprehensive apprenticeships
- 138
- 139 Greater protection and increased compensation for Direct Care workers

140

141 **Unemployment**

142

143 **We Support:**

- 144 Immediate eligibility for unemployment benefits
- 145 Maintaining long term unemployment benefits and not requiring the unemployed to accept lower pay as a first option
- 146

147 **Economic Development**

148

149 **We support:**

- 150 Entrepreneurship, innovation and investing in lowans

- 151 Full disclosure of competing/conflicting interests in financial transactions
- 152 Increased enforcement and expansion of antitrust laws
- 153 Public infrastructure investment, not funded by budget cuts
- 154 Accountability for all public funds provided to corporations
- 155 State funds for local governments to construct fiber optic networks
- 156 Reliable fast, affordable internet and mobile device access to rural areas
- 157 Restoring local control of rent issues
- 158 Additional reform to prevent “too big to fail” again
- 159 More effective regulation and enforcement of financial speculation and high-frequency trading
- 160
- 161 Allowing governmental units, including the United States Postal Service to offer low cost
- 162 banking services
- 163 **Living Wage**
- 164 **We support:**
- 165 \$15/hour minimum wage, indexed yearly with CPI
- 166 A COLA for publicly funded retirement programs, making them fully retroactive over a 5
- 167 year
- 168 period
- 169 Repealing right to work laws
- 170 Strengthening IPERS
- 171 Restoring full collective bargaining rights for public employees
- 172 Expanding collective bargaining rights
- 173 All employees paying unions for benefits negotiated by the union
- 174 Gender and race pay equity
- 175 Tipped workers receiving full minimum wage
- 176 Prevailing wages on all projects receiving public funds

- 177 Increasing the earned income tax credit
- 178 Passing the Employee Free Choice Act
- 179 Project Labor Agreements
- 180 Legislation to increase union apprenticeship/membership
- 181 Raising the white collar overtime exemption to \$47,000 a year with 3 year adjustments
- 182 The rights of all Democratic Party staffers and interns to unionize
- 183 Universal Basic Income
- 184 The Pro Act

185 **Transportation Services**

- 186
- 187 **We support:**

188 Public and private investment for affordable mass transportation

189

190 **Budget and Taxation**

- 191
- 192 **We support:**

193 Annual evaluation of tax credits

194 A more progressive tax structure

195 Eliminating the use of offshore tax shelters

196 An annual audit of the DOD budget

197 Reforming TIF to support revitalization, not expansion

198 Employee wages and benefits having priority in bankruptcy or work-site closures

199 1% minimum COLA for SS recipients

200 Taxation of high-frequency trading

201 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act

202 Making stock buy backs illegal

203

204 Eliminating the social security taxable wage cap

205

- 206 **We oppose:**
207 Privatization and monetization of government services
208 Cutting welfare programs, Medicaid, Medicare and SS

209 **EDUCATION**

- 210 **We support:**
211 Mediation and restorative justice programs
212 Mental health education in schools
213 Following Iowa statues on school funding
214 Educational standards and greater accountability for home schools
215 Universal Preschool
216 Increasing opportunities for training people who work with children to recognize mental
217 disorders and abuse
218
219 Anti-Bullying efforts
220
221 Making inmates eligible for Pell grants
222 Funding to put counselors back in schools, including community colleges
223 Policies and programs to ensure all students are welcome and accepted
224 Affordable, well-funded public schools
225 Empirically based education for all levels of public education
226 Arts as a prekindergarten – 12th grade school curriculum requirement
227 Prohibiting for profit schools from receiving public money
228 Increasing the affordability of higher education including retroactive relief
229 Separating marital status from student loan repayment plans
230 Capping the interest rate on student loans to the 10 year US Bond market
231
232 Canceling student debt
233

234 We support trans students participating in activities consistent with their personal
235 gender identification

236 Free public pre-kindergarten through four years post high school education

237 **We oppose:**

238 The use of public money for prekindergarten - 12th grade private and charter schools

239 The secondary loan market for student loans

240 **GOVERNMENT AND LAW**

241 **Elections**

242 The Democratic Party is committed to full participation by all Americans in their
243 government and the democratic process

244 A statewide method to recall officials elected by Iowa voters

245 A ballot initiative system

246 Protecting our Democracy Act

247 Passing the National Popular Vote Compact

248 **We support:**

249 Policy and legislation that is science and data driven

250 A constitutional amendment limiting private contributions to candidates

251 No revocation of voting rights upon conviction

252 Requiring the source and amount of all expenditures made for or against any candidate,
253 constitutional amendment, ballot measure, proposed law or regulation by any individual
254 or group be publicly disclosed

255 Executive Council approval of initiating/joining multistate legal actions

256 We opposed a constitutional convention

257 Public funding Federal and Iowa elections

258 Strengthening ethics laws for governance and campaign finance

259 Automatic voter registration at 18

- 260 All general federal elections being a National Holiday
- 261 Eliminating the Electoral College
- 262 Abolishing the Super-Delegate system
- 263 Studying State and Federal instant runoff voting
- 264 Making the caucus more user friendly, inclusive and accurate
- 265 The nationwide use of Iowa's redistricting system
- 266 Ending 'closed primaries'
- 267 Abolishing Iowa's 'Voter ID' Law
- 268 Increased enforcement of laws prohibiting religious institutions from supporting or
269 opposing individual candidates
270
- 271 Rank choice voting
- 272 **We oppose:**
- 273 "Corporate Personhood"
- 274
- 275 **Civil Rights**
- 276
- 277 **We support:**
- 278 Affirmative Action
- 279 The Federal Equality Act
- 280 Extending the deadline for ratifying the ERA
- 281 Allowing individuals to use the bathroom of their personal gender identity
- 282 The inclusion of non-gendered or third gendered bathrooms
- 283 Banning the "box"
- 284 Absolute separation of Church & State
- 285 No religious belief, including no belief system, as superior to any other
- 286 **We oppose:**

287 Provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act that allow for:
288 the indefinite detention of suspects the detention of suspects without benefit of counsel
289 the denial of due process to suspects

290 Racial profiling

291 Warrantless Governmental surveillance

292 Eminent domain for private profit

293 **Consumer Protection**

294

295 **We support:**

296 The Veterans and Consumers fair credit act

297 Capping pay-day' loans at 36%

298 Capping annual interest rates on small consumer loans & credit cards

299 Stronger laws against predatory lenders

300 Giving Iowa consumers the right to sue for violations of the state Consumer Fraud Act

301 Enforcing anti-trust laws

302 Reducing corporate tax loopholes

303 Aa state bank of Iowa

304

305

306 **We oppose:**

307 Mandatory arbitration or limiting access to the courts

308 **Taxes and Social Security**

309 **We support:**

310 A wealth tax

311 Strengthening and expanding long term funding of Social Security

312 Subjecting all forms of personal income to Social Security tax

313 Increasing the funding, enforcement and capability of the IRS

314 **We oppose:**

- 315 Privatization of Social Security
- 316 Reducing benefits for current or future SS participants
- 317 **Government Services**
- 318
- 319 **We support:**
- 320 Reinstating funding to the 'Art in Public Buildings' programs
- 321 Net neutrality
- 322 Serious reduction of the defense budget
- 323 Local and international "food aid" programs that meet the essential needs of all people
- 324 Adequate funding to the Division of Tobacco Use and Control to support education,
325 prevention, and enforcement initiatives
- 326 Restoring funding for microfilming (digitizing) Iowa newspapers at the state historical
327 office
- 328 Hiring a strong consumer protectionist to head the Consumer Financial Protection
329 Bureau (CFPB)
- 330 Reopening the CFPB's Equifax probe
- 331 **Judiciary**
- 332
- 333 **We support:**
- 334 Legalizing cannabis
- 335 Treating non-violent/minor drug offenses as a public health issue, not exclusively as a
336 criminal issue
- 337 Ending cash bail
- 338 Reforming civil & criminal forfeiture laws
- 339 Elimination of mandatory minimum sentencing for non-violent offenses
- 340 The Whistleblower's Act
- 341 Iowa's merit-based non-partisan system of selecting judges,
- 342 Extending the time-line for reporting sexual abuse

343 Aggressive efforts by law enforcement to prevent human trafficking and providing
344 adequate funding and public education

345 Open access to official files post-conviction

346 Fully funding Iowa's Judicial system

347 Funding:
348 Violence Against Women Act
349 Victims' services for identifying and treatment of victims of human trafficking
350
351 Fully funding and expanding drug courts and diversion programs following the Drug
352 Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act

353

354 **We oppose:**

355 Using taxpayer money to settle sexual harassment suits

356 Requiring defendants reimburse the State for their representation

357 The disproportionate impact the criminal justice system has on the poor and minority
358 communities

359 The death penalty

360 **Immigration**

361

362 **We support:**

363 Enacting comprehensive immigration reform including a pathway to citizenship for
364 undocumented persons

365 Applying fair labor laws to all persons

366 Enacting the DREAM Act

367 Granting resident-parents of citizens permanent legal status, excluding birth tourists

368 Cities providing sanctuary for persons

369 Authorizing and increasing funding for the LSC to provide legal representation to guest
370 workers

371 A moratorium on detentions and deportations, except for violent or felony level
372 convictions

373 Making drivers licenses available to qualified individuals regardless of immigration
374 status

375 Addressing applicant backlogs for permanent residency, with family unity as a priority

376 Due process protections and reformed detention policies

377 An effective immigration policy that is both just and humane

378 Enforcement of immigration laws on employers, not just employees

379 **We Oppose:**

380 Payments to Mexico to deter Central American immigrants

381 “Remain in Mexico”

382

383 Family separation

384

385 Private prisons and detention centers

386

387 **Family and Marriage**

388

389 **We support:**

390 Pro-family policies for all families, regardless of marital status, gender or sexual
391 orientation

392 The right of all committed couples to marry

393 Classifying attacks on family-planning service providers, staff, patients and guests as
394 domestic terrorism

395 Public funding for Family Marriage Therapy

396

397 **Veterans**

398

399 **We support:**

400 Expanding the concept and goals of the VA Office of Rural Health to include all veterans
401

402 Policies and funding so that all veterans be given:

403 resources to acquire further education;

404 assistance in finding employment

405

406 Full timely access to appropriate medical and mental health coverage for veterans and
407 their

408 families

409 **Congressional Compensation Reform**

410

411 **We support:**

412 Indexing Congressional annual pay-raises to match SS COLA

413 Restricting members of Congress and Congressional staff from being paid lobbyists for
414 at least five years after they leave Congress

415 Basing Congressional benefits on their time in office

416

417 Banning Congress members, Congressional staff and their immediate family members
418 from trading individual stocks and bonds

419

420 **Public Safety**

421

422 **We support:**

423 A comprehensive National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)

424 Requiring every person who obtains a gun pass a NICS check

425 Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines

426 Banning assault-style rifles

427 Gun buy backs

428 Outlawing ghost guns

429 **We oppose:**

430 Law enforcement receiving lethal military equipment

431

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

432 **Health Care**

433

434 **We support:**

435 The right of businesses governmental entities and schools to institute protective public
436 health measures

437 Allowing only medically necessary exemptions from vaccinations

- 438 Medicare For All
- 439 Ending privatization of the Iowa Medicaid System
- 440 Adding cost controls and a public option to the ACA
- 441 Regulation of pharmacy benefit managers
- 442 Capping the cost of prescription medication to the global average price
- 443 Incentivizing persons to enter health, mental health and human services fields
- 444 An adequate long term funding formula for medical and mental health systems
- 445 Reclassifying marijuana as Schedule 2
- 446 Medicare and Medicaid negotiating the best possible prices
- 447 Increasing reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid
- 448 Medicare and Medicaid services equally available in all areas
- 449 EMS as an essential service
- 450 Stable funding for EMS and first responders
- 451 Telemedicine
- 452 Stem cell research
- 453 Consumer representation on HHS review boards
- 454 Using science-based methodology for funding health care research
- 455 Iowa Certificate of Need program
- 456 Adding hearing, vision and dental coverage to Medicare
- 457 **We oppose:**
- 458 Requiring administering unproven treatments to Iowa's existing Right to Try Law
- 459 Privatization of Medicare and Medicaid
- 460 Genital mutilation
- 461 Public prescription drug advertising

462 Medicare and Medicaid vouchers and block grants

463 The prescription medicine management system the causes unreasonably high
464 medication costs

465 **Mental Health**

466 **We Support:**

467 Moving the Mental Health and Disabilities Services Division to the Department of Public
468 Health

469 Implementing and funding the recommendations of the Complex Needs State Work
470 Group and the Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Work Group

471 Universal funding of mental health care as a fundamental right

472 Requiring insurance reimbursement for tele-health

473 Funding housing first programs

474 Increasing the county property tax levy for mental health services from 1996 levels

475 Community-based mental health crisis centers

476 **Reproductive Health and Family Planning**

477 **We Support:**

478 The right of all persons to make their own reproduction and contraception choices

479 Providing family planning including abortions and preventative health care to all

480 Funding Planned Parenthood and other family planning providers

481 Requiring pharmacists to fill all legal prescriptions

482 Coverage of abortion and reproductive services by all publicly funded health care plans

483 **We Oppose:**

484 Coercive or misleading family planning and abortion services

485 Restricting access to abortion services

486 **Aging and Disabilities**

487 **We Support:**

- 488 Dignity and self-determination regarding medical care and supportive services
- 489 Increased funding for:
- 490 Older Americans Act
- 491 Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- 492 Dementia research with expanded diagnosis and care
- 493 Non-emergency medical transportation
- 494 Elder-abuse prevention
- 495 Planning services for people facing dementia
- 496 Training for caregivers and family members
- 497 Funding to compensate non paid caregivers
- 498 Affordable long-term care insurance without requiring a prior stay in any health care
- 499 facility
- 500 Improved building access for persons with disabilities
- 501 Increasing the number of nursing home inspectors, and Long Term Care Ombudsman
- 502 Regular and timely state inspection of long term care facilities and paid in-home care
- 503 providers
- 504 Meaningful penalties for violations of laws and regulations protecting patients
- 505 The right of all persons to live and work in the least restrictive setting
- 506 Sufficient Medicaid funding for home and community-based services, including
- 507 retroactive application funding
- 508
- 509 Death with Dignity

510 **Children**

511 **We Support:**

- 512 Programs that improve health through preventive and development practices
- 513 Raising income eligibility levels for child assistance programs
- 514 Promoting child and family safety and wellbeing regardless of sexual orientation, gender
- 515 identity or religious beliefs of caregivers or recipients

- 516 Increased funding for:
- 517 Iowa's child welfare and protective services system
- 518 Child and maternal health programs
- 519 Licensed childcare providers
- 520 Safe and appropriate child-care after-school secular activities

- 521 Adequately monitoring and background-checking childcare providers
- 522 A national abuser database
- 523 A state-run home for adjudicated female minors, with improved treatment
- 524 Requiring foster children to attend schools staffed with mandatory reporters
- 525 **LGBTQ Health**
- 526 **We Support:**
- 527 Banning all conversion therapies
- 528 Requiring coverage of all physician prescribed gender-affirming therapies
- 529 The right of foster youth to be placed according to their personal gender identity
- 530 Option of “no sex” selection on birth records
- 531
- 532 **We Oppose:**
- 533 Surgical gender assignment at birth
- 534 **Economic Security**
- 535 **We Support:**
- 536 Increased funding for:
- 537 Non-discretionary food assistance programs
- 538 Domestic violence shelters
- 539 Safe, decent affordable housing with expanded subsidy programs including transitional
- 540 housing
- 541 Life skills training

542 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS RESOLUTIONS**

- 543 **We support:**
- 544 We oppose the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- 545 The Proposed United Nations Treaty on plastic pollution

- 546 Strengthening the protections of the proposed Global Ocean Treaty
- 547 The establishment and recognition of a viable Palestinian state to include the West
548 Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.
- 549 Israel ending its blockade of non-military goods into the Gaza Strip
- 550 Holding Israel accountable for its crimes of apartheid against Palestinians
- 551 Making US military aid to countries contingent on their compliance with international
552 laws and US trade and assistance laws
- 553 Greater use of diplomacy as a tool to resolves international differences
554
- 555 The full implementation of the Oslo Agreements
- 556 Ratification of the UN conventions on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against
557 women; the Rights of Children, the International Criminal Court and the Comprehensive
558 Test Ban Treaty
- 559 The right of persons to exist as part of a tribe or ethnic group and maintain their cultural
560 identity within their country
- 561 Equal human rights and full citizenship of Palestinians and Israelis
- 562 Banning weapons sales to Saudi Arabia
- 563 WE OPPOSE
- 564 The continuing destruction and seizure of Palestinian property and support the return of
565 property taken since January 20, 2017
- 566 **International Trade Agreements**
- 567 **We support:**
- 568 Renegotiating trade agreements to fair trade standards
- 569 Fair trade not free trade
- 570 Ending support for the Saudi led war in Yemen
- 571 Ending military aid to governments who violate the Universal Declaration of Human
572 Rights
573
- 574 **We oppose:**

575 The fast tracking of trade agreements