

2014 CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

As amended and passed by the County Convention, March 8, 2014

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We reaffirm that the Democratic Party should be the party of all the people and should stand strongly for jobs at a living wage, decent and affordable housing, universal health care, and a fiscally sound social security system for all.

We oppose discrimination based on gender, age, race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, economic status, disability, or ethnicity.

The increasing flow of our nation's wealth into the hands of fewer people continues. Tax cuts should not disproportionately benefit the wealthy at the expense of low and middle-income families. We stand for a progressive tax system.

Corporations continue to offer part-time and temporary jobs with no benefits and low wages. We believe that Iowa's future growth is dependent on full employment and that our people need full-time work with benefits and higher pay. We believe that part-time workers should have pro-rated benefits and decent pay. We support the right of all workers, public and private, full and part-time, to organize.

Iowa must continue to maintain the highest standards for all levels of our schools, all students, and all teachers. All Iowa Students deserve competent, caring, and enthusiastic teachers who are well prepared and well compensated. We must ensure that these schools can provide a top-quality education for their students through an adequate and stable source of pre-K through 14 and university funding.

We support the family farm rather than the large corporate operations (such as, but not limited to, corporate hog factories) that are moving into Iowa.

We reject the position that economic development is not compatible with environmental preservation. We support the concept of government programs and regulations to preserve the environment, and we support research into environmental hazards and into the means to overcome them.

We recognize the responsibility of governments to facilitate economic development by means of supporting education, scientific research, and infrastructure.

A top priority of all governments should be to provide our citizens a safe place to live, to make the streets of our cities safe, and to keep our people from having to live in fear of crime.

We recognize that the United Nations has contributed much to our global security through health, education, family planning, UNICEF, and other programs as well as by providing peaceful measures for resolving international conflicts. We strive to become instruments of peace.

We salute the men and women who have given or are risking life or limb in defense of our country. We are grateful for all persons who choose to serve our nation in the armed forces.

AGRICULTURE

- AG-1. We support the family farm and support startup economic assistance to young family farmers. We should prohibit packer ownership of livestock. We propose a cap on subsidy payments to large corporate farms and to other large agribusiness corporations.
- AG-2. We support adequate funding for federal inspections by trained inspectors for all food processing with full transparency and accountability.
- AG-3. Food containing genetically modified ingredients should be clearly labeled as such.
- AG-4. State laws covering cruelty to animals should be strengthened and enforced.
- AG-5. We support encouraging development and redevelopment inside our cities and towns to protect prime farmland from undue private development pressure.
- AG-6. The Iowa legislature should pass legislation returning local control over the permitting of factory farms.
- AG-7. We support legalizing industrial hemp.

ECONOMY

- EC-1. Congress should repeal the pre-funding mandate on the US Postal Service and keep universal service at the same rate.
- EC-2. We support fair trade but not free trade. NAFTA, CAFTA, the Pacific Rim free trade zone, and other such trade agreements, as well as the WTO should be renegotiated to include tougher fair worker rights and environmental standards. We support greater congressional oversight of trade negotiations rather than being limited to yea or nay.
- EC-3. We oppose offshore tax evasion. We should repeal all tax benefits and replace them with tax penalties for companies that move off-shore/out of the country.
- EC-4. Goods should not be imported into the United States produced by repressive child labor, or from factories that have unsafe or unhealthful working conditions,

or from factories that do not pay workers a living wage, or when the goods are unsafe or unhealthy.

- EC-5. We call for continued government support and subsidies for long distance passenger train service, full funding for Amtrak, and we call for the extension of passenger train service to Clinton County including access to any line to the Quad Cities.
- EC-6. We propose the creation of a new WPA type program to rebuild America's infrastructure thus creating millions of new jobs.

EDUCATION

- ED-1. We support setting allowable growth at a rate that reflects actual cost increases experienced by school districts and AEA's.
- ED-2. We support adequate funding for pre-kindergarten programs, K-12, AEA's, community colleges, and other educational programs including after school programs, remedial/tutorial reading programs, and including support for increased enrollment and protection in the case of declining enrollment.
- ED-3. The No Child Left Behind Act should be repealed.
- ED-4. We support full federal funding for special education. We support funding for early identification and treatment of special-needs and hostile/violent behavior.
- ED-5. Federal and state educational funds should be used for public education. These funds should not be diverted to private K-12 schools or private for-profit education businesses in the form of vouchers, tuition tax credits or in other forms. However, we support legislation allowing students in accredited nonpublic schools to be counted for special education services, allowing them full access to services.
- ED-6. We support raising the pay of Iowa pre K-12 and community college teachers.
- ED-7. We support a plan to reduce college tuition rates and make college affordable for those who wish to attend. We support increased aid to students.
- ED-8. We support a program to forgive the student loans for graduates who remain in Iowa to work including retroactive coverage.
- ED-9. We support funding for Headstart, for the Iowa Communication Network, for achieving and maintaining proper class sizes, for repair and maintenance of public school buildings and infrastructure, for school equipment and technology, for compliance with the Americans for Disabilities Act in schools, and for School Resource Officers.
- ED-10. We support the protection of fine arts and arts in our elementary and middle schools and oppose cuts.

- ED-11. Programs and grants should be developed to assist holders of baccalaureate, masters, and PhD degrees to complete the courses necessary for gaining secondary teaching credits in areas of need.
- ED-12. We support a year-round (balanced calendar) public school schedule in the state of Iowa.
- ED-13. We support legislation allowing bond issues to be passed by a simple majority.
- ED-14. School budgets that have been approved by the state should be exempt from any across the board cuts.

ENVIRONMENT

- EN-1. Mercury seals should be strictly prohibited.
- EN-2. To prevent the worst effects of climate warming we support programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by the year 2050. This should be accomplished as far as possible by such economically helpful steps as conservation, building industries in wind, solar, other climate friendly fuels, and infrastructure to support them.
- EN-3. The United States should vigorously pursue renewable power sources including, but not limited to solar, tidal, hydrogen, biomass, and wind energy. Grants and incentives for such power sources should include provisions that reward residential renewable energy production.
- EN-4. We support immediate action in monitoring and controlling the odious odor pollution and solids pollution of our environment, and we oppose using studies to delay such action.
- EN-5. We oppose hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for oil and natural gas production.
- EN-6. Oil companies should be responsible for stopping and cleaning up oil spills and for paying for all damages. We support full accountability for all liabilities in perpetuity.
- EN-7. We oppose pipelines that run through the Ogallala Aquifer.
- EN-8. We oppose placing trees and other plants used by wildlife for food and shelter at intersections where they may limit driver visibility. We oppose road building in the national forests for the purpose of private logging. We support preservation of the Tongass National Forest, the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and all national parks and refuges, and we urge restrictions of commercial development including harvesting of lumber and mineral resources.
- EN-9. Current environmental laws and regulations must be strictly enforced.
- EN-10. Wetlands should be protected.
- EN-11. We urge that recycling programs be supported, expanded and taught in schools.
- EN-12. We oppose allowing utilities to bill customers in advance for power plants that may or may not be built in the future.

EN-13. We call for the testing of air, water, and food for radioactive fallout.

LABOR

- LB-1. We support establishing a COLA for the minimum wage starting at \$10.10 per hour.
- LB-2. We support the repeal of Iowa's so-called "Right-to-work" law thus allowing employers and unions to bargain freely over union security clauses.
- LB-3. We support Fair Share.
- LB-4. We support funding of all public employment retirement systems at a level to achieve full actuarial funding within an actuarially reasonable period of time. With respect to the Iowa Public Employment Retirement System (IPERS), we support funding to make the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for pre-1990 retirees and the Favorable Experience Dividend for post-1990 retirees permanently sustainable. We oppose any effort by public employer entities, whether the State of Iowa or any political subdivision thereof, to divert or borrow funds from, or funds that are required by law to be contributed to, any public employee retirement system. We further oppose any effort by the State of Iowa, or any political subdivision thereof, to require any public employee to pay any additional contribution to a public employment retirement system to allow that system to attain full actuarial funding until the public entity employer has paid all funds required by law to that fund which previously were not paid.
- LB-5. If a temporary employee works in a company over 90 days in a six-month period, he/she should become a regular employee with benefits.
- LB-6. We support equal pay for equal work.
- LB-7. Wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment should be mandatory subjects of bargaining for public employees.
- LB-8. We support legislation that allows Iowa workers who are injured on the job to choose their own medical care providers.
- LB-9. The secondary injury clause should be eliminated from the workers compensation law.
- LB-10. Time frames to decide workers compensation cases should be enacted.
- LB-11. Unemployment compensation should be extended to people who have to leave employment due to domestic violence and people who leave employment because of a spouse leaving for military service.
- LB-12. We support the Employee Free Choice Act, which would require union recognition if a majority of employees sign an authorization. We support the rights of workers to organize by supporting card check recognition for public sector workers in Iowa, by advocating for reform of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to include card-check recognition for private sector workers and add

meaningful penalties to the NLRA to punish employers who violate the rights of workers.

- LB-13. We oppose diversion of any pension fund by private entities without permission of the employees or pensioners.
- LB-14. The hiring of replacement workers during a labor dispute should be illegal.
- LB-15. The laws prohibiting redefining workers as independent contractors not eligible for benefits or protection should be enforced.
- LB-16. Prison labor should not be used to replace bargaining unit workers.
- LB-17. Employers with four or more workers, including the state, must provide family and medical leave.
- LB-18. The "employment at will doctrine" should be eliminated.
- LB-19. Employers cannot reduce hours of employment solely to avoid paying health insurance.
- LB-20. Government workers, pilots, airline security workers, and other workers should maintain their rights to union membership regardless of the Patriot Act/Homeland Security Act.

GOVERNMENT

- GO-1. We believe that all cities should adopt the Uniform Plumbing Code to be consistent with the law in the State of Iowa.
- GO-2. We call for enforcement of all building codes in the cities and in the state.
- GO-3. We support enforcement of contractor licensing.
- GO-4. The tax laws should apply to all who live or work in the United States.
- GO-5. The Federal Railroad Administration should enact comprehensive rules and regulations enforcing the utmost safe operations of remote control locomotives. All remote control locomotive operations should cease and desist until such time as the FRA issues comprehensive rules and regulations.
- GO-6. Federal and state mandates should always be fully funded.
- GO-7. The state of Iowa should not sell the Iowa Communication Network (fiber optics system).
- GO-8. We support an immediate reasonable increase in the gasoline tax for road infrastructure.
- GO-9. We oppose the Citizens United ruling.
- GO-10. We demand a return of our civil liberties and oppose treating citizens like terrorists without evidence. We oppose the Patriot Act as unconstitutional.
- GO-11. The constraints on civil liberties in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) should be repealed.
- GO-12. We support efforts to protect the nation from terrorist attacks without suppressing human rights.

- GO-13. We oppose the use of government rules or actions to intimidate dissenters.
- GO-14. In Iowa, individuals should have the right to bring consumer fraud lawsuits.
- GO-15. We support, without exception, the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.
- GO-16. We support eliminating the statute of limitations on sex abuse cases.
- GO-17. We support a publicly financed system for campaigns for federal, legislative, and statewide offices.
- GO-18. Iowa should not reestablish the death penalty under any circumstances. We call for the abolition of capital punishment in the United States.
- GO-19. In child custody cases, the courts should consider the welfare of the children and the merit of the individual parent without regard to gender. Children should be ensured of homes that are safe and free of crime regardless of mandates to keep families intact. The welfare of all children should be foremost in decisions regarding placement.
- GO-20. We support the appointment of people to office on the basis of proven competence and not on the basis of campaign contributions.
- GO-21. We oppose the requirement that voters carry any picture id in order to vote.
- GO-22. We support the making of Highway 30 into a four-lane, primary, full-access highway across the state of Iowa.
- GO-23. Anti-trust laws should be strengthened and enforced.
- GO-24. The banking, lending, and financial industries should be regulated sufficiently so as to prevent repetition of the 2008 financial crisis and other threats to the global economy. The Glass-Steagall Act should be reinstated.
- GO-25. We call for legal penalties for those responsible for the 2008 financial meltdown, illegal foreclosures, and other corporate crimes and call for breaking up the large financial institutions. They should be reduced in size until they are no longer “too big to fail”. We call for an end to corporate power over our democracy.
- GO-26. Existing gun control laws should be enforced.
- GO-27. We oppose utility deregulation.
- GO-28. We call for tax reform that will make the tax system more progressive and close corporate loopholes.
- GO-29. No tax credit for a corporation should be a refundable tax credit. There should be no refund for the excess over the corporation’s actual tax liability.
- GO-30. We call for strengthening Social Security and preserving it as a social insurance program. We oppose privatizing it or cutting it. The cap on wages subject to social security taxes should be eliminated.
- GO-31. To help ensure that congress serves the people rather than corporations and big money, we call for comprehensive congressional ethics reform including but not limited to all laws imposed on the American people by congress applying equally to congress.

- GO-32. We support the establishment of voting by US mail where every eligible resident receives a ballot by mail.
- GO-33. We support fair and comprehensive immigration reform that respects the human rights of all people.
- GO-34. We oppose outsourcing of public services and assets.
- GO-35. TIF rules should be changed so that only the governing body granting the TIF would forfeit the regular property taxes involved.

HEALTH CARE

- HC-1. We support the Affordable Care Act and we support Iowa's full participation in this Act.
- HC-2. We support funding and protection from cuts for health care programs for low-income and retired/disabled people such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, and Medicaid.
- HC-3. Medicare D should continue diminishing the "doughnut hole" gap in coverage and improve the list of covered drugs. The path to generic drugs should be eased
- HC-4. The law should allow the government to use its bulk purchasing power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs and to save money by importing FDA-approved drugs.
- HC-5. Congress should change the Medicare geographical adjustment to reflect the true relative cost of living in each area and discontinue reimbursement based on historic norms.
- HC-6. We support adequate funding and oppose cuts for comprehensive mental health parity.
- HC-7. We respect human life but recognize that constituents have differing opinions on how to address the difficult abortion/human rights issue. We favor social and comprehensive sex education programs that will actually reduce the number of abortions without criminalizing it.
- HC-8. We support increased funding for chronic disease research and comprehensive coverage in health care plans.
- HC-9. We support increasing funding for stem cell research.
- HC-10. We support increased nutritional education.
- HC-11. We support medical marijuana in Iowa.

HUMAN SERVICES

- HS-1. We encourage the legislature to support funding for low and moderate income housing.

- HS-2. We support restoring the funding and protection from cuts for programs to combat domestic abuse and neglect as well as child maltreatment and programs to treat victims.
- HS-3. We support increased funding and protection from cuts for affordable childcare for all children as well as for free or reduced-price school meals
- HS-4. We support adequately funding legal services for low-income people.
- HS-5. We support funding and protection from cuts for transitional housing programs (i.e. housing for those who may be homeless or leaving abusive relationships).
- HS-6. We support the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) including the refundable portion and oppose any reduction.
- HS-7. We support education and training for low-income people and oppose cuts.
- HS-8. It should be illegal to pay employees with debit cards and charge for obtaining cash from the cards.

INTERNATIONAL

- IN-1. We support efforts to instill a lasting peace among Israel, Palestine, and the region.
- IN-2. We support efforts by the US, Afghanis, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), and regional and international powers to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the region.
- IN-3. Military action should not become the first choice in dealing with potential terrorist threats, and international diplomacy should be used wherever possible to defuse potentially threatening situations.
- IN-4. We support efforts to reduce and prevent the international development, proliferation, and use of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other weapons of mass destruction but caution against using military means for this purpose.
- IN-5. We support the elimination of poverty worldwide.
- IN-6. We support the continuing participation of the United States in the United Nations.
- IN-7. We strongly oppose all forms of torture specifically including waterboarding perpetrated on individuals by citizens of any country.
- IN-8. We support the international banning of land mines.
- IN-9. Wasteful practices in military procurement should be eliminated.
- IN-10. We support closing the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly known as the School of Americas) at Ft. Benning, GA.
- IN-11. We support humanitarian aid to needy populations including the use of US made goods and with proper oversight.
- IN-12. Americans should become more educated about the problems caused by global overpopulation.

- IN-13. We oppose military aid to repressive regimes.
- IN-14. We support prompt hearings by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and ratification by the full Senate.
- IN-15. We support eliminating hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons in order to avoid accidental or unauthorized use.
- IN-16. We support continuing to reduce the sizes of nuclear forces everywhere.
- IN-17. We support eliminating short-range, forward-deployed nuclear weapons.
- IN-18. We support ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and working for ratification elsewhere.
- IN-19. The highest security should be achieved and maintained for nuclear weapons, for plutonium stocks, and for highly enriched uranium stocks.
- IN-20. Uranium enrichment and spent reactor fuel should be kept in the hands of controlled international sources.
- IN-21. The production of fissile material for nuclear weapons should be halted.
- IN-22. We support phasing out the use of weapons-usable uranium in civil commerce and research facilities and rendering this material safe.
- IN-23. Regional confrontations and conflicts should be resolved.
- IN-24. We support creating measures to deal with any nuclear conduct that could threaten any state or people.

VETERANS

- VE-1. We support mandatory full funding for all US veterans' health needs arising from their service to their country.
- VE-2. We support the full funding of VA health care benefits to include Group 8 veterans, National Guard members, and everyone who ever served in the US military and received anything other than a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge, allowing them all the rights that all wartime veterans enjoy.