



2022 CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM 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, gender identity, age, race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, economic status, disability, or ethnicity and respect all cultural differences.

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. We support reasonable campaign finance reform.

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 wages. We support the right of all workers, public and private, full and part-time, to have benefits, decent pay, and the right 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 and committed teachers who are well compensated. We must ensure that all public schools can provide a top-quality education for their students through an adequate stable source of per-K through 14 and university funding.

We support the financial success of the family farm rather than the large corporate operations. 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 research into environmental hazards and the means to overcome them.

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

All government levels should ensure safe communities for our citizens, to make the streets of our cities safe, and to keep our people from having to live in fear. We strongly support the United Nations, which has contributed to our global security. We strive to become instruments of peace.

We salute the men and women who defend our country, are grateful for all persons who choose to serve and continue to support all benefits after service.



ECONOMY

We Support:

- 1) The enforcement of the Bottle Bill as it is currently written, and an increase in the amount that redemption centers receive to recycle bottles.
- 2) Relieving retailers who sell products that are subject to redemption of the duty they redeem them, but only if redemption centers are conveniently located.
- 3) Increased state funding for education, social safety net programs, and infrastructure, as opposed to enacting tax cuts.
- 4) Extending the child tax credit monthly payments.
- 5) Increasing the earned income tax credit.

EDUCATION

We Support:

- 1) Restoring the collective bargaining law for public employees.
- 2) Repealing requirements on union members to hold frequent affirmative votes to keep the union as their bargaining agent.
- 3) Public school curriculum being decided by local school boards, and not restricted by legislation.
- 4) Providing adequate funding for K-12 education that exceeds the rate of inflation.
- 5) Increased funding for Iowa's three state universities, legislation to restrict our state universities from taking out long-term obligations for the sole purpose of obtaining funds for investment. Long term loans should only be taken for erecting new facilities.
- 6) Full disclosure of the one billion dollar, fifty year obligation entered into by the University of Iowa and the names and addresses of all investors involved and the fees charged. A list of investments should be publicly disclosed, along with any income from those investments.
- 7) Special funding to support a psychiatry residency program at the University of Iowa.
- 8) Increased funding for community colleges for programs that will train Iowans for job skills that are needed by Iowa employers, college transfers, and community education programs.
- 9) Free tuition for Iowans to attend at least one year at an Iowa Community College.
- 10) Requiring all Iowa K-12 schools to meet the educational standards, goals, and equal opportunity protections passed by the Iowa legislature, regardless of public/private status.
- 11) Student access and ability to self-select forms of literature and media that provide an opportunity for students to be exposed and/or immersed in characters and situations with which they identify.

We Oppose:

- 1) Restrictions on what teachers can teach concerning issues of race, civil rights, and slavery.



- 2) Legislation that would fine or jail teachers or that allow teachers or schools to be sued for what is taught in the classroom.
- 3) Legislation restricting school boards from providing for the health of students and staff, or restricting decisions on masking requirements or remote learning.
- 4) Any restriction or elimination of tenure at our K-12 schools, our community colleges, or our state universities.
- 5) The use of public funds to pay the tuition for students to attend a private K-12 school.
- 6) Any banning of books and literature from education.
- 7) Prohibiting transgender individuals from participating on female sports from kindergarten through college.
- 8) Requirements for teachers and school districts to post the entire curriculum for their classes by a full semester or full year in advance. This is in conflict with the ESSA law.

ENVIRONMENT

We Support:

- 1) Directly addressing the threat of climate change and accelerating the transition to a carbon-free economy.
- 2) Expanding renewable energy as a means of countering climate change.

GOVERNMENT

We Support:

- 1) A progressive income tax system.
- 2) Continuing the exemption of Social Security benefits from state income tax.
- 3) The exemption of income tax of up to \$25,000 per person in additional income for persons who are 65 years of age or older, in addition to their Social Security benefits, regardless of whether it is retirement income such as pensions, retirement accounts or investments, wages, or self-employment income.
- 4) Creation of a voluntary state supplemental retirement plan that would be administered by the state Treasurer for employers and employees who wish to contribute to their retirement to supplement their Social Security. This program would be available to employees who are not eligible for a pension plan or defined contribution plan through their employer.
- 5) Restoring the requirement that citizens obtain a gun permit in order to carry a firearm in public. Persons wishing to obtain a gun permit shall demonstrate sufficient ability to handle a firearm and be familiar with laws concerning the use of a firearm. A list of persons having firearm permits shall be available to law enforcement.
- 6) The right of all Iowans wherever they live to be free of gun violence.
- 7) Funding for state correctional services to supervise high risk individuals who are placed on probation or parole.
- 8) Adequate funding for the Department of Corrections. Persons sentenced to prison shall be transferred within 24 hours of sentencing to a facility operated by the Iowa



Department of Corrections. If such persons cannot be transferred due to the lack of space, the Department of Corrections shall pay to the Sheriff's Department their customary fee for holding a prisoner from another county for the period of time that the person sentenced remains in the county jail.

9) Adequate funding for the courts, including a provision for a drug court to be accessible to every county.

10) The repeal of previous legislation providing that the chief justice be appointed for a two year term.

11) Raising court-appointed attorney fees \$10/hour for each of the next four calendar years.

12) Changes to tax increment financing to reduce the loss of tax dollars to private projects and to give all government entities which are affected by the loss of tax revenue a veto over whether their funds should go to a TIF district. TIF districts should not include property that is not directly improved by TIF dollars. TIF revenue should not be used unless all entities including the city, county, and school district approve the loss of tax dollars to the TIF district. TIF districts should sunset after ten years and should not be allowed to roll over.

13) The repeal in its entirety of the voting legislation that was passed by the Iowa Legislature in 2021.

14) Voters having adequate time to receive and mail their ballots, with 29 days at a minimum.

15) The independence of our County Auditor, as the best defense against those who would try to alter the results of an election.

16) Adequate funding for our State Parks including sufficient funding to take care of deferred maintenance on the housing which has been available to park rangers.

17) Building a four-lane Highway 30 from Clinton to Council Bluffs.

18) Fixing and building Clinton County roads and bridge infrastructure to support 2050 needs.

19) Legislation to stop voter suppression efforts.

20) Legislation to increase voter participation, including vote by mail options.

21) A ban on members of Congress and their spouses from buying and selling individual stocks during their time in office.

22) Increasing funding for government agencies in charge of social, community, and mental health programs, all of which data shows contribute to the well-being of the whole community when initiatives are fully funded.

23) Requiring our political representatives to explore how to be more transparent in who is lobbying for all laws that are proposed.

We Oppose:

1) Imposing work requirements for persons receiving SNAP or Medicaid benefits.

2) Exempting all retirement income from Iowa state income tax.



- 3) The suspension of drivers licenses for non-payment of child support as self-defeating.
- 4) The garnishment of wages of persons who are employed, and who are making or expecting to make less than \$25,000 per calendar year.
- 5) Any effort to defund the police or divert funds without solid data to show the substantial benefits to lowans of the proposed change, and data to show that any such change would not impact the police agency's ability to complete the tasks assigned to them.
- 6) Any changes to how judges or magistrates are selected and support restoration to the chairperson of the State Nominating Commission being the senior justice of the Iowa Supreme Court other than the chief justice.
- 7) Giving the Iowa Secretary of State the authority to levy a fine against a county auditor or other local election official.
- 8) Any increase in the Iowa sales tax or gas tax.
- 9) Evicting park rangers from their housing in our state parks.
- 10) Private land seizures and use of eminent domain for private purposes.

HEALTH CARE

We Support:

- 1) Repealing legislation that restricts local governments from providing for the health of their residents, such as the wearing of masks.
- 2) An audit into whether private insurance companies are unfairly denying the claims of medical providers in the Title XIX program.
- 3) Roe v. Wade and resist any abortion restrictions more restrictive than what is provided in the Roe v. Wade decision.
- 4) Restoring funding to Planned Parenthood and similar agencies that provide women's health services.
- 5) Increased funding for mental health institutions so that they will have sufficient beds available for patients, that due to behavior problems, cannot be admitted elsewhere or need long term hospitalization for mental illness.
- 6) Funding for a mental health unit at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics or elsewhere for mental health patients who also have severe medical problems that prevent them from being admitted to a local mental health unit.
- 7) Adequate funding for our mental health regions.
- 8) Adequate funding for substance abuse, including inpatient substance abuse centers so that a bed is available when needed.
- 9) A Governor-appointed panel of health experts to investigate and report to the legislature as to why COVID deaths exceeded one per 1,000 population in Iowa, and what we can do to reduce the loss of life in future pandemics.
- 10) Elimination of the "donut hole" in the Medicare drug plans.



We Oppose:

- 1) Combining the Department of Health with the Department of Human Services.
- 2) Restrictions against private businesses from requiring that patrons wear masks or from requiring their employees be vaccinated.

HUMAN SERVICES

We Support:

- 1) Increasing funding for the National Housing Trust Fund and State Housing Trust Fund, and increased funding for housing vouchers to address the affordable housing crisis.
- 2) Every person having a basic human right to adequate income, safe and affordable housing, food security, affordable healthcare, quality education, and equal protection under the law.
- 3) Requiring Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to write clear, detailed policies and procedures for Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to follow, especially as it relates to the Consumer Choices Option (CCO).
- 4) The Department of Human Services to fund an initiative to cleanup old information on their website and update any document that still has inaccurate or politically incorrect verbiage.
- 5) Revising the price per unit paid for Long-Term Supportive Services employees for Members enrolled in the Consumer Choices Options (CCO) program as the state of Iowa currently struggles to pay employees above minimum wage for Personal Care Services and Homemaker Services.

LABOR

We Support:

- 1) Raising the minimum wage to \$15.25 an hour in increments of \$1.00 per hour each year until we reach the level of \$15.25 an hour.
- 2) The restoration of an Iowa Workforce Development office in Clinton County to assist employers and employees in job training and placement in appropriate jobs. 3) Cost-of-living adjustments to IPERS.
- 4) A mandatory minimum of two person crews on all trains operated for any reason, for the safety of the public and crew members. These crews will consist of one qualified engineer and one qualified conductor. This should be supported on both the state and federal level.

We Oppose:

- 1) Shortening unemployment benefits from 26 weeks, which has been the standard for many years.
- 2) Paying unemployment benefits to persons who have refused to be vaccinated for the coronavirus where required by an employer, unless the employee can provide medical documentation that the vaccine would be detrimental to the employee's health.