

All sections arranged by votes per plank:

RANKING OF THE PLATFORM FROM THE DUBUQUE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS & BIENNIAL ORGANIZATION MEETING, 21 MARCH 2015

A = Agriculture CPE = Climate Preservation and Environmental Integrity / Stewardship
ECL = Economy, Commerce and Labor E = Education
En = Energy V = Environment
GL = Government and Law H = Health and Human Services
I = Immigration IP = International Policy
T = Taxes V = Veterans

15. On the state level, we endorse the issues and concerns of the **Iowa Democratic Veterans' Caucus**, and in particular, we urge the Iowa Legislature to **ADEQUATELY FUND** the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. (Vet)

13. **FULLY FUND Pre-Kindergarten public education** for all students in our nation rather than only those entitled for special education services. (E)

12. **AMEND** Chapter 731 and the pertinent parts of Chapter 20 of the Iowa Code to allow private and public workers in Iowa to negotiate "**fair-share**" clauses to ensure that all workers covered and benefiting from a negotiated contract would share in the cost of the service provided. (ECL)

9. **SUPPORT** every school employee receiving a **competitive living wage** and benefits. (E)

8. **ENACT a single payer** insurance/health care program. (H)

7. **IMPROVE** and protect municipal water facilities in the provision of **sufficient, clean, available water** to all residents. (CPE)

7. We support legislation that opposes construction of the 1700 mile **Keystone XL Pipeline** (CPE)

7. **ENACT** the '**MOVE TO AMEND**' in order to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. (GL)

7. **PROTECT** a women's fundamental right to personal reproductive decisions. (H)

6. **FULLY FUND Amtrak** appropriations requests in the U.S. Congress and the expansion of mass transit on local, state, and national levels, with special attention given to the **restoration of Amtrak passenger rail service** between Dubuque and Chicago to benefit persons in our tri-state area. (V)

5. **TRANSFORM** our behavioral healthcare system toward one where every person with a behavioral health challenge, at any stage of life, has access to **effective treatment** support systems. (H)

5. **MOVE** our state and federal governments from an energy policy based on fossil fuels and nuclear energy toward one based on **renewable and clean sources** (solar, wind, tidal) and conservation, with the goal of reducing carbon in the atmosphere to under 350 parts per million (identified as the safe number by leading climatologists). (En)

4. **PROVIDE** adequate funding for **full staffing and facilities** of public schools (pre-K-12), community colleges, and Area Education Agencies to maintain our rich tradition of high quality education in Iowa. (E)

3. **PASS** the **Employee Free Choice Act** to protect the rights of both public and private sector workers to form unions and bargain collectively. (ECL)

3. **BAN FRACKING** in the State of Iowa due to the known dangers of poisoned water and increased risk of earthquakes (known as ‘frackquakes’). In addition, we support a **statewide ban on mining sand for hydraulic fracturing** for natural gas or oil. (CPE)

3. **ENFORCE runoff restrictions** on commercial fertilizers and manure by mandating the use of filter strips and buffers of at least 20 feet from farmland along streams and rivers to help filter chemical runoff and prevent erosion. (A)

3. **ENSURE** all eligible voters are **registered** to vote without encumbrances including voter ID. (GL)

3. **INCREASE** drug and **mental health courts**. (GL)

2. **AGGRESSIVE AND IMMEDIATE** work to **slow and reverse climate destabilization by lowering global warming pollution** 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This should be accomplished through regional and national **cap-and-trade systems**, with a tightening of the cap over time, in which 100% of credits are auctioned from the beginning and where government invests the auction revenues for the public good, such as by investing in **clean, renewable energy** technologies and **energy efficiency measures**. (CPE)

2. **PROMOTE** the "**Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food**" program for sustainable local and regional **food systems** that will support small and mid-sized farms and ranches, strengthen rural communities, promote healthy eating, and protect our natural resources. (A)

2. **SUPPORT** a **prevailing wage** law for construction workers. (ECL)

2. **CREATE** a national **“high speed Internet for all”** policy that preserves an open Internet. (ECL)

2. **ENFORCE** legislation that compels Wall Street and the 1% to **pay their fair share**. (ECL)

2. **We support legislation to** promote energy efficiency through use of alternative sources (such as photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, bio-diesel and hydro energy technologies). We believe that funding for research and development is crucial.

2. **REPEAL** the **No Child Left Behind Act**, return educational standards and decision making to **state and local control**, and grant states flexibility on ways to improve schools and in measuring a school’s progress. (E) 2. **We support legislation to** promote energy efficiency through use of alternative sources (such as photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, bio-diesel and hydro energy technologies). We believe that funding for research and development is crucial. (V)

2. **MANDATE RECYCLING** across the state of Iowa and our nation, including at all public buildings and events across Iowa. (V)

2. **MAINTAIN** the State of Iowa’s **first in the nation** status to conduct either a caucus or a primary. (GL)

2. **ENACT** comprehensive immigration reform with **pathways to citizenship** for persons who have immigrated to the U.S. and are lacking proper documentation. (GL)

2. **MAKE BIRTH CONTROL** accessible for all people. (H)

2. **REQUIRE** health and disability **insurance companies** to provide equitable coverage for behavioral health conditions (parity). (H)

2. **CREATE ACCESS** for all people to **affordable health insurance** for catastrophic and chronic illness, including Alzheimer’s disease and other diseases of old age. Recruit and retain an educated, skilled, diverse and well-paid workforce of social workers and mental health counselors through loan forgiveness, increased educational funding and a linkage of salaries to the living wage. (H)

2. **CREATE** a realistic and effective path to earned legal immigration for people in the U.S. without such status. (I)

2. **PASS the Dream Act**, also known as the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act. (I)
2. We support the expansion of diplomatic relations with **Iran**, at the highest level possible, with a goal of encouraging Iran to play a constructive role among its neighbors in the Middle East. (IP)
2. **PROHIBIT** the U.S. from unilateral or preemptive military action against any country. (IP)
 1. **PROMOTE CROP DIVERSITY and ORGANIC FARMING**. Some of the existing subsidies shall be re-routed to farmers who grow oats, flax, rye, barley, pasture greens, root crops and various wheats. Other of these subsidies may be directed to smaller, organic (certified or not) farmers with 1 - 40 (one to forty) acres. These subsidies shall be available to farmers who do not use pollutants (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, glyphosate, nicotinoids) or other toxins. (A)
 1. **REGULATE antibiotics** and/or hormones in animal culture. (A)
 1. **CREATE land management practices** in Iowa and across the country which minimize or prevent erosion of farmland and stream banks, and create sustainable habitats for aquatic life in American waterways. (CPE)
 1. **BAN OPEN LEAF BURNING** across Iowa except in cases of resource management such as burning of prairie and savanna, and expand leaf composting and mulching. (CPE)
 1. **SUSPEND** the \$5.5 billion per year Postal Service pension pre-funding. (ECL)
 1. **SUPPORT** full federal funding of **special education**. (E)
 1. **EXPAND JOB TRAINING** at Community Colleges. (E)
 1. **KEEP** Iowa teacher's **compensation** above the national average to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff in the state of Iowa. (E)
 1. **EXPAND the Iowa beverage container deposit** law to include non-carbonated bottles, and raise the deposit to 10 cents. (V)
 1. **FULLY FUND** the Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**); (GL)
 1. **CONTINUE same day** registration. (GL)
 1. **REQUIRE adequate funding to improve declining infrastructure** including municipal utilities, roads and bridges as well as dangerous roadway intersections. (GL)
 1. **ENACT the Climate Protection Act**. (GL)
 1. **DEVELOP** additional **jail diversion programs**. (GL)
 1. **ADEQUATELY FUND** the **Iowa Department of Human Services** so that all communities have equal and full accesses to the services provided by the DHS. (H)
 1. **FULLY FUND** Sunnycrest Manor nursing home in Dubuque County. (H)
 1. **WORK THROUGH** address applicant backlogs for permanent residency, with family unity as a priority. (I)
 1. **Cuba** - We urge an immediate end to the embargo, and **normalization** of trade and travel relations. (IP)
 1. **CLOSE Guantanamo Bay** prison as a move to bring our counter terrorism policies within the rule of law. (IP)
 1. **REPEAL** the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), FTAA, and GATT, in favor of "**fair**" trade. (IP)
 1. **OPPOSE** the **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** and the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** because they are corporate 'wish lists' which attack environmental protections, affordable medication, and Internet freedoms. (IP)
 1. **CALL for ISRAEL** to affirm the right of the Palestinians to a **viable, contiguous state according to 1967 borders**. (IP)

1. **OPPOSE the continued collective punishment** of the non-combatant civilians of Gaza. (IP)

1. We support legislation that abolishes the **School of the Americas** (now referred to WHISC or Western Hemispheric Institute of Security Cooperation) and any other American-sponsored training for terrorists.

1. **REMOVE the income ceiling** for paying into Social Security. (T)

1. **REPLACE** the phrase “tax break” with the phrase “**tax loophole**” in all documents and references. (T)

1. **ADOPT the “Buffett Rule”** which states that the very wealthy must pay a minimum tax at least **equal to that paid by the "middle class"**, including but not limited to income and capital gains. (T)

1. **STOP the “CLASS WARFARE”** that has increasingly sheltered the very wealthy while it shifted the burden to, and endangered the existence of, the "middle class". (T)

1. **SUBSIDIZE the COUNTIES** in the delivery of **veterans' services**. (Vet)

1. **INCREASE** funding for the **Iowa Veterans Home**. (Vet)

1. **URGE ACTIVE RECRUITMENT** of veterans and priority preference in civilian employment. (Vet)

1. On the national level, we urge that Congress provide **ADEQUATE PHYSICAL and MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT** for veterans. (Vet)