

1 **2016 DUBUQUE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC (DCD) PARTY PLATFORM**

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3 (presented to DCD in Convention, 12 March 2016, amended and ratified in
4 Convention and remanded to Platform Committee for review of planks submitted
5 with sufficient signatures in Convention; completed 14 March 2016)

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8 **What Dubuque County Democrats Stand For**

9 Our mission is to establish and protect the human rights of all members of society, and create
10 opportunity for a decent standard of living for everyone. We must never lose sight that everyone
11 deserves a clean, sustainable, energy-efficient environment as well as safe and nutritious food and
12 water. In addition, people need necessary clothing, adequate housing, high-quality affordable
13 medical care, necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of circumstances
14 beyond their control. These circumstances could be but are not limited to international conflict,
15 natural disaster, disease, disability, death of significant other, old age or other lack of livelihood.
16 We believe our government's duty is to protect these basic human rights of safety, economic
17 security, social equality, and cultural diversity. In the spirit of our founders we dedicate ourselves
18 to the achievement of human dignity, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

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23 **AGRICULTURE**

24 **MISSION: We are committed to preservation of the family farm, agriculture-based jobs,**
25 **and the marketing of diversified environmentally responsible products.**

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27 **SUPPORT** additional programs like **FEED the FUTURE** (<http://www.feedthefuture.gov>)
28 to combat domestic and world hunger.

29 **PROMOTE CROP DIVERSITY and ORGANIC FARMING.** Some of the existing
30 subsidies shall be re-routed to farmers who grow oats, flax, rye, barley, pasture greens, root crops
31 and various wheats. Other of these subsidies may be directed to smaller, organic (certified or not)
32 farmers with one to forty acres. These subsidies shall be available to farmers who do not use
33 pollutants (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, glyphosate, nicotinoids) or other toxins.

34 **ELIMINATE MONOPOLY CONTROL of our nation's food processing industry.**

35 **ENFORCE RUNOFF RESTRICTION** on commercial fertilizers and manure by
36 mandating the use of filter strips and buffers of at least 20 feet from farmland along streams
37 and rivers to help filter chemical runoff and prevent erosion.

38 **IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT** of the Packers and Stockyards Act, including legislative
39 amendments and administrative rules that prohibit price discrimination by meatpackers against
40 family farm livestock producers.

41 **CONTINUE to REGULATE ANTIBIOTICS in animal feed, and REGULATE**
42 **growth hormones.**

43 **CONTINUE the FARM BILL GRANTS** for non-profit and public organizations to
44 develop gardens in low-income communities that are planted, cared for, and harvested by
45 community gardeners, offering lessons on good production practices and diets to help provide

46 and supplement school lunches and donate to local food banks and senior centers, or be given to
47 school children to take home to their families.

48 **PROMOTE** the "KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD" program for
49 sustainable local and regional **food systems** that will support small and mid-sized farms and
50 ranches, strengthen rural communities, promote healthy eating, and protect our natural resources.
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52 **CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFOs):**

53 **DEFINE "FACTORY FARM"** as a large institutionalized farm, a farm on which large
54 numbers of animals are raised indoors in conditions intended to maximize production at minimal
55 cost, with no grass or other vegetation in the confinement area during the growing season. Often
56 animals are living in unsanitary conditions and are mutilated to avoid cannibalism and are fed
57 large amounts of antibiotics and/or hormones to prevent disease and accelerate growth.

58 **ENABLE** counties to exercise local control to **SITE FACTORY FARMS** , including time
59 for public comment and EPA input.

60 **ENACT STRICT REGULATION** of construction, maintenance and operation of CAFOs
61 per State of Iowa standards. Issue permits for CAFOs only after the Iowa Department of Natural
62 Resources (IDNR) has reviewed and found acceptable proposals regarding manure management,
63 waterway and ground water effects, implementation of buffer and filter strips and effects of these
64 operations on public health.

65 **MANDATE all CAFO owners and deed holders or investors to carry liability**
66 **insurance** covering current and future public health issues that arise from their existence, as well
67 as site cleanup resulting from any noncompliance or hazardous event. (This may affect producers
68 who feed from 500 to over 5000 hogs.)

69 **ELIMINATE all SUBSIDIES** for the purchase and operations of CAFOs

70 **BASE PUBLIC POLICY on studies and research** to determine and limit the number
71 of animals that can be kept in a given space in order to assure humane treatment of animals.

72 **REQUIRE frequent testing and inspections** for unsanitary/unsafe conditions, and require
73 large farms and CAFOs to mitigate the stench and ground-water pollution caused by their
74 operations.

75 **REQUIRE** food processing manufacturers and seed companies to **identify if GMO**
76 (genetically modified organism) plants were used in their processing and to include that
77 information in all labeling.
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81 **CLIMATE PRESERVATION and** 82 **ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY / STEWARDSHIP**

83 **MISSION: We recognize that the earth's very survival depends on wise use of our**
84 **resources, and time is short for us to make necessary changes in the way we manage them.**
85 **We must turn to renewable sources of energy to ease and reverse the decline of our climate.**
86 **We must protect our natural resources, preserve our cultural and historical heritage and**
87 **sites, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and provide for the education and**
88 **understanding of our citizens to enable them to become knowledgeable stewards of our**
89 **environment.**

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92 **We oppose** construction of new oil pipelines in particular **KEYSTONE XL and BAKKEN.**

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Support continued U.S. leadership in international efforts to combat climate change, including implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

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**.

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.

PROVIDE FULL DISCLOSURE of all current and new processes of energy refinement.

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.

BAN OPEN LEAF BURNING in urban Iowa, while allowing it in resource management such as burning of prairie and savanna. Expand leaf composting and mulching.

MANDATE REDUCTIONS on both state and federal levels in the amount of phosphorus and nitrates in our waterways.

REINSTATE numeric limits on mercury emissions.

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

SET A GOAL of 50% from **renewable sources** for clean energy generated in Iowa by 2030, promoting solar, wind, geo-thermal and hydro energy technologies with tax incentives for businesses and rebates for users.

ENDORSE and ENACT international **CLIMATE PROTECTION** agreements. Specifically, the U.S. Government should negotiate limits on greenhouse gases with China and India in order to achieve a goal of 350 ppm of CO2 which would avoid the negative effects of climate change.

ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES for oil and nuclear energy.

INCREASE SUBSIDIES for **renewable sources** of energy and alternative biofuels (switch grass, garbage, etc.) including the windmill tax credit which provides 7000 jobs in Iowa.

PRESERVE all **cemeteries** and burial grounds of a sacred and historic nature.

PRESERVE unique land forms such as Loess Hills, Prairies, and tAlgific Slopes.

OPPOSE policies that lead to **destruction of wilderness areas** for oil, coal, and gas exploration and drilling.

PROVIDE incentives for rehabilitation or construction of public and private buildings that meet green building and efficiency standards.

ESTABLISH “SMART GROWTH” policies to contain and guide urban development in an environmentally responsible and socially equitable manner. This can be accomplished through infill development, coordinated residential, economic and transportation planning, land use and zoning policies in order to promote mixed-zone walkable neighborhoods conducive to mass transit, bicycling and walking, to reduce automobile dependence, increase community interaction, and create vibrant urban places.

INITIATE a federal program to **REFOREST** the compromised western forests.

SUPPORT dramatic reduction of corn ethanol while expanding production of non-food crop and non-forest crop ethanol.

141 **FULLY FUND** the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program
142 (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP>)
143 **INCREASE** Department of Natural Resource (DNR) funding for state parks.
144 **ENCOURAGE** the City of Dubuque to fund a **FULL TIME PARK RANGER** for the
145 Mines of Spain recreation area.
146 **SUPPORT** educating people on the dangers of biomass burning.

151 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE, AND LABOR**

152 **MISSION:** The American Dream has arisen on the arms and backs of our workers, and they
153 have been slighted in the workplace. We support the rights of workers to form unions and
154 bargain collectively, widen the scope of bargaining, share in the cost of representation (Fair
155 Share), and have patient "choice of doctor" when injured on the job. We further believe that
156 we must end tax advantages for companies that send jobs or corporate offices outside of U.S.
157 borders.

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160 **ENSURE** that all of our trade agreements include **labor and environmental standards**,
161 and that ends the tax advantage for companies that outsource their factories, technology, or
162 financial operations.

163 **REQUIRE** U.S. based companies to comply with all U.S. regulations in their factories both
164 **inside and outside** of U.S. borders.

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

168 **PASS** the **Employee Free Choice Act** to protect the rights of both public and private sector
169 workers to form unions and bargain collectively.

170 **MAINTAIN AND EXPAND** the **scope of bargaining** for public sector employees.

171 **SUPPORT** a **PREVAILING WAGE** law for construction workers.

172 **SUPPORT** the right of workers injured on the job to **CHOOSE their own** medical care
173 **PROVIDER.**

174 **INVEST** in **infrastructure.**

175 **RAISE** the **MINIMUM WAGE** to \$12.50 an hour in 2017 and **INDEX** it for inflation.

176 **CREATE** a national "**HIGH SPEED INTERNET for ALL**" policy that preserves an open
177 Internet.

178 **ELIMINATE PREDATORY LENDING** by **capping loan interest at 30% APR.**

179 **REQUIRE HEDGE FUND FEES** management fees be treated as **ORDINARY INCOME**
180 and not capital gains.

181 **ENFORCE** legislation that compels **WALL STREET AND THE 1%** to pay their **FAIR**
182 **SHARE.**

183 **SUSPEND** the \$5.5 billion per year Postal Service **PENSION PRE-FUNDING.**

184 **BREAK UP** banks and insurance groups **TOO BIG TO FAIL**, and bring CEOs to justice.

185 **ENACT comprehensive CAMPAIGN FINANCE reform and public financing of**
186 campaigns to promote voter-owned clean elections.

187 **ENSURE that all registered voters be allowed to VOTE IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

188 Any question of legitimacy must still allow for a provisional ballot.

189 **STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, and MEDICAID** rather than
190 cutting or privatizing.

191 **REMOVE THE CAP** on income that finances Social Security.

192 **REQUIRE** Social Security **COST of LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA)** to be based on
193 the true cost of living over the full previous year.

194 **ACTUARIALLY FULLY FUND** Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (**IPERS**) and
195 Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (**MFPRSI**) for long term. Create a hybrid
196 Cost of Living Increase (COLA) to replace the depleted Favorable Experience Dividend (FED) in
197 IPERS.

198 **URGE** the Legislature to provide IPERS adjustments for inflation and **COMMISSION** a
199 task force to study the merits of creating an independent **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** to govern
200 IPERS and to assume the fiduciary responsibility for the members of IPERS. The findings of this
201 task force would be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature for consideration in the next
202 legislative session.

203 **GROW the AMERICAN ECONOMY** through an increase in jobs related to **alternative**
204 **energies.**

205 **REINSTATE** the **GLASS-STEAGALL ACT.**

206 **ENACT** legislation requiring **TAXATION** of companies for both **FOREIGN and**
207 **DOMESTIC INCOME.**

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EDUCATION

213 **MISSION: We are committed to creating free and public schools/learning environments that**
214 **meet high local, state and federal standards, and instill a life-long love of learning. We shall**
215 **equip students with process, communication, collaboration skills, logical thinking and**
216 **problem solving skills, and the use of modern technologies for scientific and social inquiry**
217 **(i.e. 21st Century Skills). These practices will provide equal opportunity for hope, resilience,**
218 **persistence, and purpose, thus giving us our best chance for education reform and**
219 **accountability.**

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221 **FULLY FUND Pre-Kindergarten public education** for all students in our nation rather
222 than only those entitled for special education services.

223 **REQUIRE** professional school counselors to have a **Master's Degree** in School
224 Counseling, Education Psychology, or Social Work, including teaching and counseling practicum
225 consisting of a minimum of 500 contact hours. Support **FUNDING** for both academic and life
226 skills counseling.

227 **PROVIDE** stable, timely and adequate funding with consistent yearly 4% increases for
228 **FULL STAFFING and FACILITIES** of public schools (pre-K-12), community colleges, and
229 Area Education Agencies (AEA) to maintain our rich tradition of high quality education in Iowa.

230 **SUPPORT** full federal funding of **SPECIAL EDUCATION.**

231 **INCLUDE** the conditions of ADHD, APD (Auditory Processing Deficit), Pediatric
232 Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections

233 (PANDAS) and Autism/Spectrum Disorders within the **INDIVIDUALS with**
234 **DISABILITIES Act (IDEA).**
235 **CLASSIFY INDIVIDUALS as INDEPENDENT** when no longer included in their
236 parents' taxes, so they qualify **for financial aid** at institutions of higher learning, as it is becoming
237 inaccessible to the middle class.

238 **AMEND** the school finance statutes for **AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES (AEAs)** and
239 how they are impacted by across-the-board cuts. We encourage statutes to be changed so AEAs
240 receive their entire state funding prior to an across-the-board cut.

241 **EXPAND JOB TRAINING** at Community Colleges, and coordinate with high school
242 curricula for college and non-college track students.

243 **CREATE** and/or **EXPAND** no-cost or low-cost two-year **COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
244 certified technical programs/associate degrees to all students maintaining a 2.5 or greater GPA.

245 **BROADEN USAGE** of the statewide sales tax from the current **infrastructure and**
246 **property tax relief** to include school district general fund expenditures for the extraordinary
247 transportation costs and other financial difficulties that many districts experience.

248 **CREATE** a statewide **PANEL** to oversee distribution of infrastructure money to local
249 school districts similar to what was done for the Vision Iowa program.

250 **OPPOSE diverting** tax money from public schools to fund **VOUCHERS**, tuition tax
251 credits, or private and/or for-profit education businesses.

252 **PAY** professional **SALARIES** for educators that are **in line with their levels of education**
253 and increasing the wages of support professionals in our public schools in order to attract and
254 retain the most qualified personnel.

255 **ALLOW EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS** (ESPs - school district
256 employees in non-teaching positions) employed by public school districts to be eligible for
257 unemployment benefits, as employees who are sub-contracted to do the same jobs as ESPs
258 employed by schools are currently allowed to do.

259 **SUPPORT** every school employee receiving a **competitive living wage and benefits.**

260 **CALL FOR** academic presentation of philosophical, ethnic, cultural (including fine arts),
261 and religious traditions in public schools to **better equip** our citizens with the social skills and
262 understandings that are needed in our increasingly diverse communities. **IMPLEMENT** conflict
263 resolution, civil discourse skills and coping skills training within current middle and high school
264 curricula.

265 **REQUIRE** that the teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff in alternative public schools and
266 juvenile facilities be **certified** and paid wages **commensurate** with public school teachers' wages.
267 **REQUIRE** hiring **qualified librarians** in Iowa schools, and pay them a professional wage.

268 **KEEP** Iowa teacher's **COMPENSATION above** the national average to attract and retain
269 highly qualified teachers and staff in the state of Iowa.

270 **CREATE** a comprehensive program to allow students to exchange community service such
271 as through AmeriCorps and Community Foundation programs into **REDUCED** college tuition
272 and/or student loans.

273 **APPROVE** Senator Warren's bill (S. 793) to: **LIMIT** percentage rates on student loans to
274 3.9% (slightly more for graduate students); **FIX** the Pell Grant program by increasing the
275 maximum amount of Pell grants for low-income students and allowing use of Pell grants for
276 Summer courses; **SIMPLIFY** the federal financial aid application process; and **LEVERAGE**
277 federal dollars to give states incentive to increase public education investments.

278 **ALLOW** current and past students **to REFINANCE** existing student loans to new lower
279 percentages.

280 **ADDRESS** the school –to-prison pipeline by revising zero-tolerance policies that
281 automatically impose severe punishment regardless of circumstance and by focusing efforts on
282 early intervention/prevention through the training and use of positive behavior supports for **AT-**
283 **RISK STUDENTS** rather than punishment. Provide simple explanations of infractions and
284 prescribed responses in the student code to ensure fairness. Create appropriate limits on the use of
285 law enforcement within public schools.

286 **IMPLEMENT and ENHANCE** the **IOWA SCHOOL SAFETY GUIDE**.

287 **ENCOURAGE and INCENTIVISE DIVERSITY** in local teacher hiring and
288 recruitment.

289 **INCLUDE and FUND SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS and**
290 **MATH (STEAM)** programs in elementary, middle, and high schools.

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ENERGY

296 **MISSION: We are committed to the promotion and implementation of sustainable and**
297 **energy efficient technologies in rural and urban communities through education, training,**
298 **workforce development, research and project facilitation.**

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301 **INCREASE** funding for research of **alternative energy sources**.

302 **CONTINUE or RE-ESTABLISH** tax credits and rebates for individuals/households and
303 businesses for **energy-saving purchases**, such as Energy Star appliances and other significant
304 energy-saving improvements.

305 **CONTINUALLY IMPROVE energy-efficiency** policies for utility companies, residential,
306 commercial, and government buildings.

307 **ENACT** a **carbon tax** to fund research and development of renewable energy.

308 **AMEND** the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to **reduce emissions** of carbon dioxide by
309 imposing a tax on primary fossil fuels based on their carbon content.

310 **BAN** the purchasing and use of **coal** by Iowa energy companies that is sourced from
311 **mountain-top removal** practices.

312 **PLAN** for the eventual **closing** of all coal-fired powered plants.

313 **BASE DECISIONS** on public health, economic sustainability, environmental sustainability,
314 and quality of life of local, state-wide, national, and global communities.

315 **SUBSIDIZE** research, development and production of non-carbon renewal energy sources.

316 **ENACT** ordinances allowing small cities to erect **city-owned turbines**.

317 **MANDATE net metering** for all utilities and rural electric co-ops, participation in energy
318 saving programs and rebates, and **IMPLEMENT** reasonable feed in tariffs for private alternative
319 energy generation stations.

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

324 **DEVELOP** new manufacturing technologies, retrofitting buildings and factories, and
325 rebuilding public infrastructure in order to **create new jobs**.

326 **LIMIT TAX INCENTIVES** for new construction of buildings to those that meet **green**
327 **building standards** such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS)
328 certification.

329 **END exportation** of our country's own fuel.

330 **SCHEDULE** the systematic shutdown of existing **nuclear plants** and the delay of plans for
331 the transportation of nuclear waste until the plans are proven safe for successive generations.

332 **SUSTAIN** the **EPA** as a fully functioning and fully funded governmental agency.
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337 **ENVIRONMENT**

338 **MISSION: We believe that our local, state, and federal governments must aggressively**
339 **address the environmental issues of our time: climate destabilization, dependence on fossil**
340 **fuels, and the need to create sustainable economic systems and communities in order to**
341 **ensure that our irreplaceable ecosystem supports future generations of life on this planet.**
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343 **Promote energy efficiency** through use of alternative sources (such as photovoltaic, wind,
344 geothermal, bio-diesel and hydro energy technologies). We believe that funding for research and
345 development is crucial.

346 **MANDATE RECYCLING** across the state of Iowa and our nation, including at all public
347 buildings and events across Iowa.

348 **EXPAND the Iowa beverage container deposit law** to include non-carbonated bottles, and
349 raise the deposit to 10 cents.

350 **FUND** public school education and public awareness campaign on ways to reduce individual
351 and community environmental impacts, including a "Close the loop" campaign which encourages
352 people to **purchase recycled items**.
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354 **TRANSPORTATION --**

355 **INCREASE CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY (CAFE)** standards for all
356 vehicles, including SUVs and pickups.

357 **IMPLEMENT** vehicle registration fees that reward **fuel efficiency**.

358 **MANDATE** minimum fuel efficiency for government-owned vehicles.

359 **PROMOTE** strong passenger and freight **train services** and the subsidizing of these
360 services to an extent above what highways and airplanes are currently subsidized.

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

365 **REINSTATE** federal funding for the **High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Program** at
366 a level commensurate with the importance of this vital transportation program in maintaining
367 America's competitive edge in the global marketplace.

368 **CONTINUE** funding and construction of State Freeway 32 around Dubuque to **connect**
369 **Highways 61 and 20**.

370 **BRING** all public transportation into **ADA compliance**.
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GOVERNMENT AND LAW

MISSION: The public's business shall be conducted in a manner that is responsive, accessible, and open to all in a legal, ethical, and fair manner. We believe all Americans deserve equal rights under the law regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

MAINTAIN Iowa's **first in the nation** status in the presidential selection process.

BAN the death penalty nationwide.

PRESERVE and strengthen the **Social Security** system as a federal program.

FULLY FUND the Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**);

OPPOSE un-funded mandates at all levels of government.

PUBLICLY FINANCE state and federal elections.

ENACT 'MOVE TO AMEND' to overturn U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United decision.

CONTINUE same day registration.

ENSURE REGISTRATION of all eligible voters to vote without encumbrances, and **BAN attempts to require IDs from registered voters.**

CONTINUE SUPPORT for same sex marriage.

OPPOSE all efforts to impose a constitutional ban on non-heterosexual marriages.

CONTINUE Iowa's system of selecting **JUDGES BASED on MERIT**, not political appointment or partisan election.

BAN the practice of **predatory lending.**

REINSTATE ban on assault and high magazine capacity weapons and **REQUIRE verified background checks** on all gun sales, including private parties, gun show, and internet sales, requiring a two-week waiting period so that officials have enough time to complete background checks before gun ownership is transferred.

BAN Open Carry gun laws.

MANDATE use of biometric technologies on all firearms.

RETAIN and ENFORCE all current Gun-Free zones.

REQUIRE that all states cooperate with the **NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS)** including sharing data related to persons posing danger to themselves or others.

REQUIRE increased regulation of all companies with access to personal information and prohibit any sharing of data without explicit consent.

REQUIRE adequate funding to improve declining infrastructure including municipal utilities, roads and bridges as well as dangerous roadway intersections.

SUPPORT funding for **MASS TRANSIT**, including fast speed rail systems.

RESTORE FILIBUSTER RULE of U.S. Senate to require continued discussion to sustain a filibuster.

CREATE adequate regulation for domestic use of unmanned vehicles/**drones** accounting for public safety and security while allowing businesses to leverage this technology.

ENACT comprehensive immigration reform with **PATHWAYS to CITIZENSHIP** for persons who have immigrated to the U.S. and are lacking proper documentation.

DECLARE a MORATORIUM on detentions and deportation except in cases of felony.

CONTINUE Iowa's great tradition of **WELCOMING** and accepting refugees.

420 **REQUIRE** effective **REPRESENTATION** for immigrants, especially unaccompanied
421 minors, in removal proceedings.
422 **DEVELOP** additional **jail diversion programs**.
423 **PROHIBIT PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISONS**.
424 **ALLOW** felons, who have completed their sentences, to **regain voting rights**.
425 **OFFER** Iowa Civil Service tests to felons who have completed their sentences and received
426 preparation for employment opportunities.
427 **ADDRESS** human trafficking crimes by prosecuting perpetrators and **FUNDING**
428 protection and prevention programs.
429 **CREATE** and **FUND** a Human Trafficking Office within the Iowa Department of Public
430 Safety to address the demand for sex slaves and labor slaves. **SUPPORT** involvement of health
431 centers, law enforcement, human services, and schools to stop the supply of slaves through
432 prevention and increased awareness.
433 **INCREASE** drug and **mental health courts**.
434 **REQUIRE** that the government post information on contracts online to **assure oversight**
435 and an appeal process.
436 **CENSURE GOV. BRANSTAD** for closing Clarinda and Mt. Pleasant MHIs in violation of
437 Iowa Code and without adequate alternate facilities in place
438 **REQUIRE open bidding** on government contracts over \$100,000.
439 **CONTINUE** Dubuque County’s subsidy to Sunnycrest Manor nursing home. Ensure that
440 any entity contracted by the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors to recommend efficiencies
441 shall not benefit from those recommendations. Exclude consultants from being service providers.
442 **PROTECT** Freedom of the Press and **REQUIRE** media outlets, which refer to their
443 programming as “news,” to follow **strict journalistic integrity** guidelines such as those outlined
444 by the Society of Professional Journalists (<http://www.spj.org>).
445 **BAN** Mandatory Minimum Sentences.
446 **SUPPORT** legislation requiring audio, visual, and surveillance devices such as dashboard
447 cameras and body cameras to become universal law enforcement equipment. And implement
448 compliance measures with severe consequences for law enforcement officials found to
449 purposefully deactivate or disable devices.
450 **REQUIRE** transparency and **FULL DISCLOSURE** of contributions to elected officials.
451 **FUND** additional training for law enforcement agencies on appropriate techniques for
452 detecting and interacting with people suffering from mental illness.
453 **FUND** additional training for law enforcement agencies on appropriate **non-lethal**
454 intervention methods.
455 **PROHIBIT** the **privatization** of government provided education and health and human
456 services.
457 **SUPPORT** the “**Justice is not for Sale Act of 2015**” (S2054) introducing criminal justice
458 reforms and calling for an end to “bed quotas” for immigrants.
459 **REQUIRE** elected officials to implement technology that enables citizens to more easily
460 **communicate** with officials (ie: Surveys) and increase **transparency** related to lobbying efforts,
461 campaign contributions, and voting records.
462 **DEMAND** all US Senators do their **CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED JOB** of
463 advise and consent on federal court nominations regardless of when the nomination should arise.
464 Doing nothing is not an option, and shall be cause for forfeiture of their seat in the senate due to
465 malfeasance.

466 **END** practice of appointing Super Delegates, and **APPOINT** delegates based on the
467 percentage of votes received in caucuses and by no other means.
468 **DECRIMINALIZE** marijuana.

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472 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE S**

473 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MISSION: We believe human beings, our greatest**
474 **natural resource, are endowed with the capacity for growth and healing. A healthy society**
475 **will support each person in achieving wellness and will benefit from contributions made by**
476 **all. We fully support the Affordable Care Act because it rules out denial of coverage for pre-**
477 **existing conditions, eliminates annual and lifetime caps, extends family coverage for**
478 **dependents up to age 26, eliminates the ‘donut hole’, promotes preventative medicine, and**
479 **continually improves information and access to healthcare. We support continual**
480 **improvement of the Affordable Care Act and the resultant tax savings..**

481

482 **Enact SINGLE PAYER** insurance / health care program by 2030.

483 Negotiation of drug products at **FAIR MARKET COSTS**.

484 **Endorse** reform to focus on new technology for the management of chronic and acute
485 illness investment in electronic records systems for health care.

486 **Promote good health** through preventative exams (as covered in the Affordable Care Act
487 (ACA)), healthy lifestyles, and a reduction of barriers to health care for all.

488 **Expand** availability of **Medical Nutrition Therapy** services.

489 **Require** health and disability insurance companies to provide equitable coverage for
490 behavioral health conditions (parity).

491 Funding for research, advocacy, and education for health issues related to improved
492 outcomes for diverse populations including insurance selection, medication choices and clinical
493 trials (ex. Sickle Cell Disease).

494 **Provide** education for **end-of-life decisions** including pain control, symptom management
495 and early access to hospice services.

496 **Fund** education and **treatment** for Hepatitis C in our communities.

497 **Remove** exemptions for **vaccines** (including religious) unless medically contraindicated.

498 **Transform** behavioral healthcare system toward one where every person with a behavioral
499 health challenge, at any stage of life, has access to **effective treatment** and support systems.

500 **Support** people in **recovery within our communities** rather than resorting to
501 incarceration or institutionalization in the correctional or medical systems, including **fully funding**
502 drug and mental health courts.

503 **Support** recruitment and retention of an educated, skilled, diverse and well-paid
504 **workforce** of social workers and mental health counselors and nurses through loan forgiveness,
505 increased educational funding, and a linkage of salaries to the living wage.

506 **Provide** additional **in-patient mental health facilities**, including re-opening or replacing
507 the Clarinda and Mount Pleasant mental health institutes.

508 **Ensure** that **SUNNYCREST MANOR** nursing home receives funds necessary to
509 adequately serve its residents.

510 **Require** that individuals and/or family members in **mental health and addictions**
511 **recovery** be included in all facets of the public policy decision-making process on the state,
512 regional and local level, including membership in work groups, committees, commission and
513 advisory bodies.

514 **Promote** use of **Peer Support** in both mental health and addictions recovery.
515 **Protect** women's fundamental right to personal reproductive decisions.
516 **Ensure** accessible and affordable birth control for all people.
517 **Legalize** marijuana for **legitimate medical purposes**.
518 **BAN** smoking in casinos.
519 **Adequately fund Iowa Department of Human Services**, so all communities have equal
520 and full access to services provided by DHS.
521 **Achieve** adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid
522 **RESTORE funding levels** providing assistance to families in need, including the
523 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**.
524 **Encourage** farmer's market vendors to accept SNAP.
525 **Increase** funding for **housing** programs for low-income families.
526 Programs to decrease overpresence of minority children in foster care.
527 Funding and assistance for crime victims, including victims of human trafficking.
528 **Adequately fund Iowa Department of Aging**.
529 **Promote** successful aging for Iowans defined as "the ability to **maintain three key**
530 **behaviors** or characteristics: low risk of disease and disease-related disability; high mental and
531 physical function; and active engagement with life."
532 **Promote** livable communities for older Iowans of moderate or low incomes with safe,
533 affordable, accessible housing, supportive community features/services, and adequate mobility
534 options.
535 **END SHACKLING** of women prisoners during labor and delivery.
536 **Enact** laws enabling generic drug production without interference from other drug
537 companies.
538 **Enact** \$500/month cap on patient co-payments.
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542

IMMIGRATION

544 **Mission: We believe in comprehensive immigration policies that focus on the dignity of all**
545 **people. This must include a clearly communicated path to earned citizenship for**
546 **undocumented immigrants and also address border policies.**
547

548 **Pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act.**
549 **Engage** in comprehensive **Immigration Reform**.
550 **Create** ealistic and effective path to earned legal immigration for people in the U.S. without
551 such status.
552 **Reduce applicant backlogs** for permanent residency, with family unity as a priority
553 **Assure due process** protections and reformed detention policies for those detained in the
554 immigration system.
555 **Mandate** effective **border policy** that is both just and humane.
556 **Enforce** employment and labor **rights for all workers**.
557 **Enforce** immigration laws with **humanitarian values**.
558 **Addressroot causes** of immigration, and long-term solutions involving trade policies,
559 international economic aid, debt relief, wage disparities, taxes and tariffs.
560 **Cease deportation** except in the case of felony.

561 **Restore** eligibility for Marshallese individuals, and immigrants from US Territories and
562 Protectorates, to access federal assistance programs such as Medicaid, Women, Infants, and
563 Children (WIC) programs, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
564

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567

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

569 **MISSION: We are committed to worldwide peace and sustainable prosperity. We will reach**
570 **across diverse cultures, borders, and socio-economic systems to achieve fair trade and**
571 **resolution of hostilities.**
572

573

574 **AFGHANISTAN and IRAQ -- Continue withdrawing** our troops, advisors, private
575 contractors and military bases from Afghanistan as quickly, safely, and responsibly as possible;
576 and re-appropriate the saved funding partially to modernization of our armed forces and partly to
577 deficit reduction. **Partner** with the world community under the leadership of the UN in efforts to
578 restore **war-damaged infrastructure**. **Require** any long-term agreement with Afghan or Iraqi
579 government be made with full and open **Congressional knowledge and approval**. **Utilize** all
580 possible diplomacy with the many factions in **Iraq** and with neighboring countries of the Middle
581 East to seek **peaceful solutions** to conflicts among the Iraqi people. **Redirect** our efforts and
582 resources to combating **sources of terrorism** where they are concentrated along border between
583 Pakistan and Afghanistan.

584

585 **IRAN -- expansion of our diplomatic relations** at the highest level possible, with a goal of
586 encouraging Iran to **play a constructive role among its neighbors** in the Middle East.

587

588 **SYRIA and DA'AESH -- US negotiate an end to US bombing, push for a regional**
589 **embargo on all weapons from all sources, increase Syrian refugees to the US to between**
590 **100,000, and 200,000, provide humanitarian assistance to Syrians and border nations, and seek**
591 **political solutions through multilateral negotiations inclusive of all parties**

592

593 **AFRICA -- diplomatic priority to bring an end to all conflicts in Africa, and contribute**
594 **United States financial aid and diplomatic support to any peacekeeping mission in Africa.**

595

596 **SUDAN -- normalization of trade and travel relations.**

597

598 **CUBA -- expand recent normalization of trade and travel relations.**
599

600

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT --

601 **Assure** that the President and Congress make the **peaceful resolution** of the Israeli-
602 Palestinian conflict a top priority, in coordination with the representatives of all nations as well as
603 peoples in the region with a stake in the outcome, in **seeking a fair and just resolution** to the
604 conflict.

605

606 **Call on Israelis and Palestinians to end all acts of violence** and join in good faith efforts to
607 resolve their differences in the pursuit of a two-state solution.

607 **Affirm** the right of the Palestinians to a **viable, contiguous state, comprised of land mass**
608 **equivalent to the Palestinian’s control in 1967.**

609 **Call for Ceasing** of construction and orderly **removal of Israeli settlements** in the West
610 Bank, the restoration of equitable **water rights** and the **removal of the separation** wall from
611 Palestinian territories.

612 **Call for Palestinians** to affirm **the right of Israel to exist within U.N. resolutions pertaining to**
613 **its borders.**

614 **Ensure** validity and sincerity of all negotiations, and hold both sides to strict **compliance to**
615 **any peace agreements.**

616 **Support** the U.S. ending military aid to Israel, replacing it with both **humanitarian and**
617 **economic aid** to Israelis and Palestinians.

618 **Oppose the continued collective punishment** of the non-combatant civilians of Gaza.

619 **Support** full United Nations (UN) recognition of Palestine.

620

621 **DISARMAMENT -**

622 **Renounce** development of **new nuclear weapons** and technologies, and secure international
623 agreement by the year 2020 to cease all use of nuclear weapons.

624 **Cease** using **landmines and cluster bombs** in military situations and avoid selling these
625 landmines and cluster weapons to other nations, but also we must join other nations in stopping
626 their production and use, and participate in efforts to locate and deactivate landmines that pose a
627 risk to civilians.

628 **Prohibit** development, production, stockpiling and use of all **chemical weapons.**

629 **Sign and ratify** conventions **banning Uranium Weapons.**

630 **Cease** use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) for military strikes.

631

632 **HUMANE TREATMENT-**

633 **Adhere** to the **Geneva Convention** for the treatment of all prisoners, including “enemy
634 combatants.”

635 **Close Guantanamo Bay** prison as a move to bring our counter terrorism policies within the
636 rule of law.

637 **Ban torture or inhumane treatment** and prosecute any U.S. citizen who authorizes, orders,
638 or commits acts of torture or inhumane treatment—on or off United States soil or in any foreign
639 country or by any agency on our behalf.

640

641 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES-**

642 **Institute** trade laws that prevent the net loss of **manufacturing jobs** due to the movement
643 of jobs beyond U.S. borders.

644 **Ensure** more **equitable pricing** to fairly benefit peoples within and beyond U.S. borders.

645 **Require** adherence to **ethical corporate practices**, clean environment laws, safe working
646 conditions, protection of workers, elimination of child labor, payout of reasonable living wages
647 and the right of labor to organize internationally.

648 **Exercise stricter control over the importation of unsafe commodities** from other
649 countries.

650 **Require** countries with which the U.S. trades to maintain EPA, OSHA and other
651 **standards required of U.S. Manufacturers.**

652 **Repeal** North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), FTAA, and GATT, achieve
653 **“fair”trade.**

654 **Oppose Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment**
655 **Partnership (TTIP)** because they are corporate ‘wish lists’ which attack environmental
656 protections, affordable medication, and Internet freedoms.

657 **Oppose fast track voting process by Congress**, thus providing transparency in public
658 debate.

659 **Oppose** any trade policy, which gives corporations impunity from government or citizens
660 that want to reign in their power.

661
662 **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS --** ratify and fully adhere to
663 international treaties and conventions, including but not limited to the following:

- 664 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 665 - Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
- 666 - Rights of the Child
- 667 - Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 668 - Protocol on Torture
- 669 - Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- 670 - International Criminal Court
- 671 - Geneva Articles
- 672 - Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- 673 - Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty
- 674 - 1972 Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
675 (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention)
- 676 - 1993 Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical
677 Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention).
- 678 - 1997 Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines
679 and on Their Destruction
- 680 - Laws of the Sea
- 681 - Cluster Munitions
- 682 - Ottawa Ban of Landmines
- 683 - Arms Trade Treaty
- 684 - The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

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686
687 **MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ACHIEVING PEACE --**

688 Bar U.S. from **unilateral or preemptive** military action against any country.

689 **Create** cabinet-level position in a Department of Peace to explore and promote **non-violent**
690 **conflict resolution** strategies.

691 **Respect rights** of all peoples to **self-determination**.

692 **Require** that **wars or military actions** conducted by the United States on foreign soil should
693 be **conducted solely by the national military** forces - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and
694 Coast Guard - and that state **National Guard troops be reserved for defending American**
695 **interests on American soil**.

696 **Cease** all use of military contractors, and redirect funds currently expended on them, to
697 strengthening ability of standing forces to take over tasks conducted by subcontractors, and to
698 increase military pay across the board.

699 **Reduce** military budget and use savings in areas of human need.

700

701 **RESOURCE USE AND DISTRIBUTION / DEBT CANCELLATION --**

702 **Continually improve** proportion of world's people with access to **safe drinking water**. We
703 believe that all people have a right to life-sustaining amounts of affordable potable water. We
704 support sustainable, clean, non-polluting water policies and publicly owned distribution systems.

705 **Support** more effective focusing of United States **development assistance**, including efforts
706 to coordinate the United States development portfolio with other donors and host countries.

707 **Preserve** foreign assistance to people needing help with HIV/AIDS, clean water, agriculture
708 and other **poverty-focused activities**, to become **self-sufficient**. Poverty-focused aid is only 0.6%
709 (less than 1%) of the federal budget. In addition to helping permanently move people out of
710 poverty, poverty-focused development builds markets for U.S. goods and Services, and reduces the
711 likelihood of violent conflict or war that may need significantly more costly interventions later.

712 **Support 100% debt cancellation** for all highly indebted poor countries and the promotion
713 of long-lasting growth in poor countries by improving trade and investment opportunities.

714 **Require** President and Congress to **reduce global poverty** through international assistance
715 that helps and empowers individuals through education, clean water, and elimination of
716 HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

717 **Oppose** reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy, also known as the **global gag rule**.
718 International **NGOs** (Non-Government Organizations) should be free to promote sex education
719 practices that **prevent the global spread of AIDS** and other sexually-transmitted diseases.

720

721 **SCHOOL of the AMERICAS --** abolish School of the Americas (now referred to WHISC or
722 Western Hemispheric Institute of Security Cooperation) and any other American-sponsored
723 training for terrorists.

724

725 **UNITED NATIONS / INTERNATIONAL LAW --**

726 **Continue** membership of the United States in the **United Nations**. Engagement with the
727 UN provides a useful and efficient means for reconciling international issues and dealing with
728 mutual concerns facing the global community including, but not limited to, the threat of
729 worldwide terrorism.

730 **Adhere** to the United Nations "**Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**"

731 **Fully fund** our obligations to **support the United Nations** by paying both dues in arrears,
732 current dues, and peacekeeping costs.

733 **Commit** our nation to abide by and be **accountable to international law**, including all the
734 Geneva Convention articles.

735 **Payment in full** of U.S. dues to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
736 Organization (UNESCO).

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TAXES

742 **MISSION: For government to adequately serve people, it must raise revenue, and do so in**
743 **an even-handed manner. All individuals should pay their fair share toward funding**
744 **government services. Those who benefit the most economically from a strong and vital**
745 **government should pay progressively more as their wealth increases. In recent decades the**
746 **progressivity in taxes has been lost and the wealthy pay lower rates than everyone else, a**
747 **type of class warfare that must cease.**

748

749 **Remove income ceiling** for paying into Social Security.
750 **Replace** phrase “tax break” with phrase “**tax loophole**” in all documents and references.
751 **Add new section** on Taxes to Platform **AT ALL LEVELS** (County, District, State,
752 National).
753 **Require** catalog and on-line vendors to collect and allocate **sales tax** to the states.
754 **Close** tax loopholes and eliminate off-shore sheltering of corporate income.
755 **Reward** companies which keep or return jobs to American soil.
756 **Establish** minimum income tax rate not subject to deductions and exemptions.
757 **Adopt “Buffett Rule”** which states that the very wealthy must pay minimum tax at least
758 **equal to that paid by “middle class”**, including but not limited to income and capital gains.
759 **Stop “CLASS WARFARE”** that has increasingly sheltered the very wealthy while shifting
760 burden to, and endangered existence of, the “middle class”.
761 **Undertake comprehensive review** of our state and national tax structures.

VETERANS

767 **MISSION: We appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans, and the men and women in uniform**
768 **today and their families and pledge our full support to them.**

On STATE LEVEL

771 Iowa Legislature endorse issues and concerns of

772 **IOWA DEMOCRATIC VETERANS’ CAUCUS**, in particular,

773 **Adequately fund** Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.

774 **Subsidize counties** in delivery of **veterans’ services**.

775 **Grant state income tax exemption** for military retirement pay of personnel with Iowa as
776 their primary residence.

777 **Continue** Military Service **Ownership** assistance

778 **Continue** injured Veterans **Grant** Program.

779 **Increase** funding for **Iowa Veterans Home**.

780 **Urge active recruitment** of veterans and priority preference in civilian employment.

On NATIONAL LEVEL

783 Congress provide:

784 **Adequate physical and mental health treatment** for veterans.

785 **Expansion** of Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment rights Act

786 (UNSERRA)

787 **Job protection** for veterans with disabilities incurred while on active duty.

788 **Bonus program** for veterans of Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Persian Gulf conflicts.

789 **Programs** for veterans with untreated or improperly diagnosed **Post Traumatic Stress**
790 **Disorder** (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.

791 **Reduction** of long wait times, **clarity in** eligibility requirements, and **establishment of**
792 **accountability** for privatized veteran health care providers.

793 **Coverage** for veterans, military families, and civilians, including second and third
794 generation victims of Agent Orange related health issues.