

All sections arranged by votes per plank:

2016 DUBUQUE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC (DCD) PARTY PLATFORM
(presented to DCD on 12 March 2016, completed by Platform Committee 14 March 2016,
ranked at the Biennial Organizational Meeting & Caucus 18 March 2017)

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

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

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

27 CLIMATE PRESERVATION and ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY / STEWARDSHIP MISSION: We recognize that the earth’s very survival depends on wise use of our resources, and time is short for us to make necessary changes in the way we manage them. We must turn to renewable sources of energy to ease and reverse the decline of our climate. We must protect our natural resources, preserve our cultural and historical heritage and sites, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and provide for the education and understanding of our citizens to enable them to become knowledgeable stewards of our environment. (CPE)

21 IMMIGRATION Mission: We believe in comprehensive immigration policies that focus on the dignity of all people. This must include a clearly communicated path to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants and also address border policies. (I)

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

19 ECONOMY, COMMERCE, AND LABOR MISSION The American Dream has arisen on the arms and backs of our workers, and they have been slighted in the workplace. We support the rights of workers to form unions and bargain collectively, widen the scope of bargaining, share in

the cost of representation (Fair Share), and have patient "choice of doctor" when injured on the job. We further believe that we must end tax advantages for companies that send jobs or corporate offices outside of U.S. borders. (ECL)

15 ENVIRONMENT MISSION: We believe that our local, state, and federal governments must aggressively address the environmental issues of our time: climate destabilization, dependence on fossil fuels, and the need to create sustainable economic systems and communities in order to ensure that our irreplaceable ecosystem supports future generations of life on this planet. (V)

13 STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, and MEDICAID rather than cutting or privatizing. (ECL)

12 RAISE the **MINIMUM WAGE** to \$12.50 an hour in 2017 and **INDEX** it for inflation. (ECL)

12 ENERGY MISSION: We are committed to the promotion and implementation of sustainable and energy efficient technologies in rural and urban communities through education, training, workforce development, research and project facilitation. (En)

11 Enact SINGLE PAYER insurance / health care program by 2030. (H)

10 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 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)

10 VETERANS MISSION: We appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans, and the men and women in uniform today and their families and pledge our full support to them. (V)

7 Ensure that **SUNNYCREST MANOR** nursing home receives funds necessary to adequately serve its residents. (H)

7 Pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act. (I)

6 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. (GL)

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

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

5 CENSURE GOV. BRANSTAD for closing Clarinda and Mt. Pleasant MHIs in violation of Iowa Code and without adequate alternate facilities in place. (GL)

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

4 AGRICULTURE MISSION: We are committed to preservation of the family farm, agriculture-based jobs, and the marketing of diversified environmentally responsible products. (A)

4 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)

4 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)

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

4 INTERNATIONAL POLICY MISSION: We are committed to worldwide peace and sustainable prosperity. We will reach across diverse cultures, borders, and socio-economic systems to achieve fair trade and resolution of hostilities. (IP)

4 Call for Ceasing of construction and orderly **removal of Israeli settlements** in the West Bank, the restoration of equitable **water rights** and the **removal of the separation** wall from Palestinian territories. (IP)

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

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

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 REMOVE THE CAP on income that finances Social Security. (ECL)

3 PROHIBIT PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISONS. (GL)

3 CONTINUE Dubuque County’s subsidy to Sunnycrest Manor nursing home. Ensure that any entity contracted by the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors to recommend efficiencies shall not benefit from those recommendations. Exclude consultants from being service providers. (GL)

3 Promote use of **Peer Support** in both mental health and addictions recovery. (H)

3 Adequately fund Iowa Department of Human Services, so all communities have equal and full access to services provided by DHS. (H)

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

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

2 BREAK UP banks and insurance groups **TOO BIG TO FAIL**, and bring CEOs to justice. (ECL)

2 ENACT comprehensive CAMPAIGN FINANCE reform and public financing of campaigns to promote voter-owned clean elections. (ECL)

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

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

2 ENACT a **carbon tax** to fund research and development of renewable energy. (En)

2 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 EXPAND the **Iowa beverage container deposit** law to include non-carbonated bottles, and raise the deposit to 10 cents. (V)

2 INCREASE CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY (CAFE) standards for all vehicles, including SUVs and pickups. (V)

2 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. (GL)

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

2 Protect women's fundamental right to personal reproductive decisions. (H)

2 Legalize marijuana for **legitimate medical purposes**. (H)

2 BAN smoking in casinos. (H)

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

2 ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT - Assure that the President and Congress make the **peaceful resolution** of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict a top priority, in coordination with the representatives of all nations as well as peoples in the region with a stake in the outcome, in **seeking a fair and just resolution** to the conflict. (IP)

2 Affirm the right of the Palestinians to a **viable, contiguous state, comprised of land mass equivalent to the Palestinian's control in 1967**. (IP)

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

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

2 Reduce military budget and use savings in areas of human need. (IP)

2 RESOURCE USE AND DISTRIBUTION / DEBT CANCELLATION - Continually improve proportion of world's people with access to **safe drinking water**. We believe that all people have a right to life-sustaining amounts of affordable potable water. We support sustainable, clean, non-polluting water policies and publicly owned distribution systems. (IP)

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

2 Adhere to the United Nations "**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**." (IP)

2 Commit our nation to abide by and be **accountable to international law**, including all the Geneva Convention articles. (IP)

2 Remove income ceiling for paying into Social Security. (T)

1 ENFORCE RUNOFF RESTRICTION 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)

1 IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT of the Packers and Stockyards Act, including legislative amendments and administrative rules that prohibit price discrimination by meatpackers against family farm livestock producers. (A)

1 We oppose construction of new oil pipelines in particular **KEYSTONE XL** and **BAKKEN**. (CPE)

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

1 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. (CPE)

1 SUPPORT the right of workers injured on the job to **CHOOSE their own** medical care **PROVIDER**. (ECL)

1 ENFORCE legislation that compels **WALL STREET AND THE 1%** to pay their **FAIR SHARE**. (ECL)

1 GROW the AMERICAN ECONOMY through an increase in jobs related to **alternative energies**. (ECL)

1 SUPPORT full federal funding of **SPECIAL EDUCATION**. (E)

1 INCLUDE the conditions of ADHD, APD (Auditory Processing Deficit), Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Autism/Spectrum Disorders within the **INDIVIDUALS with DISABILITIES Act (IDEA)**. (E)

1 ALLOW current and past students to **REFINANCE** existing student loans to new lower percentages. (E)

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

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

1 SUSTAIN the **EPA** as a fully functioning and fully funded governmental agency. (En)

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

1 REINSTATE federal funding for the **High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Program** at a level commensurate with the importance of this vital transportation program in maintaining America’s competitive edge in the global marketplace. (V)

1 FULLY FUND the Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**). (GL)

1 CONTINUE same day voter registration. (GL)

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

1 OPPOSE all efforts to impose a constitutional ban on non-heterosexual marriages. (GL)

1 CONTINUE Iowa’s great tradition of **WELCOMING** and accepting refugees. (GL)

1 REQUIRE effective **REPRESENTATION** for immigrants, especially unaccompanied minors, in removal proceedings. (GL)

1 DEVELOP additional **jail diversion programs**. (GL)

1 DEMAND all US Senators do their **CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED JOB** of advise and consent on federal court nominations regardless of when the nomination should arise. Doing nothing is not an option, and shall be cause for forfeiture of their seat in the senate due to malfeasance. (GL)

1 Provide additional in-patient mental health facilities, including re-opening or replacing the Clarinda and Mount Pleasant mental health institutes. (H)
1 Ensure accessible and affordable birth control for all people. (H)
1 RESTORE funding levels providing assistance to families in need, including the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**. (H)
1 Increase funding for **housing** programs for low-income families. (H)
1 Engage in comprehensive **Immigration Reform**. (I)
1 IRAN -- expansion of our **diplomatic relations** at the highest level possible, with a goal of encouraging Iran to **play a constructive role among its neighbors** in the Middle East. (IP)
1 SUDAN -- normalization of trade and travel relations. (IP)

1 CUBA -- expand recent **normalization** of trade and travel relations. (IP)
1 Support the U.S. ending military aid to Israel, replacing it with both **humanitarian and economic aid** to Israelis and Palestinians. (IP)
1 Oppose the continued collective punishment of the non-combatant civilians of Gaza.
1 Support full United Nations (UN) recognition of Palestine. (IP)
1 DISARMAMENT - Renounce development of **new nuclear weapons** and technologies, and secure international agreement by the year 2020 to cease all use of nuclear weapons. (IP)
1 Ensure more **equitable pricing** to fairly benefit peoples within and beyond U.S. borders.
1 Require countries with which the U.S. trades to maintain EPA, OSHA and other **standards required of U.S. Manufacturers**. (IP)
1 Repeal North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), FTAA, and GATT, achieve **“fair” trade**. (IP)

1 Oppose reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy, also known as the **global gag rule**. International **NGOs** (Non-Government Organizations) should be free to promote sex education practices that **prevent the global spread of AIDS** and other sexually-transmitted diseases. (IP)
1 UNITED NATIONS / INTERNATIONAL LAW - Continue membership of the United States in the **United Nations**. Engagement with the UN provides a useful and efficient means for reconciling international issues and dealing with mutual concerns facing the global community including, but not limited to, the threat of worldwide terrorism. (IP)
1 Fully fund our obligations to **support the United Nations** by paying both dues in arrears, current dues, and peacekeeping costs. (IP)
1 Payment in full of U.S. dues to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). (IP)
1 Close tax loopholes and eliminate off-shore sheltering of corporate income. (T)
1 Stop “CLASS WARFARE” that has increasingly sheltered the very wealthy while shifting burden to, and endangered existence of, the "middle class". (T)
1 Adequately fund Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. (V)
1 Subsidize counties in delivery of **veterans’ services**. (V)
1 Increase funding for **Iowa Veterans Home**. (V)
1 On NATIONAL LEVEL Adequate physical and mental health treatment for veterans.
1 Programs for veterans with untreated or improperly diagnosed **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** and other mental health conditions. (V)