

2018 Dubuque County Democratic (DCD) Party Platform

Completed by Platform Committee Wednesday 7 March 2018 and amended
at the Democratic County Convention on Saturday 24 March 2018.

Our platform states what Dubuque County Democrats believe, and is intended as a starting point for actions by supportive constituents, public and private individuals and organizations, and legislators. We encourage people to self-educate, attend civic forums, vote, circulate petitions, promote civic improvement, protest harmful practices and policies, and engage in all manner of peaceful and positive societal change. Further information and helpful references may be found at www.DbqDemocrats.org or by participating in DCD committees.

What Dubuque County Democrats Stand For:

Establishing and protecting the human rights of all members of society, and creating opportunities for a high-quality standard of living for everyone. Everyone has a right to a clean, sustainable, energy-efficient environment, safe water and nutritious food. In addition, people need adequate housing, clothing, high-quality affordable health care, social services, and security in the event of circumstances beyond one's control, such as natural disaster, disease, disability, death of significant other or a caregiver, declining health in old age, international conflict or other lack of livelihood. Our government's duty is to protect these basic human rights of safety, economic security, social equity, and cultural diversity. We dedicate ourselves to the achievement of human dignity, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I. AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

A. Agriculture for Productive Living and a Healthy Food Supply

We are committed to preservation of the family farm, agriculture-based jobs, and policies that support increased Iowa crop diversity to provide local food that is environmentally responsible, including community gardens in urban and rural areas.

We support:

1. Promotion of crop diversity and organic farming.
2. Re-routing subsidies to:
 - a. farms that grow a greater variety of crops;
 - b. smaller, organic (certified or not) farms with one to forty acres;
 - c. farms that do not use pollutants (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, glyphosate, nicotinoids) or other toxins in their fields, crops or harvesting methods.
3. Programs like:
 - a. "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" for sustainable local and regional food systems that support small and mid-sized farms and ranches, strengthen rural and other communities, promote healthy eating, and protect our natural resources.
 - b. Feed the Future (<http://www.feedthefuture.gov>) to combat domestic and world hunger.

4. Continuation of Farm Bill Grants for non-profit and public organizations to develop gardens in low-income communities.
5. Improved enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act; and legislative amendments and administrative rules that prohibit price discrimination by meatpackers against family farm livestock producers.
6. Requirements for food processing manufacturers and seed companies to identify if GMO (genetically modified organism) plants were used in their processing and to include that information in all labeling.
7. Expanding diversity of ethanol to include more efficient and sustainable sources.

We oppose:

1. Monopoly control of our nation's food processing industry.
2. Subsidies for large, undiversified, pesticide-laden, non-local food farming operations.

B. Livestock Management

We value humane animal treatment, environmental protection, and public safety in all livestock management policies and operations.

We support:

1. Regulation of antibiotics and growth hormones in animals and animal feed.
2. Responsible regulation of CAFOs, including:
 - a. Elimination of all subsidies for their purchase and operation
 - b. A statewide ban on siting in Karst areas to protect groundwater supply aquifers.
 - c. Limiting the number of animals that can be kept in a given space to ensure humane treatment of animals.
 - d. Strict regulation of construction, maintenance and operation per State of Iowa standards.
 - e. Issuing permits only after the IDNR has reviewed and found acceptable proposals regarding manure management, waterway and ground water effects, implementation of buffer and filter strips and effects of these operations on public health.
 - f. Frequent testing and inspections for unsanitary/unsafe conditions.
 - g. Requirements for CAFOs and large farms to mitigate the stench and ground-water pollution caused by their operations.
 - h. Mandated liability insurance for all owners, deed holders and investors covering current and future public health issues that arise from their CAFOs and any site cleanup resulting from noncompliance or hazardous events. (This may affect producers who feed over 500 hogs.)

We oppose:

1. Expansion of existing and new CAFOs and Factory Farms (large institutionalized farms 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 with unsanitary living conditions for animals, animal mutilation to avoid cannibalism, and large amounts of antibiotics and growth hormones to prevent disease and accelerate growth).
2. All excessive use of antibiotics and growth hormones in animals and animal feed.

C. Energy: Combating Climate Change with Responsible Production and Use to Reverse Destabilization of our Ecosystem

The survival of humans and all living things on the earth depends on wise use of our resources. Aggressive and immediate action is needed to address and slow climate change. We must turn to renewable sources of energy, protect our natural resources, preserve our cultural and historical heritage sites, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and educate our citizens on climate change and becoming knowledgeable stewards of our environment.

We support:

1. U.S., state, and local leadership in efforts to combat climate change in support of the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. A transition from energy policy based on fossil fuels and nuclear energy toward one based on renewable and clean energy sources, and conservation.
3. A carbon tax to fund research, development and promotion of renewable energy.
4. Promoting PV solar, solar thermal, geo-thermal, wind energy and a variety of energy efficiency paths with tax incentives for businesses and rebates for users with a goal of 50% Iowa energy consumption from clean energy by 2030.
5. Electric co-ops.
6. Continual improvement of energy-efficiency policies for utility companies, residential, commercial, and government buildings and transportation fleets.
7. Energy efficiency in transportation:
 - a. Electric government-owned vehicles with renewable energy source charging stations.
 - b. Increased CAFE standards for all vehicles.
 - c. Vehicle registration fees that reward fuel efficiency.
8. Full disclosure of all current and new processes of energy refinement.
9. A statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas or oil, and mining sand for hydraulic fracturing.
10. Education on pollution sources and their health effects.
11. The systematic shutdown of existing nuclear fission plants and the delay of plans for the transportation of nuclear waste until the plans are proven safe for successive generations.
12. Promoting renewable energy employment expansion in areas impacted by loss of nuclear or fossil fuel industry jobs.
13. Reinstatement of numeric limits on mercury emissions.

We oppose:

1. Construction of new oil pipelines.
2. Hydraulic fracturing for natural gas or oil.
3. Subsidies for fossil fuel energy sources and nuclear energy.
4. All fossil fuel production, use and export.
5. The use of coal by Iowa energy companies.

D. Environment, Stewardship and Livability

We must aggressively address the most pressing environmental issue of our time: adapting infrastructure to destabilization of the climate. All government decisions should be based in the values of public health, economic and environmental sustainability, and quality of life of local, state-wide, national, and global communities.

We support:

1. A strong U.S. EPA as a fully functioning and fully funded governmental agency.
2. Fully funding the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP>)
3. Increases to IDNR funding for Iowa state parks. Funding and hiring a full time park ranger for the Mines of Spain recreation area.
4. Mandating recycling and promoting composting statewide at all public buildings and events.
5. Expansion of composting and mulching programs. Mulching is an environmentally protective measure that also expands the market for compost.
6. Expansion of Iowa beverage container re-use and recycling, including non-carbonated bottles.
7. Banning open leaf burning in Iowa urban and rural areas, while allowing it in resource management such as burning of prairie and savanna.
8. Funding and prioritizing environmental public school education and public awareness campaigns on ways to reduce individual and community environmental impacts.
9. Mass transit funding for:
 - a. expansion of mass transit, on local, state, and national levels;
 - b. restoration of Amtrak passenger rail service between Dubuque and Chicago;
 - c. Amtrak appropriations requests in the U.S. Congress;
 - d. high-speed and intercity passenger rail service;
 - e. strong passenger and freight train services and subsidizing these services commensurate with subsidies for highways and airports;
 - f. all public transportation and facilities being ADA compliant.

We oppose:

1. School curriculums that exclude or minimize environmental and climate change education.
2. Open leaf burning.

E. Watershed Management

We believe in restoring open waterways to fully flourishing environments and protecting our aquifers from any environmental threats.

We support:

1. Establishment and funding for WMAs.
2. Enforcement of runoff restrictions on waterway contaminants in rural, urban and suburban areas, including:
 - a. mandating the use of filter strips and buffers;

- b. promoting other storm water BMPs.
- 3. Federal and state mandated phosphorus and nitrogen limits in our waterways from point and non-point sources.
- 4. Support for communities to upgrade water and wastewater facilities to adequately protect our waterways per EPA or WMA recommended TMDLs.
- 5. Support for farmers to transition to methods that reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loads in runoff.
- 6. Protecting aquifers from overuse by high capacity wells and over-pumping.

We oppose:

- 1. Self-regulation of farms in non-point source pollutant reductions: phosphorus and nitrogen loads.
- 2. Development standards that do not address local waterway protection with storm water BMPs.

F. Planning and Zoning

We believe in “Smart Growth” policies to contain and guide urban development in an environmentally responsible and socially equitable manner.

We support:

- 1. Infill development;
- 2. Coordinated residential, economic and transportation planning;
- 3. Land use and zoning policies that promote mixed-zone walkable neighborhoods conducive to mass transit, bicycling and walking and create vibrant urban places.
- 4. Preservation of all cemeteries and burial grounds of a sacred and historic nature.
- 5. Preservation of unique land forms such as Loess Hills, Prairies, and Algific Slopes.
- 6. Ordinances that assist small cities to erect city-owned turbines.
- 7. Incentives for rehabilitation or construction of public and private buildings that meet green building and efficiency standards.
- 8. More county input and control of Factory Farm and CAFO sites or expansions, county-wide and radius-based public notices, time for public comment and EPA input.
- 9. Initiation of a federal program to reforest the compromised western forests.
- 10. Green retrofitting of buildings, factories, and public infrastructure.

We oppose:

- 1. Oil, coal, and gas exploration and drilling in wilderness areas.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act	IEQA – Iowa Environmental Quality Act
BMP – Best Management Practice (storm water)	IRPS – Iowa Renewable Portfolio Standards
CAFE – Corporate Automotive Fuel Economy	IWILL – Iowa's Water and Land Legacy
CAFO – Confined Animal Feeding Operation	NREG – National Renewable Energy Grid
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency	PV - Photovoltaic
GMO – Genetically Modified Organism	REAP – Resource Enhancement and Protection
IDL – Iowa's Drainage Laws	SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
IDNR – Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Program

II. EDUCATION

We are committed to creating free and public schools with safe learning environments that instill a lifelong love of learning.

We Support:

1. Universal public preschool.
2. Accredited school counselors.
3. 4% yearly funding increases for Pre K to 12th grade public schools for full staffing and facilities.
4. Full federal funding of special education.
5. Continuous revision of the ADA to make it as inclusive as possible.
6. Curriculum for non-college-bound students to support transitions from school to work.
7. Tuition-free public post-secondary education.
8. Professional salaries for educators, including librarians, in public schools.
9. Unions and collective bargaining for Dubuque Community School District employees, including alternative school employees.
10. Cultural and life skills training in public schools.
11. Refinancing of student loans and student income-based loans.
12. Diversity in Dubuque Community School District hiring practices.
13. STEAM education.
14. Timely and responsible state budgeting for education.
15. The use of IEPs.

We Oppose:

1. Public tax money for K-12 private education.
2. Zero-tolerance discipline policies in public schools.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act
 AEA – Area Education Agency
 ELL – English Language Learners
 ESL – English as a Second Language
 IEP - Individual Education Plan

SSA – Iowa legislature: Supplemental State Aid to education,
 STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics

III. GOVERNMENT, LAW, IMMIGRATION & VETERANS

A. Government and Law

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 people in the U.S. deserve equal rights under

the law regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and religion or immigration status.

We Support:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform that includes:
 - a. passage of the DREAM Act;
 - b. pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants without forced short-term deportation;
 - c. long-term protections for refugees from conflict zones.
2. Affirmation of the rights of citizens to bear arms, and efforts to secure gun safety that establish:
 - a. mandatory registration of all gun purchases accompanied by the repeal of “straw purchases” at gun shows;
 - b. universal background checks requiring a 2-week waiting period;
 - c. authorizing sheriffs to refuse to issue a permit to carry to any person adjudicated mentally ill / authorize sheriffs to have the power of refusal;
 - d. a ban on the sale of assault weapons and magazines/clips or attachments capable of firing over 7 rounds of ammunition;
 - e. “gun free zones” maintained in the state of Iowa.
3. Voter rights, including:
 - a. registration of all eligible voters to vote without encumbrances;
 - b. ensuring that all registered voters be allowed to vote in a timely manner;
 - c. at minimum, allowing for provisional ballots in any question of voter legitimacy.
 - d. automatic restoration of voting rights to felons after they have paid their debt to society.
4. Issuing driver’s licenses to all tested and qualified Iowa residents, regardless of immigration status.
5. Creation of a Department of Peace as a cabinet-level position to explore and promote non-violent conflict resolution strategies.
6. Welcoming and helping minority communities, especially African-American, Marshallese, Latino and Islamic people.
7. Requiring that wars or military actions waged by the United States on foreign soil 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.
8. Redirecting funds spent on military contractors to strengthening ability of standing forces to take over tasks conducted by subcontractors and to increasing military pay across the board.
9. Reduction of the military budget and use of savings in areas of human need.
10. Decriminalizing the possession, legal production, and sale of cannabis, including:
 - a. removing the federal designation of cannabis as a Schedule 1 narcotic;
 - b. enacting laws at the federal, state, and local level to provide for the adequate control, distribution, sale, and taxation of cannabis;
 - c. releasing persons currently incarcerated on marijuana/cannabis possession charges and providing assistance to regain their livelihood;
 - d. providing treatment to any and all who may have problematic cannabis use in the same manner that treatment and support are provided for alcohol and other addictions.

11. Amending the Iowa code to create a publicly owned and operated correctional system designed to rehabilitate and reconcile persons convicted of crimes, remove stigma and promote systems that successfully assist offenders to become contributors to civil society.
12. Adequately funding the court system.
13. Enacting comprehensive campaign finance reform and public financing of campaigns to promote voter-owned clean elections.
14. "Move to amend" and other grassroots efforts to overturn *Citizens United*.
15. Restoring the Pledge of Allegiance to the original wording.

We oppose:

1. Use of military contractors.
2. Unilateral or preemptive military action against any country by the U.S.
3. Non-disclosure agreements involving sexual harassment complaints.
4. Voter ID laws or any restrictions against qualified voters that suppress votes.
5. Gerrymandering.
6. Any attempt to build a wall, physical or otherwise, to prevent entry into the U.S.
7. Any legislation requiring local jails to comply with all non-judicial requests from ICE to hold immigrants.
8. Iowa becoming an "open carry" state.
9. Iowa "stand your ground" law.
10. Reinstatement, any use, or implementation of the death penalty.
11. Closing county courthouses.
12. Private prisons.
13. Heartland Institute & ALEC.

B. Veterans

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.

State Level -

We support:

1. Adequately funding the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.
2. Subsidizing counties in delivery of veterans' services.
3. State income tax exemption for military retirement or disability pay of personnel with Iowa as their primary residence.
4. Continuing Military Service Ownership assistance
5. Continuing the Injured Veterans Grant Program.
6. Increase funding for Iowa Veterans' Home.
7. Active recruitment of veterans and priority preference in civilian employment.

National Level -

We support:

8. Adequate physical and mental health treatment for veterans.

9. Expansion of USERRA.
10. Job protection for veterans with disabilities incurred while on active duty.
11. Bonus programs for veterans of Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Persian Gulf and other undeclared conflicts.
12. Programs for veterans with untreated or improperly diagnosed PTSD and other mental health conditions.
13. Reduction of long wait times, clarity in eligibility requirements, and establishment of accountability for privatized veteran health care providers.
14. Coverage for veterans, military families, and civilians, including second and third generation victims of Agent Orange related health issues.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

ALEC - American Legislative Exchange Council
 CPI – Consumer Price Index
 DREAM – Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors
 ENDA – Employment Non-Discrimination Act
 FICA – Federal Insurance Contributions Act
 FICO scores – Fair, Isaac, and Company scores (credit scores)
 FISA – Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act
 ICFA – Iowa Consumer Fraud Act
 ICRC – Iowa Civil Rights Commission
 IPERS – Iowa Public Employees Retirement System

LGBTQQIA+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Allies and others
 PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 RVRA – Restoring Voting Rights Act
 SCIA – Stop Corporate Inversions Act
 TIF – Tax Incremented Financing
 TVDL – Temporary Visitor's Driver's License
 UAFA – Uniting American Families Act
 USERRA – Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
 VA – Department of Veterans' Affairs
 VAWA – Violence Against Women Act
 VOCA – Victims of Crime Act
 VOW – Veterans Opportunity to Work

IV. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

A healthy society will support each person in achieving wellness and will benefit from contributions made by all.

We Support:

1. Single-payer universal healthcare (Healthy Iowans for a Public Option) including dental, vision, hearing, and behavioral and mental health treatment, accessible to all Iowans--both urban and rural.
2. Electronic health records management.
3. End-of-life decisions by the terminally ill.
4. Harm reduction & needle exchange.
5. Universal treatment of communicable diseases.

6. Increased funding for medical research at public institutions, including independent research on existing and proposed drugs and vaccines for safety and efficacy, with true placebos, apart from influence of drug manufacturers and any business or entity holding patents on such products.
7. Treatment of addiction as a health issue, not a criminal issue.
8. Recruitment and retention of skilled, diverse and well-paid community, health and mental health workers.
9. Expanded and fully funded mental health care.
10. Ensuring that Sunnycrest Manor nursing home receives funds necessary to adequately serve its residents.
11. Current and well-researched models of mental and behavioral health treatment.
12. Protecting a women’s fundamental right to personal and affordable reproductive decisions.
13. Ensuring accessible and affordable birth control for all people.
14. Legalizing cannabis in Iowa for adults and medical cannabis use for children.
15. Fully funding social welfare programs.
16. Increased access to affordable, quality housing for low-income individuals.
17. Restoration of Iowa Medical benefits for COFA migrants.
18. Adequate funding and support for the Iowa Department of Aging.
19. A statewide ban on smoking in casinos.

We Oppose:

1. Restrictions on negotiations for prescription drugs.
2. Patent loopholes for existing prescription drugs.
3. Privatization of public health services.
4. Inhumane treatment of all people in state custody.
5. Non-medical exemptions for vaccination.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

AAA – Area Agencies on Aging	MMCP - Medicaid Managed Care Program
ACA – Affordable Care Act	NCAR – National Child Abuse Registries
CMHC – Community Mental Health Centers	NIH - National Institute of Health
COFA - Compact of Free Association	PBC – Pharmacy Benefit Consultants
IME – Iowa Medical Examiners	UCR – Usual and Customary Rates
LTCOP – Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	VA – Veterans Administration
MHI – Mental Health Institutions	WIC – Women, Infants, and Children

V. LABOR, ECONOMY & COMMERCE

A. Labor, Wages, Worker Rights, and Safety

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 and share in the cost of representation.

We Support:

1. "Fair-share" clause negotiations for private and public workers in Iowa.
2. The EFCA to protect the rights of both public and private sector workers to form unions and bargain collectively for all employment conditions.
3. Restoring and expanding the scope of bargaining for public sector employees.
4. The right of workers injured on the job to choose their own medical care provider.
5. A prevailing wage law for construction workers.
6. Raising the minimum wage to \$15.00/hour and index for inflation.
7. Equal pay for equal work.
8. Paid family leave.

We Oppose:

1. "Right to Work" legislation.
2. Iowa HF291 restricting collective bargaining rights of teachers and state workers.

B. Pension and Insurance

Iowa citizens should have secure pensions and insurance focused on the common good, not stockholder returns.

We Support:

1. Strengthening Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as public government run programs.
2. Federal repayment of funds borrowed from the Social Security trust fund and Medicare.
3. Removing the cap on income that finances Social Security.
4. Social Security COLA and health care cost adjustments to be based on the true cost of living over the full previous year.
5. Actuarially fully fund IPERS and MFPRSI for the long term. Create a hybrid COLA to replace the depleted FED in IPERS.
6. Providing IPERS adjustments for inflation and commission a task force to create an independent board of trustees to govern IPERS and to assume the fiduciary responsibility for IPERS members.
7. Suspending the \$5.5 billion per year Postal Service pension pre-funding.

We Oppose:

1. Privatization of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

C. Economic Development

Economic development is important for communities to thrive. Forward-thinking approaches to economic development with short-term and long-term community benefits should be prioritized.

We Support:

1. Meaningful investment in infrastructure that focuses on repair, safety, long-term planning and climate change adaptations.
2. Investment in technology infrastructure, municipal Internet and net neutrality.
3. Public utilities including legislation for the Internet as a utility.
4. A national "High Speed Internet For All" policy that preserves an open Internet.
5. Growing the U.S. economy through an increase in jobs related to clean and sustainable energy.

6. Small local businesses and worker co-operatives.
7. Development that supports local residents and addresses common problems of gentrification.

We Oppose:

1. No-bid contracts.
2. Privatized infrastructure and utilities.

D. Budget and Taxation

We must end tax advantages for companies that send jobs and/or corporate offices outside of U.S. borders. 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.

We Support:

1. Enforcement of legislation that compels Wall Street and the “1%” of wealthiest Americans to pay their Fair Share, including:
 - a. adoption of a “Buffett Rule” whereby the “very wealthy” must pay minimum tax at least equal in percentage to that paid by the “middle class”, including but not limited to income and capital gains;
 - b. taxing hedge fund management fees as ordinary income, not capital gains;
 - c. minimum income tax rates not subject to deductions and exemptions;
 - d. addressing “class warfare” that has increasingly sheltered the very wealthy while shifting burden to all other sectors of the population.
2. Undertaking comprehensive review of our state and national tax structures, including:
 - a. closing tax loopholes;
 - b. taxation of companies on both foreign and domestic income;
 - c. collection and allocation of state sales tax by catalog and on-line/internet vendors based on purchaser location.
3. Broadening usage of the statewide sales tax beyond current infrastructure and property tax relief.

We Oppose:

1. Any treatment or consideration of a Corporation as a “person”.
2. Off-shore sheltering of corporate income.

E. Commerce and Trade

Trade agreements should protect the U.S. public, U.S. jobs, and populations in countries from which the U.S. imports goods and materials.

We Support:

1. Trade agreements that:
 - a. are transparent;
 - b. include labor and environmental standards;
 - c. end tax advantages for companies that outsource their factories, technology, or financial operations outside U.S. borders or territories;

- d. dissuade manufacturing job losses due to the movement of jobs beyond U.S. borders.
- 2. Adherence to ethical corporate practices, clean environment laws, safe working conditions, protection of workers, elimination of child labor, reasonable living wages and the right of labor to organize internationally.
- 3. Stricter regulation, control and inspection of imported commodities from other countries and meaningful punitive deterrents.
- 4. Requiring U.S. trade partner countries and manufacturers to maintain EPA, OSHA and other equivalent or higher standards required of U.S. manufacturers.

We Oppose:

- 1. Trade agreements that:
 - a. are negotiated behind closed doors without Congressional oversight;
 - b. elevate corporate sovereignty over that of government or citizens;
 - c. threaten environmental protections, affordable medication, and Internet freedoms.
- 2. All fast track voting by Congress, which is contrary to transparency in public debate.
- 3. Tariff-initiated trade wars.
- 4. NAFTA, FTAA, and GATT, the TPP and TTIP because they do not conform to fair trade standards.

F. Business

Business must be held accountable to ethical standards to protect workers, the public and the environment both in the U.S. and abroad where the U.S. does business or imports goods and materials.

We Support:

- 1. Requiring U.S. based companies to comply with U.S. regulations for manufacturing safety, worker protection and environmental protection both inside and outside of U.S. borders.
- 2. Breaking up banks and insurance groups “too big to fail”, and bring culpable executives to justice.
- 3. Re-instating the Glass-Steagall Act that separates commercial and investment banking.
- 4. Member-owned credit unions.
- 5. Publicly owned banking institutions.
- 6. Capping loan interest at 30% APR to reduce predatory lending.

We Oppose:

- 1. Predatory lending.
- 2. Weakening Dodd-Frank.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

AERLP – Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program

COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment

EFCA – Employee Free Choice Act

FED – Favorable Experience Dividend

FTAA – Free Trade Area of the Americas

GATT – General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

IPERB – Iowa Public Employment Relations Board

IPERS – Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System

MFPRS – Municipal Fire & Police Retirement System
NAFTA – North American Free Agreement Trade
NLRB - National Labor Relations Board
OSHA - Occupational Health and Safety Administration

TTIP – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
TPP – Trans-Pacific Partnership

VI. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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.

A. Peace and Security

We Support:

1. Geneva Convention for prisoner treatment.
2. Rights of all people to self-determination.
3. International agreement to cease the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
4. Closing Guantanamo Bay prison.
5. Creation of cabinet-level Department of Peace for non-violent conflict resolution.
6. Prosecution of anyone who authorizes, orders, or commits acts of torture or inhumane treatment on behalf of the U.S.

We Oppose:

1. Development of new nuclear weapons.
2. Use and sale of landmines and cluster bombs.
3. Development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons.
4. UAVs for military strikes.

B. Israel and Palestine

We Support:

1. Peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
2. Calling on Israelis and Palestinians to end all acts of violence and join in good faith efforts to resolve their differences in the pursuit of a just solution.
3. The right of Palestinians to a viable, contiguous state comprised of land mass equivalent to the Palestinian's control in 1967.
4. Full UN recognition of Palestine.
5. Israel's right to exist within UN resolutions pertaining to its borders.
6. Ceasing construction and orderly removal of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the separation wall from Palestinian territories.
7. The restoration of equitable water rights between Israel and Palestine.
8. Replacing military aid to Israel with both humanitarian and economic aid to Israelis and Palestinians.

We Oppose:

1. The continued collective punishment of the non-combatant civilians of Gaza.
2. The prosecution of Palestinian children in Israeli courts.
3. Endless detention without trial.
4. The proposal by the Trump Administration to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

C. Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Syria

We Support:

1. Continued withdrawal of U.S. troops, advisors, private contractors and military bases from Afghanistan as quickly and responsibly as possible.
2. Partnering with the world community under the leadership of the UN in efforts to restore war-damaged infrastructure in Afghanistan and Iraq.
3. Long-term agreements with Afghan and Iraqi governments with full and open U.S. Congressional knowledge and approval.
4. Redirecting U.S. efforts and resources to combating sources of terrorism where they are concentrated.
5. Expansion of U.S. diplomatic relations with Iran at the highest level possible, with a goal of encouraging Iran to play a constructive role in the Middle East.
6. Condemnation of war crimes in Syria.
7. Humanitarian assistance to Syrians and border nations.
8. Seeking political solutions in Syria through multilateral negotiations inclusive of all parties.

D. Africa

We Support:

1. Diplomatic priority to bring an end to all conflicts in Africa.
2. U.S. financial aid and diplomatic support to any peacekeeping missions initiated by African nations.
3. Normalization of trade and travel relations with Sudan.

E. Asia

We Support:

1. Conflict resolution that begins with negotiations with North Korea.
2. Economic sanctions and other non-violent options being exercised as a pre-requisite to any military involvement in North Korea.

F. The Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America

We Support:

1. Normalizing trade and travel relations with Cuba.

We Oppose:

1. The Western Hemispheric Institute of Security Cooperation (previously School of Americas) and any other American-sponsored training for terrorists.
2. The Mexico City Policy also known as the global gag rule.

G. Development Assistance

We Support:

1. Preserving foreign assistance to people needing support with HIV/AIDS.
2. Education/prevention, clean affordable water, and agriculture to empower peoples toward self-sufficiency.
3. Reducing global poverty through international assistance that empowers individuals through education and humanitarian assistance.

4. World Food Program.
5. Debt cancellation for all highly indebted countries.
6. Promotion of long-lasting growth by improving trade and investment opportunities.

H. United Nations

We Support:

1. Fundamental rights established in the UDHR.
2. International law including all Geneva Convention articles.
3. Participatory membership of the U.S. in the United Nations.
4. Fully funding U.S. obligations to support the United Nations by paying dues and peacekeeping costs, including U.S. dues/funding to UNESCO and the UNRWA.

I. Treaties and Conventions

We Support:

1. Conventions, treaties, and agreements that recognize the dignity of humankind and value humane treatment rather than militarization.

ACRONYMS RELATED TO THIS SECTION

CEDAW – Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

GFATM – Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

ICESCR – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICJ – International Court of Justice

ICPPED – International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

ISIL – The Islamic State of Syria and the Levant

OPCAT – Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture

RSICC – Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UDHR – Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNCLOS – United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNCRC – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC – 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency

UNSCR 1325 – UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security