

**The Dubuque County Democratic Party Mission**

Democrats believe that global peace and security flows from the recognition of human rights, economic equality, and environmental justice for all people.

To this end we advocate adoption of the practices summarized below. For rationale and more specific action steps see the Dubuque County Democrats website: [www.dbqdemocrats.org](http://www.dbqdemocrats.org)

**AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

We believe in certifiable agricultural practices that are economically sustainable, and protect people, land, water, and air resources now and for future generations, advocating:

- 1) Promotion of small farms, farm jobs, and eco-friendly farm management, preserving natural resources
- 2) Expanding Iowa crop diversity and local markets
- 3) Humane treatment of all animals and stewardship of resources required for and impacted by the livestock industry

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

We believe that destructive effects of climate change can be mitigated by transitioning from fossil fuel and nuclear energy and by rapidly incentivizing renewable, sustainable clean energy sources, advocating:

- 1) Immediate and aggressive action to slow and reverse climate change, including support for the Paris Climate Agreement
- 2) Greater investment of resources in renewable sources of energy
- 3) Preserving our cultural and historical heritage sites and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities
- 4) Educating citizens on climate change, enabling them to become knowledgeable and action-oriented stewards of our environment

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

We believe that every American has the right to clean air and clean water, advocating:

- 1) Reduction of harmful emissions and waste
- 2) Development of new employment opportunities in environmentally sustainable industries
- 3) Expanding mass transit resources
- 4) Natural waterways for flood control, and protecting our aquifers from environmental threats
- 5) Community action to protect the environment, implement sustainable practices, and educate citizens

**EDUCATION**

We believe in providing adequate funding to ensure that all students learn in an environment that is safe, accessible, comprehensive, affordable to all, leads to improved student outcomes, and creates a lifelong love of learning, advocating:

- 1) The Iowa Legislature and Governor facilitate through timely and adequate funding:
  - a) Universal public preschool

- b) Exemplary public schools offering well-rounded career and technical education, including implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM)
- c) Attraction and retention of a diverse workforce of educators, support professionals, and licensed professional mental health workers
- d) Affordable community colleges/universities and/or tuition-free public post-secondary education
- e) Unemployment benefits for eligible Education Support Professionals (ESPs)
- 2) Unions and bargaining rights for all public employees
- 3) Protecting Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS) for educators, firefighters, nurses, snowplow drivers, and other public employees
- 4) Full federal funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 5) Use of education funds only for public education, barring the use of public funds for vouchers, tuition tax credits, and private for-profit education businesses

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

We believe that a healthy society acknowledges and supports the need for self-determination and dignity of all people in achieving mental and physical wellness, advocating:

- 1) Single payer universal health care accessible to all Iowans, including dental, vision, hearing, behavioral and mental health treatment, and prescription drug negotiations.
- 2) The right to self-determination for healthcare decisions
- 3) Harm reduction services and the treatment of addiction as a health issue, not a criminal issue
- 4) 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 or using patent loopholes
- 5) Recruitment and retention of diverse and well-paid community, health and mental health workers
- 6) Expanded and fully funded mental health care
- 7) The protection of Sunnycrest Manor nursing home
- 8) Current and well-researched models of mental and behavioral health treatment
- 9) The protection of the individual's right to personal, accessible reproductive decisions
- 10) Decriminalizing cannabis in Iowa for adults and medical cannabis use for children
- 11) Fully funding social welfare programs, affordable, quality housing for low income and the elderly and the Iowa Department of Aging through public, not-for profit organizations
- 12) A statewide ban on smoking in public places, no exceptions

**LABOR AND ECONOMY**

We believe in a just economy that benefits all workers, vulnerable populations, and businesses, advocating:

- 1. Rights of workers to form unions, bargain collectively, and choose the terms and requirements of union membership
- 2. The right of every citizen to earn a livable wage, as well as paid sick and family leaves
- 3. The right of every person to receive equal pay for equal work

4. Strengthening and protecting public government programs supporting retired persons and those with special needs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
5. Investing in infrastructure repair, safety, long-term planning, and climate-change adaptations
6. Investing in internet communications, including municipal high-speed internet, technological advances, and net neutrality
7. Growing the US economy through jobs related to clean and sustainable energy
8. Supporting and enforcing legislation that narrows the gap between the 1% of wealthiest Americans and the other 99%, including tax legislation that requires the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share, reduces tax burden on persons of lesser means, and closes tax loopholes
9. Negotiating trade agreements that are transparent and environmentally responsible, and that safeguard the well-being of the American public, U.S. jobs, and populations in countries from which the U.S. imports goods and materials
10. Defending the working public's right to ethical corporate practices, safe working conditions, elimination of child labor, and outsourcing beyond U.S. borders
11. Calling to accountability businesses, including banks, that do not adhere to ethical standards of safety, environmental protection, fairness, and the financial health and security of persons in the U.S. and abroad

**GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND IMMIGRATION**

We believe that the public's business must promote social justice and reduce violence by being conducted in a legal, ethical, and fair manner open to all, and that all people deserve equal rights under the law regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion or immigration status, advocating:

- 1) Comprehensive immigration reform that includes:
  - a) Passage of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act
  - b) A pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants without forced short-term deportation
  - c) Long-term protections for refugees from conflict zones
- 2) Welcoming and helping minorities in our communities, including African American, Marshallese, Latino, and people of all faiths
- 3) Prevention, modification, or removal of public infrastructure or amenities that symbolize oppression and discrimination, e.g., southern border wall, confederate monuments, religious displays in public buildings
- 4) Second amendment rights and safety, including:
  - a) Universal background checks, mandatory registration of all gun purchases, and maintaining "gun free zones."
  - b) Authorizing sheriffs to deny permits to persons adjudicated mentally ill, banned from flights, or convicted of domestic violence.
  - c) Banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- 5) Fair and clean elections, including:
  - a) Securing elections against foreign influence
  - b) Enacting comprehensive campaign finance reform
  - c) Enacting fair and impartial redistricting laws

- 6) Issuing driver's licenses to all tested and qualified Iowa residents, regardless of immigration status
- 7) Reformation of our law enforcement agencies through de-militarization and respect for due process, including:
  - a) State and local police
  - b) Federal agencies (Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE], National Security Agency [NSA], etc.)
- 8) Requiring that wars or military actions waged by the United States on foreign soil be conducted solely by U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard with Congressional approval, and national guard troops be reserved for defending American interests on American soil
- 9) Reduction of the military budget with savings applied to areas of human need
- 10) Removing the federal designation of cannabis as a Schedule 1 narcotic (a drug with no currently accepted medical use)
- 11) Publicly (not privately) owned and operated correctional system that rehabilitates and assists offenders to become contributors to civil and just society
- 12) Adequately funding the court system
- 13) Reliance on means other than physical barriers or force to provide border security, utilizing technology and timely, orderly and just legal processes
- 14) Protection of persons alleging sexual harassment, from forced or pressured non-disclosure agreements
- 15) Legislation allowing local jails to decline non-judicial requests from ICE to hold immigrants
- 16) Cabinet level position of Department of Conflict Resolution

**VETERANS**

Democrats appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans and the men and women in uniform today and their families, and pledge our full support to them, advocating:

- 1) State level:
  - a) Adequate-funding for Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.
  - b) Subsidizing counties in delivery of veterans' services
  - c) State income tax exemption for military retirement or disability pay of personnel with Iowa as their primary residence
  - d) Continued Military Service Ownership assistance
  - e) Continued Injured Veterans Grant Program
  - f) Increased funding for Iowa Veterans' Home
  - g) Active recruitment of veterans and priority preference in civilian employment
- 2) National level
  - a) Adequate physical and mental health treatment for veterans
  - b) Expansion of Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)
  - c) Job protection for veterans with disabilities incurred while on active duty
  - d) Bonus programs for veterans of undeclared conflicts
  - e) Programs for veterans with untreated or improperly diagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions
  - f) Reduction of long wait times, clarity in eligibility requirements, and establishment of accountability for privatized veteran health care providers

- g) Coverage for veterans, military families, and civilians, including second and third generation victims of Agent Orange related health issues

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

We are committed to worldwide peace and sustainable prosperity through support of international laws and treaties, with a heavy emphasis on diplomacy, human rights, and peaceful conflict resolution, by advocating:

- 1) Geneva Convention agreements with respect to ~~for~~ prisoner treatment and prosecution of violators.
- 2) U.S. leadership in diplomatic conflict resolution and support of human rights for all people, including the right of self- governance
- 3) Rights of all people to self-determination
- 4) Economic and participatory support for the United Nations, and its Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- 5) International agreements to cease the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, and use of landmines, chemical weapons, cluster bombs, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).
- 6) Ceasing American-sponsored training for terrorists
- 7) Physical and economic protection of non-combatant civilians and children in war
- 8) Exercise of non-violent options as a pre-requisite to any military involvement
- 9) Continued withdrawal of U.S. troops, military aid, advisors, private contractors and military bases from conflict zones around the world
- 10) Normalization of travel relations with all nations
- 11) Development assistance through the World Food Program, debt cancellation for all highly indebted countries, and promotion of long-lasting growth by improving trade and investment opportunities
- 12) Israel and Palestine
  - a) Recognition as a violation of international law Israeli settlements and the West Bank separation wall in disputed territory
  - b) Replacing U.S. military aid to Israel with both humanitarian and economic aid to Israelis and Palestinians
  - c) Ending the blockade and collective punishment of the non-combatant civilians of Gaza.
  - d) Ceasing Israeli detention without trial, as well as ceasing prosecution of Palestinian children by Israeli courts
  - e) Adhering to the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine *Corpus Separatum*, the return of the U.S. Embassy to Tel Aviv