

2022 Dubuque County Democratic (DCD) Party Platform

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The Dubuque County Democratic Party Mission

Democrats believe that the American dream of peace, security and opportunity here and abroad is found in the achievement of human rights, economic equality, and environmental justice for all people. To the end we advocate adoption of the practices summarized below. For rationale and more specific action steps see the [Dubuque County Democrats website](#).

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 generation through the following;

1. Promotion of small farms, farm jobs, and eco-friendly farm management, preserving natural resources for generations to come.
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 AND ENVIRONMENT

We believe that protecting our environment will counter the destructive effects of climate change, greatly expand employment opportunities, and improve our quality of life. To this end, we advocate:

1. Supporting adoption of a [state constitutional amendment](#) protecting the right of the people to a clean, safe, and healthy environment.
2. Greater investment of resources in environmental sustainable industries, reducing harmful emissions and waste while creating jobs and [economic growth](#).
3. Educating all on climate change, enabling them to become knowledgeable and action oriented stewards of our environment.
4. Community action to raise public awareness, implement sustainable practices, and protect the environment.
5. Natural water ways for flood control, and protection of our aquifers from environmental threats.
6. Preserving our cultural and historical sites (including indigenous input) while enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities.
7. Immediate and aggressive action to slow and reverse climate change including continuing support for the [Paris Climate Agreement](#).
8. Expanding mass transit resources by utilizing the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#).

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 through the following:

1. The Iowa Legislature and Governor facilitate through timely and adequate funding for;
 - a. Universal public preschool.
 - b. Exemplary public schools offering well-rounded career and technical education, including implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics ([STEM](#)).
 - 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 and medical benefits for eligible [Education Support Professionals](#) (ESPs).
2. Restore full rights of Iowa public employees in collective bargaining for wages, terms, and conditions of employment.
3. Protecting Iowa Public Employee Retirement Systems (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.

GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND [IMMIGRATION](#)

We believe that our elected leaders must improve social justice and domestic tranquility by promoting ethical legal treatment for all, providing equal rights under the law through the following:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform that includes:
 - a. Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors ([DREAM](#)) Act.
 - b. Expedited pathway to citizenship for documented immigrants without forced short-term deportation.
 - c. Long-term protections for refugees from conflict zones.
 - d. Legislation allowing local jails to decline non-judicial requests from ICE to hold immigrants.
 - e. Decrease the reliance on physical barriers and force in border security by utilizing technology and timely legal processes
2. Uphold second amendment rights while reinforcing common sense safety measures that include:
 - 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 kits or parts that would convert semi-automatic weapons to fully automatic weapons.
- 3. Reformation of law enforcement agencies at all levels through demilitarization and respect for due process and improve community policing.
- 4. Adequate funding for the court system.
- 5. Publicly (not privately) owned and operated correctional systems that rehabilitates and assists offenders to become contributors to a civil and just society.
- 6. Protection from coercive non-disclosure agreements of persons alleging sexual harassment.
- 7. [Decriminalize cannabis](#) at the national and state levels for adults, release inmates held solely for nonviolent cannabis crimes, and expunge cannabis crimes from their records.
- 8. Develop and expand services based on the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal](#).
- 9. Elevate [Bureau of Conflict Resolution](#) to cabinet level status to more effectively resolve world conflicts.
- 10. Maintain the integrity of elections by:
 - a. Securing elections against foreign and domestic interference and protecting voter rights by way of the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#) of 2021
 - b. Overturn [Citizens United](#) and enact comprehensive campaign finance reform.
 - c. Enact impartial redistricting laws in order to prevent [gerrymandering](#)

HEALTH AND 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 health care accessible to all Iowans including; vision, hearing, behavioral and mental health treatment and prescription drug negotiations.
- 2. Recruitment and retention of diverse and well-paid health and mental health workers.
- 3. Expanded and fully funded mental health care and services and develop a patient bill of rights with a dedicated patient advocate.
- 4. Current and well-researched models of mental and behavioral health treatment.
- 5. Develop a patient bill of rights in conjunction with providing a patient advocate.
- 6. Right to self-determination for healthcare decisions.
- 7. The protection of the individual's right to personal, accessible reproductive decisions.
- 8. Decriminalizing cannabis in Iowa for adults and allowing medical cannabis use for children while creating an increased tax revenue.
- 9. Harm reduction services and the treatment of addiction as a health issue, not a criminal issue.

10. 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.
11. Fully funding social programs, affordable quality housing for low income and the elderly and the [Iowa Department of Aging](#) through public, not for-profit organizations.
12. Support and protection of [Sunnycrest Manor](#) nursing home.
13. Statewide ban on smoking in build places, no exceptions.

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 through the following:

1. Provide U.S. leadership in diplomatic conflict resolution and support of [human rights](#) for all people, including the right of self-governance and self-determination.
2. Ensure economic and participatory support for the [United Nations](#), and for th North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)).
3. Achieve international agreements to end proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, landmines, chemical weapons, cluster bombs , and cyber warfare.
4. Adhere to the [Geneva Convention](#) agreements with respect to prisoner treatment and prosecution of violators.
5. Ensure physical and economic protection of non-combatant civilians and children in war.
6. Develop assistance for emerging countries through the [International Monetary Fund](#) and [World Food Program](#) to promote long-lasting growth, improve trade and economic opportunity.

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, have [collective bargaining](#), and choose the terms and requirements of union membership.
2. The right of every person to earn a livable wage, as well as paid family and sick leave.
3. Growing the U.S. economy through [jobs related to clean and sustainable energy](#).
4. The right of every person to receive equal pay for equal work and ending sub-minimum wage for individuals with disabilities.
5. Strengthening and protecting public government programs supporting retired persons and those with special needs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
6. Investing in infrastructure repair, safety, long-term planning, and climate-change adaptations.

7. Expanding [broadband internet access](#) in all locations, and secure [net neutrality](#).
8. Supporting and enforcing legislation that requires the wealthy and corporations to pay their proportionate share, reduces tax burden on persons of lesser means, and closes tax loopholes.
9. Holding businesses accountable for adhering to ethical standards.
10. Defending workers right to ethical corporate practices, safe working conditions, elimination of child labor, and eliminate outsourcing beyond U.S. borders.
11. Negotiating trade agreements that are transparent and environmentally responsible, and that safeguard:
 - a. Rights and best interests of the American public.
 - b. U.S. jobs.
 - c. Well being of populations in countries from which the U.S. imports goods and materials.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Democrats appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans and the men and women and their families serving today, and pledge our full support in the following ways:

1. At the State level:
 - a. Improved 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 funding for the [Injured Veterans Grant Program](#).
 - f. Increased funding for [Iowa Veterans Home](#).
 - g. Active recruitment of veterans and priority preferences in civilian employment.
2. At the National level programs that address veteran's physical and mental health:
 - a. Improved 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. Reduction of long wait times, clarity in eligibility requirements, and establishment of accountability for privatized veterans health care providers.
 - e. Coverage for veterans, military families, and civilians, including second and third generations victims of [Agent Orange](#) and [burn pit](#) related health issues.