

2018 Platform

Iowa County Democrats

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Platform Committee Members:

Jake Tornholm	jtornholm@gmail.com
Michael Halloran	michaeljohnhalloran@gmail.com
Dennis Wayson	dldmwayson@gmail.com
Chase Bolton	hometownusa@msn.com
Dan Hollrah	amanaprintshop@southslole.net
Lynn Hattery-Beyer	lynnhatterybeyer@gmail.com
Linda Olson	vikingfan1111@yahoo.com
David Heitmann	dkheitmann@netins.net
Tim Koon	trippertim@gmail.com
ALT Jason Lightfoot	mr.jlightfoot@gmail.com

Statement of Principles

We believe that the purpose of government is to act on behalf of the well-being of all people. That true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. That cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, empowerment is better than resentment, and bridges are better than walls. We hold the utmost belief that “ALL people are created equal, and that they are endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

- We believe in tax fairness in which everyone is taxed progressively according to income and wealth.
- We support a strong separation of church and state as envisioned by our founding fathers and incorporated in the constitution of the United States.
- We believe that quality education should be made available to all as a way to improve our lives.
- We believe that it is past time to solve the problems of healthcare in our country.
- We defend the right of workers, farmers and merchants to organize to achieve a sustainable income and fair working conditions.
- We condemn all forms of discrimination. Whenever the rights of any citizens are threatened, the rights of all are endangered. We take seriously the obligation to preserve, protect, and secure basic constitutional and civil rights.
- We support the local and independent ownership of livestock and grain farms.
- We support responsible stewardship of the earth's resources, including clean air, clean water, and renewable energy.

Agriculture, Environment and Energy

We Support:

1. The practice and encouragement of sustainable farming.
2. A statewide moratorium on new CAFOs (Confined Animal Feed Operations) until Iowa's waterways are no longer Impaired.
3. Stronger clean water legislation and control, beyond the clean water legislation passed in January 2018.
4. The creation of more green energy jobs
5. Immediate elimination of pollution control property tax exemption for animal confinements, including poultry, and taxing at commercial rates vs agricultural.
6. County control determining numbers and appropriate locations of CAFOs with state regulation of operations.
7. Requiring a permit to build any CAFO over 500 animal units.
8. Tripling the acceptable distances of CAFOs from other residences, fresh water, schools, public facilities, and incorporated and unincorporated communities allowed in the Master Matrix.
9. Proof of notification sent to residents and landowners within a two mile radius to accompany the request to the DNR for a permit to build a CAFO.
10. Clean Water Act Permits for every CAFO every year.
11. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with benefits targeted to soil conservation and to non-confined animal operations.
12. Policies promoting local and organic foods in schools and public institutions; including permanent funding of the Local Foods Initiative.
13. Financial assistance to facilitate the creation of local hubs that are cooperatively owned and operated by local food producers.

14. Funding for Land and Water Legacy Trust as established by a Constitutional amendment by including a sales tax increase of 3/8s of a cent in any future water quality or conservation legislation.
15. Establishing an Iowa Environmental Quality Act that protects the natural environment and species within.
16. Increased soil and water conservation and improved quality of our waterways by tighter regulations and fully funding enforcement agencies.
17. Policies that force industries to internalize the cost of pollution and encourage responsible environmental practices.
18. A cap on carbon emissions and progressive fines on emissions above this cap.
19. Continued state and federal support of the production of alternative, renewable and sustainable clean energy sources.
20. Removing hemp from the Schedule I drug list so it can be grown for industrial uses.
21. The Renewable Fuel Standard as written.
22. Keeping and expanding the 5 cent bottle redemption bill.

We oppose:

1. CAFOs located on plots less than 80 acres.
2. Giving points in the Master Matrix to CAFOs selling manure to contractors.
3. Packer ownership of livestock.
4. Building new coal-fired or nuclear plants in Iowa.
5. Foreign and/or non-farm corporate operations participating in farm income support programs.
6. Incentivizing the use of animal fertilizer in the Conservation Stewardship Program.
7. Senate Study Bill 3078, which would eliminate provisions for energy efficiency plans and programs for public utilities, and Senate Study Bill 3093 which scales back Iowa's energy efficiency programs.

Economy and Labor

We Support:

1. Raising the minimum wage to at least \$15/hr, along with adding an increase for cost of living, to end the minimum wage debate once and for all.
2. Returning the union rights to state workers that were removed during the 2017 legislative session.
3. Allowing people who work for the state to be able to fully negotiate their contracts.
4. Government policies that encourage returning jobs to the United States.
5. Prevailing Wage and Project Labor Agreements (PLA) on all state funded construction projects.
6. Implementation of laws that allow individuals to easily join/form a Union.

We Oppose:

1. Exploitation of undocumented workers by any employer in the United States.
2. Legislation prohibiting Sanctuary Cities in Iowa.
3. Efforts by the federal and state governments to limit or end overtime pay.

Education

We Support:

1. Free two years of community college in technical areas of study, and increased funding for trade schools.
2. Tax dollars supporting public schools and not “educational savings accounts.”
3. Current state law requiring timely appropriations for education.
4. Additional tax revenues dedicated to strengthening public education at all levels. This includes increased investment in our public universities.
5. Increased funding to improve access to quality and affordable child-care programs for families, with the goal of universal preschool.
6. Increased public preschool funding for all children.
7. Affordable childcare for teen mothers engaged in education and job training.

We Oppose:

1. Educational vouchers or ESAs for private schools.
2. Tax credits offsetting private donations to private schools.

Government and Law

We Support:

1. Eliminating all special targeted tax breaks to businesses and corporations.
2. The expansion of civil-rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
3. Cuts in the defense budget in order to fully fund essential domestic programs.
4. Reproductive freedom of choice, as established in Roe vs. Wade.
5. Funding institutions such as Planned Parenthood for reproductive health and family planning services and age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education.
6. Stricter gun laws, including banning the sale of assault rifles or other military style weapons, with the goal of ending gun violence.
7. Restoring voting rights to felons upon completion of their sentence and conclusion of parole or probation.
8. A fair and independent judiciary.
9. Diversion of mentally ill offenders into appropriate treatment programs and institutions instead of imprisonment.
10. Increased funding for correctional treatment programs, including drug courts.
11. Assessing a small tax of %0.5 on all Wall Street transactions on all stock exchanges.
(AKA Robin Hood Tax)
12. Internet freedom and net neutrality.
13. Socioeconomic-based affirmative action policies.
14. Making fireworks illegal in Iowa again.
15. Legalizing the use of cannabis for medical treatment, and for Recreational use as a way to increase tax revenue to help balance the budget.

16. Usury laws (**regulations** governing the amount of interest that can be charged on a loan)
- a. Limit how much banks can charge, and how much interest and fees can be charged for payday loans.

17. Political Reform

- a. Making election day a national holiday
- b. Making Primary day a state holiday
- c. Term limits at the federal level.
- d. The addition of a provision in the Iowa Constitution for recalling elected officials.
- e. Mandating Equal broadcast time for editorials and campaign news coverage.
- f. Getting big money out of politics and restoring democracy.
- g. Overturning Citizens United.
- h. A publicly financed, transparent system of campaign financing that amplifies small donations
- i. Passing a constitutional amendment making it clear that Congress and the states have the power to regulate money in elections.
- j. Voter Owned Clean Elections, a system for public financing, campaign limits, and universal voter registration.

18. Reinitiating the use of Home Rule for local governments.

We Oppose:

1. Voter ID Laws
2. Relaxing Iowa's gun laws
3. The use of eminent domain by private interests.
4. The privatization of safety net programs.
5. Ending the State backfill tax credit to local governments.

Health Care

We Support:

1. Reversing Iowa's Medicaid privatization.
2. Increased mental health funding.
3. Regulating the drug industry to reduce cost.
4. Universal free prenatal care.
5. Mandating that all employers allow 3-6 months of maternity/paternity leave (more time for preemies)
6. Making family planning and contraceptives affordable and available to all people.
7. Universal health care/Medicare for all. / Universal single-payer health insurance system.
8. The nation-wide elimination of prescription drug advertising.
9. Increased Title 19 funding to reimburse medical professionals
10. Laws that allow first responders and medical staff to help Substance Abuse individuals achieve sobriety.

We Oppose:

1. Medicaid Privatization
2. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a clear replacement.

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