

**Report of the Platform Committee for the Adair County  
Democratic Party County Caucus.  
March 24, 2018**

**It is the intention of the Adair County Democratic Party to  
positively promote...**

The achievement of economic prosperity

The achievement of a world-class public education system

The achievement of a health care system that provides  
affordable and high quality health care for all

**VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

1. Mental Health Services for Veterans

- Fundamentally reform veterans' health care to ensure veterans access to timely and high quality health care including mental health and block efforts to privatize the Veterans Health Administration.
- Overhaul Veterans Health Administration governance to create a new veteran-centric model of excellence.
- Increase funding for mental health providers and training to ensure timely and ongoing identification and triage of mental health issues, and ongoing access to quality mental health care and substance abuse treatment, particularly for alcohol and opiate abuse, including private sector care when necessary.
- Expand programs targeted at providing effective mental health treatment for veterans that have participated in classified or sensitive missions without compromising non-disclosure requirements, working with Congress to pass needed legislation.
- The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services shall establish contracts or develop formal arrangements with community based providers, such as community mental health clinics, community health centers, substance abuse treatment facilities, and rural health clinics, to meet the mental health needs of veterans in a timely way.

**ECONOMY, COMMERCE AND LABOR**

2. Phase in an increase of the minimum wage.

Phase in an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$12, phase in a raise to \$15, and support state and local efforts and workers organizing and bargaining for higher wages, such as the Fight for 15 and recent efforts in Los Angeles and New York to raise their minimum wage to \$15. After each phase of the raise, a study

will be completed to determine the impact of the increase.

Raise the Iowa minimum wage to \$10.25.

3. Support the role of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so it can do its work to protect hard-working Americans.

4. Repeal and replace the tax code passed in December, 2017, with a progressive tax system.

5. Close the gender pay gap.

Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to give women the tools they need to fight workplace discrimination. The Paycheck Fairness Act amends the portion of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 known as the Equal Pay Act to revise remedies for, enforcement of, and exceptions to prohibitions against sex discrimination in the payment of wages.

6. Support paid family leave.

No one should have to choose between keeping their job and taking care of a sick family member, and no parent should have to go back to work right after they welcome their newborn baby

7. Repair the Voting Rights Act.

- Pass legislation to repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court (in *Shelby County vs. Holder*) and roll back Republican efforts to suppress voting (through voter I.D. laws, more difficult absentee voting rules, limited access to polling sites, etc.) and egregious gerrymandering.

[Background] <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/05/supreme-court-voting-rights-texas/>

## **AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, & ENVIRONMENT**

8. USDA programs at core need to be counter-cyclical to assure market-derived commodity income at levels that advance and sustain family-scale farming without dependency of taxpayer subsidization.

Farm policy mechanism to foster the entry of a new generation of owner-operators and maintain local ownership of land are critical for healthy rural communities.

With private-public watershed partnerships we must uphold land stewardship standards that include healthy soils, natural areas and the commonwealth of clean water for all.

We can have productive farms, on-going regeneration of our soils, unspoiled streams and rivers, while assuring rural prosperity that supports quality of life in the countryside.

9. Climate change.

Climate change is not just a moral and economic issue, it is a national security challenge. Safeguarding our country from rising sea levels and extreme weather requires domestic action and intensive global engagement. America must lead this effort, not back away from a threat to our security or an opportunity for our economy.

10. We support stronger efforts to clean up Iowa's water.

11. Maintain, preserve, and protect our public lands.

11.5 A moratorium will be implemented on the additional construction of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) in the state until the states reaches less than 100 impaired state waterways.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

12. Social Security.

\*Resist all efforts to privatize Social Security in any manner.

\*Maintain cost-of-living adjustments.

- Lift the maximum taxable earnings subject to Social Security tax.
- Subject all income to Social Security tax instead of just taxing earnings from labor.

[Background]

Earned income (wages, salaries, self-employment income) are taxed to fund social security up to a maximum annual income level (\$128,400 in 2017). This means a self-employed person earning \$128,400 would pay \$15,921.60 into the social security trust fund (12.4%). If a person earned twice as much (\$256,800) this person would pay the same amount, which is only 6.2% of income; if a person earned over a million dollars, only 1.55% of income would be paid, so the tax is regressive for very high earners.

Passive and investment income, such as dividends, interest, capital gains, rent and royalties don't support the social security system at all. Under the carried interest rule, income earned by real estate professionals and hedge fund managers are considered capital gains, which means they pay a lower income tax rate and don't support the social security safety net at all.

A floor should be established for the imposition of Social Security tax on passive income to provide that lower and moderate income individuals be exempt from said tax.

13. Medicare

Phase in Medicare for all Americans.

13.5 Be it resolved that hearing services, including hearing aids, be added to Medicare services.

14. Protect women's health and reproductive rights.

- Protect the Affordable Care Act, which bans insurance companies from discriminating against women and guarantees access to preventive care.
- Resist attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, which would restrict access to critical health care services, like cancer screenings, contraception, and safe, legal abortion.

Consistent Life Ethic. (Minority Report) We support a consistent life ethic for societal sanctity of life by which fetal abortions on demand are prohibited, by which capital punishment is prohibited without exception, and by which war-making and interventionist militarism are strictly prohibited excepting only for situations explicitly permitted by application of the just war doctrine and following constitutional authorization by the U.S. Congress.

15. Support LGBT youth, parents, and elders.

End LGBT conversion therapy for minors; combat youth homelessness by ensuring adequate funding, and safe, welcoming shelters for youth; protect LGBT elders against discrimination; improve school climate by working to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act; and collect national data that will help us better serve LGBT individuals and families.

15. We support the use of medical cannabis, including but not limited to, CBD and the cannabinoids. Furthermore, we urge exploration of the production of hemp and hemp products, including, but not limited to, biofuels, textiles and medical products.

## **EDUCATION**

16. Expand early learning.

Ensure that every family of preschool children in America has access to high-quality preschool.

17. Support public education.

\*Teachers are key to improving student learning. Invest in teacher training and professional development, and recruit the best and brightest into the profession.

\*Resist attempts by the Iowa Legislature to transfer public money from public education to private education in the form of vouchers.

\*The Iowa State Legislature shall establish K-12 education funding within the first month of a legislative year or default to an automatic 4% annual increase. Furthermore,

education funding shall be exempt from the line item veto power of the governor.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/GOVERNMENT & LAW**

### 18. Overturn Citizens United.

Appoint Supreme Court justices who value the right to vote over the right of billionaires to buy elections. Push for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United in order to restore the role of everyday voters in elections.

### 19. End secret, unaccountable money in politics.

We support a campaign finance system that blends public and private resources in such a way that creates a “level playing field” for public office candidates

### 20. Comprehensive immigration reform.

\*Renew the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and place those recipients of this status on a path to legal permanent residency and then citizenship over a period of approximately eight years.

\*End family detention.

\*Close immigrant detention centers run by private corporations.

\*Enact fair and humane comprehensive immigration reform that will reunify families, protect separated children, provide a path for citizenship, protect the rights of all workers including the undocumented, and recognize the gifts and the contributions that immigrants are making to our nation.

### 21. Criminal justice reform.

- Strengthen bonds of trust between communities and police. Call attention to and end racial profiling. Invest in law enforcement training programs on issues such as implicit bias, use of force, and de-escalation. Create national guidelines for use of force. Prohibit federal agencies from providing local law enforcement with certain kinds of military equipment such as grenade launchers, high-caliber weapons and bayonets. Provide federal matching funds to make body cameras available to every police department in America.

- Prioritize rehabilitation and treatment over prison for low-level and nonviolent drug offenses, and work to end the era of mass incarceration. Foster more collaboration and coordination between public health and criminal justice to ensure continuity of care for those who suffer from substance use disorders.

- Prohibit the use of privately owned, for-profit prisons by all federal, state, and local criminal justice systems. Privately owned, for-profit prisons have a fundamental conflict of interest. The goal of the justice system is to

reduce crime, but private for-profit prisons benefit from having as much crime as possible.

22. Fight for full federal equality for LGBT Americans by passing the Equality Act. The Equality Act would provide consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.

### 23. Gun Control

- \*Abolish the Dickey Amendment, which prohibits research on gun violence, so that research can be carried out on issues pertaining to the use of guns and other weapons in order to provide data for decisions on gun manufacture, sale and use.

- \*Strengthen background checks for gun purchases.

- \*Raise the age of purchase of all guns to 21 years old.

- \*Oppose nationalization of concealed carry laws.

- \*Ban large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled

- \*In Iowa we oppose the passage of an Iowa Constitutional Amendment bill (SJR 2009 and HJR 2009) which might make gun regulation and background checks much more difficult.

- \*All guns should be sold through a licensed gun retailer.

- \*Promote new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety

- \*Prohibit persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun

- \*Ensure greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness

- \*Prohibit all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time period

### 24. Independent Judiciary

We believe in a fair and independent judiciary, which is accountable to the Constitution and the law, not to politicians and special interests.

We resist attempts to require a super majority requirement for any decision by the Iowa Supreme Court.

### 25. Iowa's Merit-based Judicial Selection

We support Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit, not political appointment or partisan election.

26. We support the United States Constitutional power of a President to nominate Supreme Court Justices and the Senate to provide Advice and Consent.

### 27. Strengthening Iowa's Mental Health Regional Services

- \*We applaud the passage of HF2456 and urge the Senate to pass SF2351 (see below)

- \*We urge the passage of a bill to create a Mental Health Care System for Children.
- \*We support moving Mental Health duties to Public Health (HF2376 Human Resources Committee) and (Senate SF 2244 Human Resources Committee)

Background on bills before legislature on mental health: would make several expansions of mental-health services, including addition of six regional “access centers.” Centers would be humane, economical alternative to hospitalization, which would free up scarce psychiatric hospital beds for patients going through more severe crises. The bill explicitly says many of the services would be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

Also adds “assertive community treatment” teams, who go out into communities to help residents with serious mental illnesses stay on their medication and in treatment so they don’t spiral out of control and need hospitalization.

Background: Moving mental health duties from the Dept. of Human Services to the Dept. of Public Health would help remove stigma and emphasize that we are facing a mental health issue.

## **COUNTY LEVEL ISSUES**

### **28. Community-based Mental Health Services of Adair County**

The Adair County Board of Supervisors shall inventory locally provided mental health services and establish a plan, including funding, for an expansion of face to face mental health services provided within the boundaries of the county.

### **29. County Comprehensive Plan**

Because Adair County needs to update its county comprehensive plan and adopt a basic land use zoning ordinance to protect agricultural land from abuse and sprawl development and to protect natural environments:

Resolved that the Board of Supervisors appoint a planning commission to update the comprehensive plan and to devise a reasonable and uncomplicated zoning ordinance to implement the plan.

### **230 High quality medical services**

Because local citizens need accessible, high quality medical services:

Resolved that the Adair County Health System (hospital, local clinics, specialty services, emergency services) receive adequate public support, including facility maintenance and programs to assure adequate physician and provider availability and choice.

### **31. Maintain court services in county courthouses.**

We recommend that the legislature fully fund the needs of the Iowa Judiciary so that each county can maintain current court services in all county courthouses, including Adair County.

32. Access to polling places in the county.

Voters should be able to vote where it would be most convenient for them within the country boundaries. Technology makes that possible.

This is the final version of the Adair County Democrats Platform as amended at the convention on March 24, 2018.