

The 2020 Platform of the Cass County Democratic Party

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We are rightly proud of our Democratic Party heritage. We are the Party of the New Deal, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Great Society, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Peace Corps, the Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act. We are the Party of the people, the working class, labor, the forgotten, the vulnerable, the children, seniors, families, the LGBTQ community, marriage equality, the military (active and retired), the environment, clean and renewable energy, and education. We believe that health care and mental health care are rights, not privileges, and should be affordable and available to all, including women's health care. We are the true Party of "Right to Life"—from birth through death--providing support to all lives. We believe in justice and equal rights for every person. We believe that hatred, divisiveness, and bigotry have no place in our nation and in our people's hearts and minds. While we support the US Constitution, which includes the Second Amendment, we believe that, with rights come responsibilities. We believe that the Second Amendment can co-exist with gun safety and universal background checks. We believe in diplomacy first, using armed conflict only as a last resort. We believe in our military –active and retired—and we must provide them with adequate resources during their active duty and when they retire. We believe that we each have an equal right to representation from our government officials and that access to them should not be based on our financial standing. Democracy lives throughout the world, through the influence of America. We must not allow the democratic process in our own nation to be overcome by the few, the powerful, and the financial elites. Our judicial system must continue to work for the people in all areas of our lives.

As Iowans, we have a rich political and civil rights history. We are the

breadbasket of the world yet people in the US are going hungry. We support public assistance for those who need help to meet their basic needs. We support equal access to public school education for all and we want our educational system to be number one in the nation again. We want a self-sustaining environment. We need a robust economy in rural Iowa. We want affordable and high-quality health care

1

available in every county. And we want a government that is responsive to the populace.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

AGRICULTURE

We
Support:

1. A moratorium on new and expanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).
2. We support Iowans working with urban and rural governments to create a mandatory water quality program that cleans our waters for the future of Iowa.
3. Monetary incentives for farmers implementing regenerative agriculture practices.
4. Practices encouraged by both state and federal agricultural agencies to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from farms and support those programs favoring farms that collaborate with neighbors to develop a water-shed level water quality plan which best fits the waterway and each individual farm along the waterway.
5. Farmers who devise and experiment with new practices to meet water-quality goals, being supported by technical assistance funding by the state and federal governments.
6. Funding to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
7. Federal and state-integrated food, health, and agriculture policies which support health and well-being for all residents.
8. The inclusion of farm goods in all trade agreements.
9. Overturning Iowa's "Ag-Gag" law.
10. The Safeguard Food Exports (SAFE) Act. (Prohibits sale of equine parts for

human
consumption).

We
Oppose:

1. Reductions in the SNAP program.

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We
Support:

1. Funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
2. Funding for the National Endowment of the Arts and National Endowment of Humanities.
3. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
4. Full restoration of collective bargaining rights for Iowa's public sector employee s.

We
Oppose:

1. Any action to end or limit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
2. Trump's budget which guts the social safety net, environmental protections, and health research & development.

EDUCATI ON

We

Support:

1. Full restoration of collective bargaining rights for Iowa's public educators. 2. The plan for Iowa's community colleges to offer training in vocational areas, adding classes on-line and at non-traditional hours. 3. Development of a Community College Outreach Program, specifically for rural areas, that would provide training and skill improvement in the trades. 4. Increased and sustainable funding for Iowa's K-12 public schools. 5. A plan to offer loan reductions and refinancing for Iowa Regent University and Iowa Community College graduates who are employed in Iowa in their field or similar field of study. 6. Funding for the Work-Study Program at State and Federal budget levels. 7. Funding for the Pell Grant Program at State and Federal budget levels. 8. Funding Before and After-School Programs for K-12 students. 9. A plan to provide education in Comparative Religion Studies.

4

We

Oppose:

1. Iowa's tax dollars being used for private schools, including vouchers. 2. Any plan to enact a bill to teach religion in public schools. 3. We oppose home-schooling in Iowa without close supervision by the local school district that includes identification of all students within the home school setting.

ENVIRONME NT

We

Support:

1. 45% reduction of greenhouse emissions by 2030 and reductions to net zero

emissions by the year 2050. 2. An increased usage of renewable energy in Iowa to 100% by 2030. 3. Endangered Species Act. 4. Protecting animals within our parks and public lands. 5. Congress addressing the microplastics crisis and holding plastic polluters

accountable. 6. Protection of our National Parks and public lands.

7. Ending Corporate America's "theft" of public waters. 8. Ending helicopter round-up of wild horses and burros. 9. Local and county officials making public water quality and waterway

reports available to citizens. 10. Increased funding at both the State and Federal levels for clean water, air quality, and soil protection and incentives to reintegrate native plant and animal species to Iowa. 11. Full funding of the Iowa Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Trust

Fund. 12. The scientific community that states climate change is having a major,

adverse impact on our environment and is a result of human activity.

13. Increased funding at both the State and Federal levels for clean water, air

quality, and soil protection. 14. Funding of the Iowa Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreational Trust Fund

at 3/8% sales tax. 15. The State Energy Program for clean energy strategies.

16. A ban on lead shot in Iowa and across the nation due to the issues of lead in the ecosystem.

We Oppose:

1. Iowa Legislature's attempts to repeal the "Bottle Bill". 2. The continued reliance on fossil fuels and the continued financial and tax subsidies for that industry.

GOVERNMENT

We Support:

1. Protection of LGBTQ community keeping their civil rights. 2. LGBTQ individual's right to adopt. 3. Dreamers and a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship for them. 4. The repeal of the Muslim ban and other immigration plans/proposals that are written to discriminate against certain ethnicities or religious backgrounds. 5. A plan for undocumented immigrants to achieve legal status. 6. An end to separation of families at our borders as well as at immigration & detention centers. 7. Separation of Church and State. 8. The use of paper ballots to back up electronic voting systems. 9. Declaring Election Day a National Holiday. 10. An assault weapon ban, banning "ghost weapons" being sold on the internet, a ban on automatic or semi-automatic weapons, banning the sale of all imported weapons, and banning the sale/manufacture/use of bump stocks. 11. Senate and House Majority Leaders bringing to the

floor all bills passed by

the other congressional body each legislative session. 12. Overturning Trump's Executive Orders and signed bills that don't facilitate the rights of middle- and working-class Americans. 13. Passage of the Preventing Animal Cruelty & Torture (PACT) Act.

6

14. Candidates for State and National political offices releasing their tax records

for at least the previous five years before officially running for office.

15. Repeal of Citizens United. 16. Statehood for the District of Columbia. 17. We demand that all presidents and future presidential candidates release

at least ten years of personal and business tax returns when announcing their candidacy. 18. Gun safety laws, including universal registration. 19. The registration of any gun in any transaction that transfers

ownership/possession of the weapon. 20. Having all candidates for the presidency pass an FBI security clearance prior

to their party's nominating convention. 21. "Red Flag Laws" or gun violence protective orders (GVPOs) in which the

Courts can take away guns based on "red flags". 22.

Restoration of Voting Rights for felons who have completed their

sentence(s). 23. Refugees coming to Iowa and the US. 24.

Overturning Iowa HF640, which reduced available funding to inspect

nursing homes and food safety. 25. Funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program and Low-Income Home

Energy Assistance Program. 26. Repeal any federal tax plan that

benefits Corporations and the wealthy. 27. Increasing the budget for programs that financially assist survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault as well as assisting falsely accused individuals. 28. Overturning restrictions required to obtain Worker's Compensation payments. 29. Overturning Iowa HF640 which reduced available funding to inspect long-term care facilities and food safety.

We

Oppose:

1. The construction of the border wall. 2. Any action to arm teachers/school staff to "protect" students. 3. The sale of high capacity magazines. 4. The passage of any concealed carry reciprocity bills.

7

5. State or Federal mandates regarding weapons that would bar businesses and local government or institutions from banning weapons in their venues and that would allow citizens to sue those institutions if weapons are banned. 6. We adamantly oppose the Trump Administration's FY2021 budget. 7. "Stand Your Ground" laws. 8. Any form of voter suppression, including voter ID laws and limiting early voting or same-day registration. 9. Discrimination toward any religious group, including verbal threats, physical injury, and property damage. 10. Iowa's Legislature SSB-3171, allowing "religious" exemptions to the Iowa Civil Rights Act and other state laws. 11. Religious exemptions that violate the civil rights of individuals or segments of our population. 12. Gerrymandering. 13. Any discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or sexual identification. 14. Iowa SJR8, a bill authorizing a Constitutional Convention. 15. The politicization

of appointment of Justices 16. We adamantly oppose the designation of the National Rifle Association

(NRA) as a “social welfare organization”, giving it tax exempt status under the IRS [501 (c)(4)].

HEALTH CARE

We

Support:

1. Elimination of pharmaceutical advertisements. 2. Protection of women’s reproductive healthcare (ROE v. WADE). 3. Elimination of social security cap on income. 4. Affordable healthcare for all with emphasis on preventative care. We ask

for bi-partisan engagement in improving the Affordable Care Act to increase coverage, reduce medical costs (especially prescription drugs), and make the program sustainable. 5. Preservation and protection of Social Security, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid

and the Patient Protection part of the ACA.

8

6. Planned Parenthood and the programs it provides. 7.

Development and funding of treatment programs for opioid addiction,

recognizing that is a health care issue that requires treatment and support. 8. Funding and expansion of treatment and services for mental

health. 9. Birth control options. 10. The legalization of medical cannabis. 11. Continued funding of Medicaid

We

Oppose:

1. Any effort to defund Planned Parenthood.
2. The continued privatization of Iowa's Medicaid program.

HUMAN SERVICES

We
Support:

1. Finding and managing replacement beds across the state of Iowa in reaction to the closures of the Iowa mental health institutes.
2. Mentally challenged and brain-damaged citizens having access to care and treatment that values their inclusion in society.
3. Funding and expansion of treatment and services for mental health.
4. Inspections of rental properties to ensure livable, economically plausible housing is available to renters.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We

Support:

1. NATO and United Nations, thanking them for their work and engagement.
2. A diplomatic approach to any and all conflicts between the US and foreign nations

We

Oppose:

1. Foreign countries interfering in global elections and affairs.
2. Deploying ground troops to conflict without first exhausting all diplomatic efforts and/or approval from Congress.
3. The Trump Administration ostracizing our allies while embracing our adversaries.

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We

Support:

1. The passage of Protecting the Right to Organize.
2. A living wage for all workers, cities and/or counties that want to increase the minimum wage above Iowa's established minimum wage of \$7.25.
3. Collective Bargaining for all unions.

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We

Support:

1. A ban on puppy mills in Iowa and across the nation.
2. No-kill animal shelters in Iowa and across the nation.
3. A continuation of the Endangered Species Act.
4. Legislation that protects and strongly criminalizes domestic and wild animals being tortured, abused, harvested, and disfigured for economic gain.
5. Animal experimentation labs being mandated to release animals to rescue groups when experimentation ends.

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We

Oppose:

1. The use of companion animals in lab experiments.
2. Animal trophy hunting.
3. "Sport hunting" of animals in privately-owned animal farms.

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