

1 **THE 2020 PAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM**
2 **PRESENTED TO DELEGATES AT CONVENTION MARCH 21, 2020**

3
4 **STATEMENT of PRINCIPLES**

5
6 American democracy is a model to persons of the developing free world as they strive to win the
7 rights Americans take for granted. We are justly proud of our Democratic Party as the party of
8 our entire nation’s people, its heritage, its accomplishments, and its diversities. No part of that
9 heritage is more valuable than our belief in the inclusion of ALL and commitment to ALL, with
10 recognition of the rights and worth of each individual.

11
12 As temporary stewards of our natural resources, we demand that our governing bodies develop
13 policies and laws permanently protecting our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate use.

14
15 All Americans have a stake in local, national, and global economic systems that provide first and
16 foremost for the basic human needs: nourishment, shelter, health, employment, and education.
17 The answer to governmental fiscal problems lies in a strong economy founded upon broadly
18 based prosperity. An equitable and wide distribution of wealth and a free and fairly compensated
19 labor force expands our economy and creates a healthier society.

20
21 We must provide accessible, affordable, and quality education to all Iowans at all educational
22 levels. Adequate funding, accountability, innovation, and cost-effective programming are
23 essential to ensure Iowans are competitive in the national and global economy.

24
25 Whenever the rights of any of our citizens are threatened the rights of all are endangered. We
26 take seriously the obligation to preserve, protect, and secure basic constitutional and civil rights.
27 We believe in a government that consistently and fairly serves and protects ALL people.

28
29 We believe in and will continue to work for a truly representative government: working for the
30 goal of the people; compassionate, progressive, responsible, and fair; striving to achieve peace,
31 prosperity, and a national outlook of confidence and hope.

32
33 We salute all fellow Democrats: those who hold local, state, and national elected office; all those
34 who are willing to run for public office; party activists who make the organization function, and,
35 most of all, the rank and file members from which our party draws its vitality.

47 **AGRICULTURE**

48
49 We support:

- 50 1. traditional family farms.
- 51 2. environmentally responsible farming practices and strict regulation.
- 52 3. assessing environmental clean-up costs to polluters.
- 53 4. fair livestock market access.
- 54 5. requiring implementation of manure management plans.
- 55 6. granting counties the ability to implement and enforce zoning ordinances that govern
- 56 commercial animal feeding operations and repealing odor nuisance lawsuit
- 57 protection.
- 58 7. banning packer ownership of livestock.
- 59 8. strict control of non-U.S. corporate ownership of agricultural lands.
- 60 9. helping farmers sell products directly to local markets.
- 61 10. defining and strictly enforcing packer and stockyard standards of conduct.
- 62 11. further research into the use of irradiation and genetic engineered plant and animal
- 63 products.
- 64 12. limiting FSA payments to farmers who ignore conservation practices and/or labor
- 65 standards.
- 66 13. full funding and promotion of conservation measures to protect our State's soil,
- 67 water, and pollinators, including cover crops and prairie restoration projects.
- 68 14. funding cost-sharing and loan resources that assist in implementing farm conservation
- 69 plans.
- 70 15. NRCS vigorously enforcing the current Farm Bill.
- 71 16. legislation that would increase protection of wetlands and waterways and that would
- 72 limit private and commercial development.

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74
75 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE, AND LABOR**

76
77 **Economy, Budget and Taxation**

78
79 We support:

- 80 17. creation of a program similar to the WPA, including infrastructure-based employment
- 81 for young adults.
- 82 18. returning, retaining, and creating jobs in the United States.
- 83 19. enforcement of regulatory and antitrust laws.
- 84 20. a progressive tax structure, taxing all income as earned income, and eliminating
- 85 "corporate welfare".
- 86 21. elimination of the social security taxable wage limit and applying the social security
- 87 tax to all forms of income.
- 88 22. reducing use of off-shore tax shelters and shell corporations by US individuals and
- 89 corporations.
- 90 23. transparency to consumers of financial products and services.
- 91 24. repeal of the 2006 Postal Accountability Act.
- 92 25. limiting 501(c)(3,4, and 6) status for public benefit.

- 93 26. taxing capital gains at the same rates as earned income.
- 94 27. enforcing an exit tax on corporations moving operations overseas.
- 95 28. anti-austerity legislation for nationalized industries.

96

97 **Commerce**

98

99 We support:

- 100 29. universal internet access and net neutrality.
- 101 30. ensuring future trade agreements are "fair," assure full transparency, and protect
- 102 workers' rights and the environment.
- 103 31. trade agreements that support sustainable farming practices.
- 104 32. USPS offering basic banking services.

105

106 We oppose:

- 107 33. "fast-tracking" trade agreements
- 108 34. private equity corporations.

109

110 **Labor**

111

112 We support:

- 113 35. reducing the inequity between executive and worker compensation.
- 114 36. improving unemployment insurance benefits.
- 115 37. a worker's right to choose their doctor for workplace injuries.
- 116 38. strengthening whistle-blower protections, including for government employees.
- 117 39. preventing employers from requiring social media usernames and passwords as a
- 118 condition of employment.
- 119 40. the EFCA.
- 120 41. actuarially fully funded IPERS and MFPRS for the long term.
- 121 42. creation of a hybrid COLA to replace the depleted FED in IPERS.
- 122 43. re-opening Iowa Workforce Offices in every county.
- 123 44. a prevailing wage law for Iowa construction workers on government projects.
- 124 45. the right to negotiate "fair share" agreements.
- 125 46. the ability of elected officials to hire contractors based on the best value to the
- 126 citizenry as opposed to limitations solely based on contractor cost.
- 127 47. overturning Iowa's right-to-work law.
- 128 48. replacing the minimum wage with a living wage of \$15 per hour, indexed to C-CPI-
- 129 U.
- 130 49. overtime pay for non-exempt employees required to work in excess of 40 hours per
- 131 week.
- 132 50. a ban on the hiring of replacement workers for laid off or striking Union workers.
- 133 51. requiring employers to maintain and provide documents that prove employment non-
- 134 discrimination of protected classes.
- 135 52. equal pay for all genders.
- 136 53. restoration of full public sector employee bargaining rights including the right to
- 137 strike.
- 138 54. mandatory 15 minute breaks for every 5 hours worked.

- 139
140 We oppose:
141 55. privatization of public sector jobs, especially in education.
142 56. employment and insurance screening based on personal credit, polygraph testing, and
143 genetic information.
144 57. wage theft, including payment with fee-laden debit cards and worker
145 misclassification.
146

147 **Business Abuses**

148

- 149 We support:
150 58. limits on fees and interest rates charged by commercial lenders.
151 59. reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act.
152 60. the Harkin-DeFazio Targeted Wall Street Trading Tax.
153 61. regulating and taxing financial speculation.
154 62. the prosecution of Wall Street fraud.
155 63. TBTF Act.
156 64. public disclosure of senior management compensation for all publicly traded
157 corporations.
158
159

160 **EDUCATION**

161

162 **Public Schools**

163

- 164 We support:
165 65. the use of multiple sources of evidence to assess student learning and school
166 effectiveness and to find an assessment that is more closely aligned to our curriculum
167 than the Iowa Assessment.
168 66. mandating fine arts classes in our public schools.
169 67. any school clubs that seek to make our schools more inclusive of every student.
170 68. allowing education bond issues to pass with a simple majority.
171 69. science-based reproductive health education.
172 70. legislation that would increase graduation rates and college success of Black and
173 Latino students and other populations of color.
174 71. standardizing high schools to utilize a 4.0 GPA system to standardize scholarship
175 eligibility and acceptance.
176

- 177 We oppose:
178 72. voucher systems and K-12 private school tuition tax credits.
179 73. charging schools for students to use “Iowa Learning Online.”
180

181 **Teachers and Teacher Training**

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- 183
184 We support:

- 185 74. maintaining the highest standards for the training, certification, and continued
- 186 education of teachers.
- 187 75. providing up to a \$10,000 per year college expense tax deduction for teachers and
- 188 those enrolled in a teacher-training curriculum.
- 189 76. incentivizing teachers to continue their education by earning credits toward advanced
- 190 degrees, learning a second language, or gaining further expertise in subject matter
- 191 fields and/or childhood development.
- 192 77. allowing education support staff and para-educators to qualify for unemployment
- 193 benefits when laid off over the summer months.
- 194 78. supplemental funding to districts for librarians, nurses, and guidance counselors.
- 195 79. allowing signing and referral bonuses for hard-to-fill positions.
- 196 80. legislation that will preserve and strengthen retirement systems for our public
- 197 employees.
- 198 81. fully funding classroom supplies so teachers aren't required to furnish their own.
- 199

200 We oppose:

- 201 82. permitting firearms on school property or at school events, with the exception of
- 202 trained school resource officers or law enforcement.
- 203 83. tying coaching positions to teaching positions as a condition of teaching employment.
- 204

205 State Funding

206

207 We support:

- 208 84. increased funding for Iowa's public schools, area education agencies, and community
- 209 colleges by providing allowable growth rates of at least four percent.
- 210 85. the ability to tax at the maximum amount of allowable growth.
- 211 86. setting the allowable growth by January 31st as required by state law.
- 212 87. adequately funding instruction for special education, TAG, ELL and instruction in
- 213 multicultural, racial, ethnic and religious diversity issues.
- 214 88. establishing a dedicated funding source to serve high concentrations of students
- 215 identified as living in poverty.
- 216 89. full funding of early childhood programs.
- 217 90. general spending authority with fewer categorization restrictions.
- 218 91. funding mental health programs in schools.
- 219 92. Tuition-free public post-secondary education.
- 220 a. **Minority Report:** Tuition-free public community college or vocational school.
- 221
- 222

223 ENVIRONMENT

224

225 Preservation

226

227 We support:

- 228 93. the Green New Deal.
- 229 94. reducing, reusing, and recycling papers, plastics, electronics, and batteries.

- 230 95. the expansion of the bottle bill to include all drink containers and increasing the
 231 deposit to a level that will maximize effectiveness.
 232 96. incentives to recycle, particularly aimed at multi-family residential buildings,
 233 commercial, and industrial operations, and schools.
 234 97. policies designed to protect prime farmland from urban sprawl, encroachment by
 235 highways, and other types of development pressure by promoting sustainable, well-
 236 planned development that is proven to be economically viable, environmentally
 237 sound and health-promoting for the land and the citizens.
 238 98. continued research into appropriate disposal of nuclear, radioactive, and biologically
 239 hazardous waste.
 240 99. policies and practices that acknowledge the value of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and all
 241 natural places. We should seek to minimize the effect of development pressure on
 242 sensitive and unique natural areas.
 243 100. the designation of the Loess Hills as a National Wilderness Area.
 244 101. keeping our National Forests, Wilderness Areas, and BLM Lands free of any
 245 commercial exploitation. We support stronger enforcement of regulations that
 246 currently exist, additional regulations, and further limitations on commercial
 247 enterprises on public lands.
 248 102. tax credits for companies that market recycled products at competitive prices.
 249 103. policies, practices, and financial support to reduce nutrient discharge into the
 250 Mississippi River basin and other waterways.
 251 104. re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement

252
 253 **Renewable/Alternative Energy**

254
 255 We support:

- 256 105. aggressive policies and significant financial resources to reduce greenhouse gases,
 257 achieve energy independence and job growth including, but not limited to:
 258 • energy conservation
 259 • new efficiency technologies
 260 • development and utilization of renewable energy
 261 • production tax credits for wind and solar energy
 262 • residential solar and wind power
 263 • a sustainable, smart-grid energy system based on multiple clean, renewable
 264 sources.
 265 • an Ethanol and RFS at no more than a 10 percent blend.
 266 • the research and development of sustainable energy products in addition to, or
 267 in place of, corn based ethanol such as bio-algae products, sugar-cane, hemp,
 268 switchgrass, and other native grasses.
 269 • incentives for green building and LEED requirements for public buildings.

270
 271 We oppose:

- 272 106. fracking.
 273 107. the Keystone pipeline.
 274 108. subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear power.
 275 109. extraction and transport of tar sand oil.

- 276 110. construction of coal and nuclear plants.
- 277 111. deep water and Artic drilling.
- 278 112. zoning regulations designed to disallow the creation of wind farms.

279
280
281 **GOVERNMENT AND LAW**
282

283 **Criminal Justice**
284

285 We support:

- 286 113. adequate prison staffing.
- 287 114. eliminating drug conviction questions on employment and housing applications, and
288 the FAFSA.
- 289 115. increased funding for drug and mental health courts.
- 290 116. increased funding for re-entry programs.
- 291 117. increased funding for Legal Aid, allowing for provision for both civil (including
292 bankruptcy) and criminal defense representation.
- 293 118. legalization and commercial regulation of cannabis.
294 a. **Minority Report:** Strike plank 118.
- 295 119. community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration for non-violent crimes,
296 substance abuse, and mental health disorders.
- 297 120. every effort to develop job skills, substance abuse treatment and community service
298 for those that can return to society.
- 299 121. alternative detention for those with developmental disorders and mental illness.
- 300 122. establishing a judicial code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices.
- 301 123. video recording devices to be worn by all uniformed law enforcement officers.
- 302 124. the independence of the Justice Department and oppose any attempts to influence it
303 by other government entities, including the chief executive.
- 304 125. the automatic reinstatement of voting rights for convicted felons who have completed
305 their sentence.
- 306 126. a reasonable compensation for prison labor.

307
308 We oppose:

- 309 127. capital punishment.
- 310 128. prison privatization.
- 311 129. juvenile life sentences.
- 312 130. mandatory minimum sentencing.
- 313 131. the USA PATRIOT Act.
- 314 132. indefinite detention provisions in NDAA.
- 315 133. over-use of solitary confinement.
- 316 134. counting inmates as residents of the communities where they are imprisoned as
317 opposed to their home address in the census.

318
319 **Protection for Minorities and Disadvantaged Persons**
320

321 We support:

- 322 135. affirmative action in education, employment, and governmental decisions.
- 323 136. protection from discrimination for LGBTQIA persons.
- 324 137. listing same-sex parents on vital records.
- 325 138. recognizing marriage as a civil right for consenting adults, irrespective of gender, in
- 326 all states.
- 327 139. the addition to the Iowa Constitution of the following words:
- 328 "All people are, by nature, free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights..."
- 329 140. the ADA.
- 330 141. full ratification of CEDAW.
- 331 142. fair, effective, humane comprehensive immigration reform.
- 332 143. recognizing same-sex marriage for immigration purposes.
- 333 144. ending deportations and detentions that separate families.
- 334 145. employment labor rights for immigrant workers.
- 335 146. creation of a fund to provide matching funds for improvements in community
- 336 mobility, including but not limited to public sidewalks; and upgrades to existing
- 337 businesses such as accessible doors, ramps, and restroom fixtures.
- 338 147. abolishing ICE.
- 339 148. allowing immigration to individuals without a sponsor.

340

341 We oppose:

- 342 149. racial and ethnic profiling by the police, courts, corrections or any other institution
- 343 within the justice system
- 344 150. constitutional amendments restricting marriage between consenting adults.
- 345 151. marriage involving a minor, with or without parental consent.
- 346 152. the seizure of privately-owned homes to be demolished for new development.
- 347 153. travel bans on the basis of religious affiliation or ethnic identity

348

349 **Government Administration**

350

351 We support:

- 352 154. filibuster reform.
- 353 155. elimination of retention elections for judges.
- 354 156. restrictions against insider trading by members of Congress and their staff.
- 355 157. the creation of a state Tenant and Landlord Dispute office

356

357 We oppose:

- 358 158. eminent domain for private or governmental development.
- 359 159. using urban renewal funds to develop previously undeveloped areas

360

361 **Transportation**

362

363 We support:

- 364 160. improved funding and availability of public transit.
- 365 161. high-speed rail.
- 366 162. regular engineering reviews of safeness of design, condition, and use laws for public
- 367 roadways and bridges.

- 368 163. solar roadways.
369 164. licenses for all eligible drivers regardless of immigration status.
370 165. motorcycle helmet laws.

371

372 We oppose:

- 373 166. infrastructure privatization.

374

375 **Elections and Other Democratic Processes**

376

377 We support:

- 378 167. a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not entitled to all of the
379 same constitutional protections as natural persons.
380 168. publicly financed elections.
381 169. verifiable paper trails for all vote counting machines.
382 170. limits for lobbyists' activities and contributions.
383 171. public disclosure of all political contributions to candidates, political parties, PAC's,
384 and Super-PAC's.
385 172. limits on amount that any single person or organization can contribute as a political
386 contribution, including to Super-PAC's.
387 173. using a ballot-box primary as opposed to a caucus.
388 a. **Minority Report:** expanding access for voting by mail, including a ranked choice
389 ballot for the Iowa presidential preference and off-year caucuses.
390 174. separation of church and State in every sense.
391 175. voter registration on same day as election.
392 176. making Election Day a national holiday.
393 177. automatically registering voters at age 18.
394 178. abolition of the Electoral College.

395

396 We oppose:

- 397 179. gerrymandering.
398 180. Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions.
399 181. purging valid voter registrations.
400 182. voter suppression actions, including voter ID requirements, placing polling places in
401 locations difficult for voters to access, limiting voting hours, and caucuses without an
402 absentee provision
403 183. government shutdowns.

404

405 **Firearm Legislation**

406

407 We support:

- 408 184. background checks for all firearm transfers.
409 185. mandatory safety education for all who handle firearms.
410 186. a ban on private ownership of weapons designed for military combat use.
411 187. limits on magazine capacity.
412 188. accountability for failure to secure firearms from minors.
413 189. liability insurance for firearm owners and holders of permits to carry weapons.

414 190. allowing law enforcement to temporarily confiscate weapons from persons in danger
415 of causing harm to themselves or others.

416 191. reinstating Sheriffs' discretion to issue permits to carry permits to acquire.

417

418 We oppose:

419 192. "stand your ground" laws.

420

421 **Internet and Telecommunications**

422

423 We support:

424 193. public financing of public broadcasting.

425 194. online privacy rights.

426 195. first amendment protection for internet.

427 196. affordable high-speed internet access in rural areas.

428 197. private/public partnerships to strengthen US Cybersecurity in areas including, but not
429 limited to, elections, defense, infrastructure, finance and commerce.

430

431

432 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

433

434 We support:

435 198. Universal Health Care, otherwise known as "Medicare for All", and its full
436 implementation.

437 a. **Minority Report:** the expansion of the Affordable Care Act to include a public
438 option, or "Medicare for All Who Want It."

439 199. reproductive freedom of choice as established by Roe v. Wade.

440 200. adequate funding for child development, care, and protection services.

441 201. prenatal and early childhood programs that provide support and education to families,
442 frees children from risk of abuse and neglect, and ensures families are not living in
443 poverty.

444 202. a living wage for licensed childcare providers and interstate reciprocity for child
445 support.

446 203. stem cell research.

447 204. legalization and regulation of medical cannabis.

448 205. adequate funding of inpatient and outpatient mental health services.

449 206. subsidized access to life-sustaining medications including, but not limited to insulin
450 and epinephrine pens.

451 207. Price controls on prescription drugs.

452 208. adequate provision of anti-overdose medications for health care providers, police
453 departments, and other community members trained in its administration.

454 209. the reopening of mental health facilities to be operated by the Iowa Department of
455 Human Services.

456

457 We oppose:

458 210. any further closures of mental health facilities by the Iowa Department of Human
459 Services.

- 460 211. privatization of the Iowa Medicaid program.
- 461 212. block grant funding for Medicaid.

462
463
464 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

465
466 We support:

- 467 213. reforming and restructuring the UN to make it a strong, vital and evolving institution
- 468 of peace, justice and the common good for all earth’s citizens.
- 469 214. a global and verifiable ban of all nuclear and biological weapons
- 470 215. a ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- 471 216. a response to terrorism that remains within the bounds of our Constitution in order to
- 472 protect our way of life as well as honor the rights of those in the world community.
- 473 217. closing the “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation” at Fort Benning,
- 474 Georgia. Graduates often turn out to be military coup leaders, dictators, terrorists,
- 475 death squad members, etc., and other violators of human rights.
- 476 218. an end to global poverty.
- 477 219. funding international assistance that helps and empowers individuals through
- 478 education, clean water, and fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
- 479 220. protecting victims and prosecuting human traffickers for sexual exploitation and
- 480 forced labor.
- 481 221. enhancing gender equality and political empowerment of women
- 482 222. culturally sensitive, non-exploitive foreign aid and trade agreements emphasizing fair
- 483 trade rather than free trade by protecting human rights, workers’ rights, public health,
- 484 and environmental needs.
- 485 223. verifiably containing Iran’s nuclear program within the limits that will peacefully
- 486 prevent nuclear weapons development by working to reinstate the Iran Nuclear Deal.
- 487 224. ratification and/or participation in agreements, treaties and convention that respond to
- 488 climate change, eliminate chemical weapons, promote human rights, ensure justice
- 489 and equality and improve the environment and the health of all people.
- 490 225. global initiatives to reduce pollution, manage clean water supplies, end dependence
- 491 on non-renewable energy.
- 492 226. strict enforcement of sanctions passed by the U.S. Senate against Russia and specific
- 493 Russians for their intrusion into Crimea and the Ukraine; and for meddling in the
- 494 2016 U.S. Presidential election.

495
496 **ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS**

- 497
- 498 ADA.....Americans with Disabilities Act
- 499 AIDSAcquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- 500 BLM.....United States Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management
- 501 C-CPI-UChained Consumer Price Index For All Urban Consumers published by
- 502 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 503 CAFO.....Confined Animal Feeding Operation
- 504 CEDAW.....The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against
- 505 Women

506 COLA.....Cost Of Living Adjustment
 507 DOMADefense Of Marriage Act
 508 EFCAEmployee Free Choice Act
 509 ELLEnglish Language Learners
 510 ESEA.....Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 511 FAFSAFree Application for Federal Student Aid
 512 FED.....Favorable Experience Dividend
 513 FSAFarm Service Agency, a United States Department of Agriculture Agency
 514 HIVHuman Immunodeficiency Virus
 515 IDIdentification
 516 IPERS.....Iowa Public Employee's Retirement System
 517 LDP.....Loan Deficiency Payments
 518 LEEDLeadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification
 519 LGBTQIALesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and / or Asexual
 520 MFPRS.....Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System
 521 NICSNational Instant Check System
 522 NDAA.....National Defense Authorization Act
 523 NRCSNatural Resource Conservation Service, a United States Department of
 524 Agriculture program
 525 PAC.....Political Action Committee
 526 RFSRenewable Fuel Standard
 527 Super-PACSpecific type of Political Action Committee allowed to raise unlimited funds
 528 TAGTalented and Gifted Program
 529 TBTF.....Terminating Bailouts for Taxpayer Fairness
 530 UN.....United Nations
 531 USA.....United States of America
 532 USA PATRIOT....Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required
 533 to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act
 534 USPS.....United States Postal Service
 535 WPA.....Works Progress Administration