

The 2020 Platform for the Warren County, Iowa Democratic Party

PLATFORM

Agriculture & Environment

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Environmental Planning & Zoning (PZ)

Resolved: We believe farmers should have “cost-sharing” funding or loan resources that assist in fully implementing every conservation plan. We support a long-term approach to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Iowa’s CRP needs to be regularly renewed and modified for maximum effectiveness. Finally, soil needs legal protection as a finite resource such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act does in these two areas.

Resolved: We support policies and practices that acknowledge the value of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and all natural places. We should seek to minimize the effect of development pressure on sensitive and unique natural areas (for example, the Loess Hills).

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Watershed Management (WM)

Resolved: The classification of Iowa’s surface waters needs to be completed to allow full protection and enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Economic benefits for polluters must be removed by assessing penalties, revoking permits for repeat violators, and implementing pollution prevention initiatives. Citizens need legal standing to bring citizen suits for past and present violations. The public’s right-to-know should be increased concerning: permit compliances, the Toxic Release Inventory program, and chemical-use reports. Finally, the federal government should be required to re-introduce and pass the Clean Water Restoration Act.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Livestock Management (LM)

Resolved: We support local and state programs designed to help expand the livestock industry in Iowa for farmers. We support fair livestock market access by the elimination of discrimination in prices paid for livestock. We support manure management plans to protect land, air, and water quality and support our citizen’s property rights. We support granting counties citing and enforcement responsibilities, including the ability to regulate CAFOs.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Environmental Enhancement & Regulation (ER)

Resolved: The use of irradiation and genetic engineered plant and animal products need to be further researched. We are concerned about stress on the environment, animals, genetic integrity and diversity, human health, long-term and unforeseen results, and an economy of monopolies through patents, special legislation and sheer power. We favor consumer transparency including labels on food items that clearly identify country of origin, genetically modified organism (GMO) products, and irradiated products.

Resolved: We support strict control of foreign ownership of Iowa agricultural lands.

Resolved: We resolve that Iowa lands under the control of the Department of Natural Resources shall be environmentally protected to preserve the integrity of natural habitats and ecological processes. We want to register our opposition to any non sustainable commercial harvesting of trees and natural resources on state lands.

Resolved: We support keeping our national forests, wilderness areas, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands free of commercial exploitation (oil and gas exploration and commercial logging).

Resolved: We support implementing the full funding of the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Environmental Safe Energy (SE)

Resolved: In an effort to address global climate change, we support: a significant governmental investment in renewable and efficient energy technologies; the collection of a revenue neutral carbon fee on fossil fuels and its rebate to households to reduce the emission of heat-trapping gases and counter global climate disruption; and the severing of the relationship between our foreign policy and our energy policy. We support Iowa joining the US Climate Alliance and rejoining the Paris Climate Accords.

Resolved: We support research and appropriate disposal of nuclear, radioactive and biologically hazardous waste.

Resolved: We support the research, subsidization and promotion of small-scale efforts within homes and businesses of solar and wind-generated electricity with universal electric grid access and regulated procedures to ensure fair market prices.

Resolved: We support decreasing reliance on fossil fuel infrastructure.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Sustainable Rural Development (SD)

Resolved: We support a policy at both the state and federal level that will ensure funding for rural economic development programs. Further, we call on the Iowa Legislature to support legislation and other efforts that give all Iowans the opportunity to

have local input in business development. We encourage efforts in development and re-development of struggling communities utilizing existing buildings and organizational structures while maintaining the existing community hub.

Resolved: We support “Smart Growth” (planned economic and community development that attempts to curb urban sprawl and worsening environmental conditions). This includes rational use of the TIF (Tax Increment Finance) program.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: Structure of Agriculture (SA)

Resolved: We support family farms through banning packer ownership of livestock, enforcement of anti-trust laws, price reporting by all purchasers, a strong right to repair law, and helping farmers sell through local/farmer’s markets. We support defining and enforcing packer and stockyard standards of conduct.

Resolved: We believe the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Iowa’s Beginning Farmer programs must continue to enable young farmers to stay in agriculture.

Resolved: Lawmakers at all levels should review agricultural subsidies to find ways to reduce or eliminate unnecessary subsidies and support small-scale local food production.

Category: Agriculture & Environment Subcategory: U.S. Agricultural Policy (US)

Resolved: We support programs that promote economically and environmentally sustainable farming practices.

Resolved: Trade agreements should foster and sustain domestic farm programs, ensure food security, and create shared responsibility for sustainable and profitable world food production systems with world food reserves. We encourage an end to export dumping (the sale of commodities at less than the cost of production and below world food prices).

Resolved: We support an agriculture that promotes maximum sustainability through better farming practices and addresses flood, erosion and pollution control.

Economy, Commerce & Labor

Category: Economy, Commerce & Labor <EMP> Subcategory: Banking

Resolved: We support the re-enactment of the Glass-Steagall Act.

Subcategory: Worker’s Rights & Safety (WR)

Resolved: We support the right of collective bargaining and the right to organize and join a union for all workers in both the private and public sector, including the repeal of Taft-Hartley Act.

Resolved: We support immediately restoring all collective bargaining rights for all public sector employees statewide, and repealing the 2019 changes to the Workers' Compensation statute.

Resolved: We support an Employee's Choice of Doctor in Workers' Compensation.

Subcategory: Pension and Insurance (PI)

Resolved: We support the protection of pension funds from diversion or diminishment by employers or administrators. Laws must assure that the sources of funding for pensions benefit insurance cannot be misappropriated or misrepresented.

Category: Economy, Commerce & Labor Subcategory: Job Security (JS)

Resolved: We believe the outsourcing of jobs from industry and business to other countries must be discouraged.

Resolved: We oppose outsourcing and privatization of public services and assets. We support increased transparency and accountability of any such transactions.

Resolved: We support paid family and medical leave of all workers.

Category: Economy, Commerce & Labor Subcategory: Trade Regulations (TR)

Resolved: We support the investigation and strong regulation of financial institutions and energy industries and the enforcement of existing anti-trust laws.

Resolution: We oppose trade deals that harm workers, consumers, or the environment.

Category: Economy, Commerce & Labor Subcategory: Budget and Taxation (BT)

Resolved: We support state and national budgets that give adequate funding to social programs, research and development of alternative energy, passenger rail systems, and deficit reduction.

Resolved: We support federal efforts to establish programs reflecting the efforts of the WPA programs of long ago. National programs aimed at addressing the nation's current critical infrastructure needs should aim at hiring the long-term unemployed and pay living wages such as those guaranteed in the Davis-Bacon Act. The emphasis should

be on federal hiring, rather than systems of subcontracting which have proven to be susceptible to graft and corruption.

Category: Economy, Commerce & Labor Subcategory: Wages (WA)

Resolved: We support raising the minimum wage to a living wage based on a comprehensive cost of living index. The minimum wage should continue to be adjusted annually based on the current cost of living index.

Resolved: We support equal pay for equal work.

Education

Category: Education Subcategory: Student Aid (SA)

Resolved: The federal and state government must increase financial aid for all forms of post-secondary education, such as through tax credits, tuition grants, and increased funding for Pell Grants.

Category: Education Subcategory: Public School Programming (SP)

Resolved: Assessment of student performance and state standards should be driven by formal research.

Resolved: Communities, in partnership with their schools, provide physical and nutritional education and programs to all students.

Category: Education Subcategory: School Funding (SF)

Resolved: We support a strong and well funded public school system.

Resolved: The Iowa State Legislature must increase teacher pay to a level which attracts and retains high-quality teachers.

Resolved: Increase funding behind the School Aid Formula and adjust that funding in order to compensate for economic disparities between school districts. Any legislation should be fully funded.

Government & Law

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Campaigns, Elections, and Institutions (CE)

Resolved: We support a system of selecting judges based on merit, not political appointment or partisan election. We believe in a fair and independent judiciary, which is accountable to the Constitution and the law, not politicians and special interests.

Resolved: All voting machines in the United States shall be publicly owned and produce a verified paper trail.

Resolved: We support the implementation of a vote-by-mail system.

Resolved: A "Truth in Advertising" law should be enacted imposing significant civil penalties on political candidates, organizations, and media platforms responsible for verbal or written assertions that are knowingly false or cannot be substantiated.

Resolved: We support critical analysis of the Electoral College and the effects of gerrymandering on elections.

Resolved: We oppose restricting voter rights.

Resolved: Lawmakers are urged to pass laws that override the Citizens United decision.

Resolved: We support the right of non-state jurisdictions to vote in a binding referendum on statehood.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Civil Rights (CR)

Resolved: We reaffirm our support of the constitutional right of citizens to make their own choice of religious belief and to practice those beliefs without harassment or threat of persecution.

Resolved: We call for removal of the previous conviction question from job employment applications.

Resolved: We call for a review of the Patriot Act.

Resolved: We support accountable policing methods including but not limited to body cameras & transparency.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Social Security (SS)

Resolved: Social Security must continue without privatization or reduction in benefits. We call for the removal of the cap on wages subject to the Social Security tax.

Resolved: We support ensuring equity in Social Security benefit payments considering gender-based wage discrimination, pay disparity, etc.

Resolved: We support tax-neutral full repayment of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Government Services (GS)

Resolved: We urge Congress to reverse the onerous rule that requires the U.S. Postal Service to totally pre-fund healthcare benefits of future retirees, and oppose privatization of USPS.

Resolved: We support the creation of a National Employment Program that pairs employers with those seeking employment, including immigrant communities.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Reproductive Rights (RR)

Resolved: A woman's constitutional right to reproductive health and freedom, as provided in Roe v. Wade, shall be upheld. We support restored funding for Planned Parenthood.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Criminal Justice (CJ)

Resolved: We reaffirm our opposition to the death penalty.

Resolved: We support restoring voting rights to an offender.

Resolved: Lawmakers at the state and national levels should modify or limit mandatory sentencing laws, especially for drug possession and other nonviolent crimes, and give judges greater discretion to impose criminal sentences on a case by case basis.

Resolved: For nonviolent offenders, community corrections and the use of electronic monitors should be encouraged. Incarceration in prison should be reserved primarily for violent offenders.

Resolved: We support the clarification of the "Stand Your Ground" law.

Resolved: We support universal background checks, closing of legal loopholes, and enforcement of existing gun & weapon laws.

Resolved: We support decriminalization of marijuana and research efforts to either support or reject its effectiveness for medicinal purposes.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Consumer Protection (CP)

Resolved: Copyright law should support the fair use rights of consumers and researchers for valid scientific research into technological, cryptographic, and protection measures.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Immigration (IM)

Resolved: We support a compassionate and humane immigration system including but not limited to opposing family separation and mandatory detention, supporting DACA with a pathway to citizenship, and increasing refugee and asylum admission.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Marriage (MA)

Resolved: Lawmakers shall oppose any effort to prohibit same sex marriage.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Veterans (VE)

Resolved: All veterans deserve a fully funded General Issue (GI) Bill.

Category: Government & Law Subcategory: Participation in Government (PG)

Resolved: Involuntary annexation shall require an affirmative vote of both the citizens of the city annexing and the citizens of the area being annexed.

Resolved: A moratorium on property annexation shall be placed on cities until fair and equitable services have been provided throughout the municipality.

Health & Human Services

Category: Health and Human Services Subcategory: Universal Health Coverage (UH)

Resolved: We believe that quality healthcare is a human right and support universal and affordable access.

Category: Health and Human Services Subcategory: Health Care Costs (CI)

Resolved: We must refocus our health care system toward keeping people healthier through disease prevention, and care management.

Category: Health and Human Services Subcategory: Healthcare (HC)

Resolved: We support maintaining and protecting Medicare and oppose privatization.

Resolved: We support The State of Iowa transferring the majority/all of Iowa Medicaid program back to state administered and limit/eliminate the mismanaged care operators.

Category: Health and Human Services Subcategory: Mental Health (MH)

Resolved: We support a long-term funding formula to ensure adequate access to mental health services for all Iowans.

Category: Health and Human Services Subcategory: Veterans (VT)

Resolved: To allow any active military or veterans access to and reimbursement for healthcare services from any licensed medical provider as designation by the State of Iowa.

International Affairs

Category: International Affairs Subcategory: The Rule of Law (RL)

Resolved: We support the United Nations

Resolved: We call on our Executive and Legislative bodies to reject the preemptive war option.

Resolved: We support the ending of the conflict in Afghanistan and reevaluating the international deployment of our troops and personnel.

Category: International Affairs Subcategory: Treaty Negotiation (TN)

Resolved: We continue to support a global and verifiable ban of all nuclear weapons.

Category: International Affairs Subcategory: Response to Terrorism (RT)

Resolved: We support the defense of our nation and the need to protect it from terrorist attacks. We believe we should take military action only with clear national defense goals, informed Congressional consent and funding, and, whenever possible, international cooperation.

Category: International Affairs Subcategory: Against Training Terrorists (TT)

Resolved: We call for the closing of the “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation” (AKA "School of the Americas") at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Carl Olsen

From: Crystal Schrader <schraderc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Carl Olsen
Subject: Fw: WARREN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
Attachments: My Plank in the Democratic Platform.odt

Minority Report from Warren County.

Crystal Schrader
schraderc@hotmail.com

From: Lillian Stewart <lvstewart14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 8:22 PM
To: schraderc@hotmail.com <schraderc@hotmail.com>
Subject: WARREN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Ref: Minority Report - 3 Resolutions on 3 pages attached.

Hi there,

Again, thank you so much for your work on behalf of the Warren County Democrats. It is GREATLY appreciated!

I have re-typed these 3 Resolutions that all have to do with Lobbying.

Page 1 has Resolutions 1 and 2.

Pages 2&3 has Resolution 3, because I added a little background to this one. I thought it might need a little explanation.

If you should have any questions just let me know. You can email me, or call or text me at 515-480-6221 (cell phone).

Again, thank you so much for all of your work on our behalf! And have a relaxing Sunday evening!

Lillian V. Stewart (*County Convention Should-Have-Been*)

A. Resolved: Regarding any all meetings and/or appointments --involving any lobbyist(s) or anyone acting on behalf of any lobbyist AND the elected official, or any such official's staff member or representative:

1. Must be proceeded 20 days before any such meeting/appointment, by **written** information as to all matters and the attendant details to be discussed during said meeting/appointment. This will allow staff to research such matters to be considered, and serve as a written record of lobbyist activities.

2. Must take place in the elected official's public office(s) during normal business hours. Such meetings and/or appointments should not include food, drink or any other social conveniences provided by the lobbyist(s) or anyone acting on their behalf.

B. Resolved: No elected official, or any such official's family member, staff member or representative may accept any lobbyist's gift valued at more than \$20.00. This would include any gift from anyone acting on behalf of any lobbyists.

C. Resolved: The *federal bribery statute* should be amended to prohibit public officials from accepting “anything of value” in return for performing an official act, **OR providing government access as a “constituent service”**. *It’s one thing to perform constituent services, but it crosses the line to receive lavish gifts to do so.*

Background: Governor McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, were convicted of accepting \$175,000 in money and gifts from Jonnie Williams, owner of nutritional supplements company Star Scientific. Williams testified he sought Governor McDonnell’s help in obtaining public money to fund research studies on the health benefits of one of his company’s products. In return for Williams’ generosity, Governor McDonnell arranged meetings for Williams with Virginia officials, hosted events for Star Scientific at the Governor’s Mansion, and contacted other government officials in regard to the research studies.

Writing for the Court, Chief Justice John Roberts found McDonnell’s actions were “distasteful” and “tawdry,” but not official acts. “Setting up a meeting, talking to another official, or organizing an event (or agreeing to do so)—without more—does not fit that definition of an ‘official act,’” the Court wrote. Instead, the Court held that **an official act** **“must involve a formal exercise of governmental power** that is similar in nature to a lawsuit before a court, a determination before an agency, or a hearing before a committee,” and the public official must “intend to exert pressure on another official or provide advice.” The

Court compared McDonnell's conduct to that of "conscientious public officials...hear[ing] from their constituents and act[ing] appropriately on their concerns."

The Court's *McDonnell* ruling, much like its *Citizens United and McCutcheon* rulings, elicited howls of outrage from good government groups. In the short term, it will probably trigger a flood of appeals by other ex-officials convicted under the same statute. In the long term, it will make it more difficult to prosecute public corruption. We fear the Supreme Court has given the green light to selling government access (but not action) to the highest bidder.

It's one thing to perform constituent services, but it crosses the line to receive lavish gifts to do so.

~ *Project for Government Oversight*

"McDonnell Decision a Setback for Anti-Corruption Efforts"

BY **NEIL GORDON** | FILED UNDER ANALYSIS | JUNE 30, 2016

NOTE: Look up Lobbyist Gifting