

**The 2020 Platform
of the
POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

As Democrats we recognize the need for more Democratic leadership on the local, state, and federal level especially in these times of corruption and lack of integrity in the political process.

We are proud of our State Representative, Charlie McConkey, serving the people of Council Bluffs and Carter Lake well and ably in the Iowa Legislature.

We are proud of our Congressional Representative, Cindy Axne, serving the people of the Third District.

We are proud of our ability to unite behind the eventual Democratic candidate for President.

As Democrats, representing the “grassroots” party, we urge all members to be involved and active in their local communities, whether in the context of running for office or expressing their thoughts to their duly elected officials.

What follows is the proposed platform, as determined by the duly elected members of the Platform Committee. It is not intended to cover every issue. Our discussions did involve every resolution presented to us, which had passed at precinct caucuses, in addition to subsequent resolutions that have been submitted. We have tried to restrict the formal document to those issues over which our county party can have some influence.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

We, as Democrats:

1. Support legislation for green and renewable energy.
 2. Support elimination of all coal fired power plants and a 50% reduction in fossil fuel emissions in Iowa by 2030.
 3. Support legislation that discourages fracking.
 4. Oppose new transcontinental fossil fuel pipelines.
 5. Support clean water for the state of Iowa and eliminate voluntary compliance with clean water measures.
 6. Support protection of the environment through an amendment to the Iowa Constitution.
 7. Propose protecting public lands from private exploitation.
 8. Urge all cities and communities that have curb service garbage removal to promote recycling.
 9. Support stronger regulation of herbicides/pesticides and drift.
 10. Support the legalization of the growth of hemp.
 11. Support local control of permitting processes for all Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).
 12. Support a moratorium on new and expanding CAFO's.
 13. Support the endangered species act.
 14. Support funding for radon testing and mitigation in all public buildings.
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ECONOMY, COMMERCE, & LABOR

We, as Democrats:

1. Support legislation that will raise the minimum wage to at least \$15.00/hr and index it to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
2. Support local control.
3. Support local governments having the right to define "responsible bidder."
4. Support paid parental leave for all Americans.
5. Support equal pay for equal work.
6. Support legislation to end all forms of wage theft; including for undocumented workers.
7. Encourage that American flags and military uniforms be manufactured in the United States.
8. Support the overturning of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.
9. Support a prevailing wage law for Iowa construction workers on certain government projects.
10. Support legislation that allows Iowa workers who are injured on the job to choose their own medical care.
11. Support legislation that restores and expands public employee bargaining rights.
12. Support "Fair Share" legislation.
13. Support passage by Congress of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.
14. Support business incentives in the form of tax credits for selling MADE IN AMERICA products.
15. Support penalties for those who knowingly employ undocumented workers, while making sure that those workers are paid fully and fairly for their labor.
16. Support distributed electrical generation to increase jobs in Iowa.
17. Oppose any legislation that would switch a defined benefit plan for public employee retirement to a defined contribution plan.
18. Support project labor agreements as a tool to protect taxpayers and maintain quality work on public projects.

19. Support restoring the balance of the workers compensation laws back to the 2016 levels.
 20. Support Universal Basic Income.
 21. Support the arts and cultural preservation.
 22. Support public transportation.
 23. Support the repeal of Iowa's "Right to Work" laws.
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EDUCATION

We, as Democrats:

1. Oppose diverting public money from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits, or for-profit education businesses.
 2. Support the restoration of funding to Regent Universities.
 3. Call on Congress and the state of Iowa to support full funding of special education.
 4. Support legislation that will adequately fund our state education system.
 5. Support making public colleges and universities tuition free.
 6. Support giving Iowans the opportunity for higher education that includes apprenticeship programs, where an apprentice can "earn while they learn" and graduate from a program debt-free and with valuable career skills.
 7. Support funding for competitive professional salaries for educators and support professionals in our public schools.
 8. Support funding to our public schools to ensure that technology is available to all Iowa students.
 9. Support student loan reform.
 10. Support expanded funding for licensed mental health providers in public schools.
 11. Support free and nutritious lunches to public school students.
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GOVERNMENT & LAW

We, as Democrats:

1. Oppose attempts to privatize government services.
2. Support the prosecution of violence at abortion clinics as domestic terrorism.
3. Support legislation that prevents individuals from purchasing firearms without a completed background check; limits availability of semiautomatic weapons; institutes clip limits, waiting periods, insurance and training requirements for gun owners.
4. Support the establishment of a judicial process to review and revoke a gun owner's right to continue to possess a weapon in certain circumstances in the state of Iowa.
5. Support the restriction of "Stand Your Ground" statutes in Iowa.
6. Support equal rights for all persons, couples and families regardless of sexual orientations and gender identities, socioeconomic status, disability or marital status.
7. Oppose any attempts to curtail and repeal civil rights.
8. Support our responsibility to our veterans by fully funding the Veterans Administration:
9. Support a state tax break or incentive for businesses that hire veterans or create on-the-job training opportunities for veterans.

10. Support continued efforts to eradicate veteran homelessness.
11. Support 6-day universal service for the United States Postal Service.
12. Support the re-expansion of the United States Postal Service, including the services that could be offered there such as postal banking.
13. Urge all levels of government to pursue a humane and comprehensive plan to reform and solve the immigration issue.
14. Support reproductive freedom and woman's right to choose as established by Roe vs. Wade.
15. Support federal and state funding for voluntary family planning, including affordable access to contraceptives.
16. Support changing the formula of Cost of Living Allowances as applied to Social Security increases to include medical costs, food and energy.
17. Oppose any attempt to privatize or otherwise cut the benefits of Social Security for current and future generations.
18. Support raising the cap on Social Security contributions to help retain the solvency for future generations.
19. Support fully funding Iowa's judicial system.
20. Support a fair and independent judiciary, accountable to the Constitution and the law, not politicians and special interests.
21. Urge federal, state and local criminal justice reform to address controlled substance addiction as a medical issue not a criminal issue.
22. Support the repeal of the Military Commission Act of 2006 which allows the federal government to detain and imprison people without charges.
23. Oppose torture in all forms and urge the federal government to outlaw the use of torture.
24. Oppose unfunded federal mandates.
25. Support appropriate oversight of breeding facilities of companion animals; including appropriate penalties for anyone found to be in violation of healthy and humane living conditions of companion animals including but not limited to higher fees and/or jail time, for repeat offenders.
26. Oppose any legislation that would reduce the commercial property roll back reimbursement to the local government.
27. Urge the initiation of a constitutional amendment to ensure that corporations are not "persons" in regard to political speech and further add that corporations are not allowed to contribute to political campaigns in state, local and federal elections in the state of Iowa.
28. Urge the following regulations be adopted for campaign financing:
 - a. All federal elections are publicly financed.
 - b. Oppose SuperPACs and dark money.
29. Support that Federal and Statewide elected officials who leave public office be barred for 5 years from lobbying on behalf of any cause with penalties including criminal and civil applying.
30. Ask that the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors work to improve the unpaved county roads.
31. Support separation of investment banks and commercial banks with the reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933.
32. Support termination of lending of monies from Social Security and Medicare funds.
33. Support investigations into federal government officials overstepping their bounds with the PATRIOT Act.
34. Support criminal justice reform in the face of socioeconomic and cultural differences.
35. Support legislation that requires all bills brought forward by legislators in committee and on the floor must:

- a. Declare the origination of the bill's language and intent.
 - b. Declare if any interpretation of the bill has been introduced in any other state legislature.
 - c. Make findings of this information public.
36. Support net neutrality.
 37. Support legalization all forms of cannabis.
 38. Oppose voter suppression laws and support repeal of 2016 voter registration acts in Iowa.
 39. Support the use of complete unadulterated census data for the drawing and redrawing of districts and precincts.
 40. Condemn white supremacy.
 41. We endorse and encourage citizens and their members of Congress to support Statehood and full democracy for the District of Columbia.
 42. Support freezing the property tax for all Americans who reach the age of 75.
 43. Support reform of the Supreme Court selection, appointment and tenure process.
 44. Support elimination of the Electoral College.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We, as Democrats:

1. Support diplomatic efforts to bring peaceful resolution to conflict.
2. Support a national defense capable of defeating the enemies of the United States.
3. Support international opposition to genocide.
4. Oppose the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Support DACA/The DREAM Act.
6. Oppose an immigration policy that relies disproportionately on a continuous border barrier.
7. Support funding for immigration courts to address current backlog.
8. Provide funding to accelerate Visas/Green Card processes.
9. Support immigration policy reform.
10. Oppose detention based solely on immigration status and no family separation
11. Support ending all wars not approved by Congress including Iraq, Afghanistan and other proxy wars.
12. Oppose targeting sanctuary cities and states.
13. Support legislation to limit the use of tariffs without congressional approval.

HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

We, as Democrats:

1. We believe that healthcare is a human right.
2. Support open access to healthcare providers and medical services of choice, for all.
3. Oppose making Medicare a voucher program, cutting benefits, or the privatization thereof.
4. Oppose providing Medicaid funds to states in block grants.
5. Support Medicaid.
6. Support fully funding substance abuse and mental health services for all.
7. Support allowing negotiation between Medicare and pharmaceutical companies on drug pricing.
8. Support legislation that ensures appropriate funding of long-term care and nursing facilities to assure they are properly staffed and trained for the number and acuity of residents.

9. Support Planned Parenthood.
10. Support community health centers.
11. Support adequate funding for SNAP, WIC, Community Eligibility, and other anti-hunger programs to address unmet hunger needs.
12. Support increased access to affordable housing.
13. Support transgender access to healthcare.
14. Support reproductive rights.
15. Support healthcare without defined age cutoffs.
16. Support terminally ill, mentally-capable adults' access to a full range of end of life options, including medical aid in dying as consistent with their own values, beliefs and priorities.

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