

1 **POLK COUNTY PLATFORM**
2 **MARCH 13, 2010**

3
4 **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**
5

6 We are justly proud of our Democratic Party, its heritage, and its accomplishments. No
7 part of our heritage is more valuable than our belief in the rights and worth of each
8 individual. This belief commits us to promoting and safeguarding a quality of life that
9 recognizes and benefits human dignity and which offers opportunities to share in that
10 realization. Only by reaffirming that belief and acting resolutely upon that commitment
11 can we as Democrats remain true to our traditions and worthy of our heritage.
12

13 We know that our success as a nation rests largely on the strength, inventiveness, and
14 perseverance of our citizens. We recognize that we live in a nation that has denied full
15 participation to certain individuals based solely on discriminatory perceptions and
16 practices. Our history as a party and as a nation compels us to oppose discrimination
17 based on race, age, disability, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, gender
18 identity, or any other bias-based categorization imposed on individuals or groups.
19

20 The Democratic Party believes in and will continue to work for truly representative
21 government responsive to all the American people rather than particular special
22 interests; compassionate, progressive, responsible, and fair; steadfastly seeking to
23 promote liberty, justice, security, equality, and individual freedom for every citizen;
24 dedicated to achieving peace, prosperity, and a national outlook of confidence and
25 hope.
26

27 We recognize that the original Constitution and Bill of Rights are a precious gift handed
28 down to us by the Founders of our nation. We understand that defending our country
29 means defending the Constitution. They are inseparable. Democrats understand that if
30 we give up some of our rights in the name of defending our country, we are giving up
31 that which makes us Americans. Our liberties apply all the time, not just when
32 convenient. The right of all Americans to dissent must be protected. We oppose
33 legislative, executive, and judicial efforts to limit or erode our civil and Constitutional
34 rights.
35

36 As temporary stewards of our natural resources we demand that our governing bodies
37 develop, strengthen and enforce policies and laws protecting our environment
38 permanently from wasteful and indiscriminate use. Clean air, healthy water and diverse
39 ecosystems, including our national parks, oceans and forests, are part of our children's
40 future and must be protected.
41

42 Young people are our future. We want young people to join our party. County chapters
43 of Young Democrats should be established and supported.
44

45 We encourage all levels of the Iowa Democratic Party to develop programs to increase
46 participation in and accessibility to Democratic Party Caucuses.

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92

We take pride in Senator Harkin, Representative Boswell, Governor Culver, Lieutenant Governor Judge, Attorney General Miller, State Treasurer Fitzgerald, and Secretary of State Mauro. They work diligently for Iowans and our nation. They deserve our appreciation and we thank them for their hard work.

We urge the election of Democrats to all congressional seats. We must recruit candidates for and re-elect our outstanding members of the Iowa General Assembly to maintain the majority in both houses. We also recognize the importance of retaining a Democrat as governor of Iowa and maintaining control of other statewide executive offices.

In the light of our ideals, traditions, and history, we present our Democratic candidates for local, state, and national offices. We are confident that these persons will continue to work for liberty and justice for all. We warmly and openly invite all Iowans to join our efforts to achieve these goals, because a victory for the Democratic Party in 2010 means hope for a just and secure future for our state and nation.

The Iowa Democratic Party believes that the fairest and most productive societies are those that limit extremes of wealth and poverty. We believe that everyone living in America deserves the opportunity for ownership of the American dream. We believe that everyone in America deserves the same opportunity of upward mobility. We believe everyone living in America should have the opportunity to share in the benefits of our economic system, and that all have the right to be treated fairly, ethically, and with dignity and respect, in a clean and healthy environment. We believe that to guarantee this right, government should exert a gentle, wise and appropriate hand on the economic tiller, and that government should be of the people, by the people and for the people.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SEATING OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

At or before the first platform committee meeting, the party shall provide a list of delegates and alternates elected to the platform committee to the temporary officers of the platform committee. If the list is not provided, the platform committee is authorized to seat anyone who shows up at the meetings from that point forward without credentialing. Any discrepancies or inaccuracies in the list of elected delegates and alternates may be resolved by the platform committee.

PUBLICATION OF THE 2008 IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSTITUTION

We call upon the Iowa Democratic Party to replace the 2006 Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party on its web site with the one adopted by the Delegates Assembled at the 2008 State Convention.

93 **IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND PLATFORM COMMITTEES**

94

95 We call upon the county, district, and state central committees to call for a report from
96 their respective county, district, and state platform committees at every general
97 membership meeting where reports from other subcommittees are presented.

98

99 **CONTINUING TO KEEP OUR PROMISIES TO AMERICA'S SERVICE MEMBERS**
100 **AND VETERANS**

101

102 We recognize the service and sacrifices of our service members and veterans, including
103 Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Leonard Boswell, who are the only veterans
104 serving Iowa in the United States Congress.

105

106 All Service Members and Veterans have taken risk by taking the oath, regardless of war
107 or peacetime. A Service Member is always on duty to perform dangerous missions.
108 Service Members face separation from family and loved ones, as well as physical
109 hardships, regardless of when and where their service was rendered.

110

111 We recognize that the state of Iowa is in the midst of a financial crisis. At the same
112 time, it is equally important to remind our elected officials of the sacrifices and struggles
113 that our Service Members, Veterans and their families, who serve our country, have
114 faced. Per capita, Iowa's sons and daughters answer the call to military duty in greater
115 numbers than most of the other 50 states; to fight in current and past conflicts. We call
116 on the 2010 Iowa State Legislature to vigorously guard and preserve the financial
117 integrity of the following agencies and programs: The Iowa Veterans Home; The Iowa
118 Department of Veteran Affairs; The Iowa Veterans Trust Fund; County Allocation
119 Programs; The Injured Veteran Grant Program; Military Home Ownership Program; and
120 Veterans License Plate Fund. Any reductions in funding will not only have a negative
121 impact on Iowa Veterans and their families but will impact the federal funding of these
122 programs.

123

124 It is the unwavering position of the Iowa Democratic Veteran's Caucus that the
125 Veteran's Administration (VA) health care program provisions are a contractual
126 agreement earned by veterans.

127

128 As such, we insist that financial means testing, co-pay, and any other devices utilized to
129 exclude or limit veteran's benefits, be rescinded. A veteran is a veteran regardless of
130 when, how or where he/she served in our Armed Forces.

131

132 America must come to recognize that the veterans' health care budget crisis is as
133 significant and important as the national health care crisis. The cost for veterans' health
134 care is projected to increase multifold because of the unique injuries associated with our
135 current conflicts. Therefore, veterans' health care budgets must be dramatically
136 expanded.

137

138 Also, we recognize that no party, religious body or individual can speak for all veterans.
139 We also recognize that expressing differing opinions on government policy can never be
140 unpatriotic, as it is that basic right that protects our liberties and is the underlying
141 strength of our democracy.

142

143 We support:

- 144 1. Active recruitment of veterans and priority preference for training programs and
145 employment.
- 146 2. Efforts by the United States, NATO Allies, Afghanis, Non-Governmental
147 Organizations (NGO's), and regional and international powers to achieve peace
148 and stability there.
- 149 3. Mandatory full financing for all US veterans' health needs arising from US
150 involvement in this and all other wars.
- 151 4. Promised benefits, retirement, and severance pay to veterans without offsets of
152 disability compensation.
- 153 5. Providing financing for an immediate increase of the amount of the veterans'
154 property exemption, indexing it to the rate of inflation, and a comparable credit for
155 those who rent.
- 156 6. An income tax credit of 10% of state and federal income tax for disabled veterans
157 with a service connected disability.
- 158 7. Exempting all military income received by National Guard, Reserve Forces or
159 U.S. Armed Forces from state income taxes while on federal active duty while
160 serving outside the U.S.
- 161 8. Iowa combat veterans receiving free tuition at any state institution of higher
162 learning.
- 163 9. Issuance by the Federal Government of a Cold War medal to all veterans who
164 have earned the citation by serving after World War II (September 1945) and
165 before the fall of the Soviet Union (December 1991).
- 166 10. Full medical and other forms of compensation for veterans who have been
167 afflicted by exposure to nuclear bomb tests, Agent Orange, depleted uranium
168 and other environmental related illnesses.
- 169 11. Abolishing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and establishing fair discipline policies,
170 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so all citizens can serve in the Armed
171 Forces.
- 172 12. All National Guard and Reserve Forces educational benefits must be brought into
173 parity with those offered to regular armed forces veterans.
- 174 13. All of Iowa's drilling Reservists, who are legal state residents, should receive the
175 same benefits as the Guardsmen from the state of Iowa.
- 176 14. Special attention and emphasis must be given to the problems of women
177 veterans, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
178 and to orthopedic injuries for amputees.
- 179 15. The VA should pay competitive salaries for mental health professionals and,
180 when necessary, they should outsource the services when caseloads exceed the
181 nationally established mental health standards.
- 182 16. That the federal per capita veteran's benefit for Iowa Veterans be raised from
183 32nd in the nation to 10th in the nation by 2010.

- 184 17. Forming a special committee to find and recover lost military documents, files
185 and records that are essential to establishing service connected disabilities.
186 18. Increased funding to veteran's assistance programs and their survivors.
187 19. Preservation of the battleship U.S.S. Iowa as a permanent naval museum.
188 20. Jail diversion programs for Veterans with PTSD so they can receive need
189 treatment.
190 21. The expansion of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment
191 Rights Act (USERRA) job protections for veterans with problems or disabilities
192 that were incurred while on active duty.
193 22. Mandatory review of discharges for veterans that were discharged because of
194 pre-existing mental health or psychological conditions.

195 **STATEMENT OF ISSUES**

196 **AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

197
198
199
200 We support actions to combat climate change, protect and restore the environment,
201 protect consumers, and achieve energy independence and sustainable agricultural
202 systems:

203 **PLANNING AND ZONING**

204
205
206 We support:

- 207 1. Incentives for green building.
208 2. Using LEED requirements for public financed projects.
209 3. Restricting urban and industrial development in floodplains.
210 4. Development within existing cities and towns rather than prime agricultural or
211 natural areas.
212 5. Eliminating developer property tax credits and subsidies for any developments
213 that do not comply with generally accepted smart growth principles (LEED-ND).
214

215 **ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND REGULATION**

216
217 We support:

- 218 6. Favoring environmental protection and public health over corporate profits.
219 7. Preserving our shared natural resources and conserving biodiversity.
220 8. Full financing for REAP and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
221 9. IDNR and IDALS enforcement authority.
222 10. Financing, enforcing and strengthening ESA, CWA, and CAA and permitting
223 private legal actions for violations.
224 11. Scientific standards for federal and state conservation programs.
225 12. Long-term approaches to CRP and easements for ecologically fragile lands.
226 13. Preservation/restoration of carbon-sequestering native ecosystems.
227 14. Protected status for Iowa's remaining virgin prairie remnants.
228 15. Notification of airborne chemical applications to adjacent landowners.
229 16. Banning trapping along public roadsides.

- 230 17. Banning use of lead wheel weights.
231 18. Reinstating the Roadless Rule in national forests.
232 19. Full financing for ecosystem management and infrastructure in our national
233 parks.
234 20. Improving and maintaining municipal water facilities.
235 21. Increasing the number of FDA inspectors for agricultural inspection, while
236 maintaining USDA inspectors in place.
237 22. Eliminating grandfather clauses for polluters.
238 23. Greater financing of enforcement laws preventing nitrate pollution of our aquifers,
239 streams, and watersheds.
240 24. Enforcing environmental regulations along our borders.
241 25. Strengthening environmental standards affecting our national parks.

242

243 **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

244

245 We support:

246

26. Access to affordable clean water.

247

27. Reforming the credible data law to permit volunteer water sampling.

248

28. Halting declassification of rivers and streams as such waterways for purposes of
249 pollution monitoring.

250

29. Restoring perennial waterways to swimmable and fishable status.

251

30. "Reasonable use" defined as withdrawal at rates below aquifer recharge.

252

31. Safe agricultural and municipal waste disposal.

253

32. A public right-to-know about permit applications, compliance, and toxic release.

254

255 **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

256

257 We support:

258

33. Environmental quality standards.

259

34. Increased research and application of bacteriophages as disease control methods.

260

35. Repealing odor nuisance lawsuit protection.

261

36. Ending tax abatements for CAFO waste systems. [*minority report to strike*]

262

37. Requiring CAFOs to obtain NPDES permits and file nutrient management plans.

263

38. Moratorium on new and expanded CAFOs pending science-based air and water
264 regulations, inspection, and enforcement.

265

266

267 **RECYCLING/BOTTLE BILL**

268

269 We support:

270

39. A bottle bill which includes all purchased drink containers.

271

40. Incentives for recycling.

272

273 **CONSUMER CHOICE AND FOOD SAFETY**

274

275 We support:

41. Stable and safe regional food supplies.

- 276 42. Banning growing of GMOs for pharmaceuticals in open environments.
277 43. Product labeling including: origin, GMOs, irradiation, hormone/antibiotic use, and
278 animal products.
279 44. Shifting the burden of proof for GMO safety to manufacturers.
280 45. Independent research on agricultural antibiotic and hormone use.
281 46. Strengthening food and beverage inspection.
282 47. Support for small producers to comply with food safety standards.
283 48. Allowing the direct market of raw milk and its use for cheese-making. [*minority*
284 **report to strike**]
285 49. Industrial hemp.
286 50. Indexing food stamps to cost of living.

287

288 **SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

289

290 We support:

- 291 51. Organic farming.
292 52. Crop and livestock diversification.
293 53. Funding soil conservation districts.
294 54. Sustainable non-food source bio-fuels.

295

296 **STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE**

297

298 We support:

- 299 55. Farmer owned reserve.
300 56. Promoting small, sustainable, and diverse family-owned farms.
301 57. The Farm to School Bill that uses locally produced foods.

302

303 **ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NUCLEAR POWER, AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

304

305 We support:

- 306 58. Becoming the first state to achieve sustainable energy independence.
307 59. Migration from a petroleum-based, centrally produced and distributed energy
308 system to a sustainable, smart-grid driven system based on multiple clean
309 renewable energy sources. [*minority report to add "including solar, wind,*
310 **and bio-fuels"**] [*minority report to add "and nuclear power"*]
311 60. A final, safe and workable solution for nuclear plant waste prior to implementation
312 of any new nuclear construction.
313 61. Establishment of "passive energy use" standards that include an "all off switch"
314 for appliances and appropriate informational labeling prior to purchase.
315 62. A thorough cost/benefit study for nuclear and fossil fuels showing their true costs
316 economically, socially and militarily.
317 63. A study and model of the Peak Oil status of domestic oil reserves and the impact
318 of that diminishing supply on our nation.
319 64. A goal of 30% renewable electricity portfolio by 2020; 50% by 2030; 80% by
320 2050, using a combination of small scale and utility scale producers.
321 65. Limits on Mercury Emissions.

- 322 66. Policies and incentives which encourage smart growth of cities.
323 67. A balanced subsidy for production of all sources of bio-ethanol energy, including
324 switch grass, corn and others.
325

326 **ACRONYMS:**

- 327 **CAA** – Clean Air Act (Issue 10)
328 **CAFO** – Confined Animal Feeding Operation (Issues 36, 37, 38)
329 **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program (Issue 12)
330 **CWA** – Clean Water Act (Issue 10)
331 **ESA** – Endangered Species Act (Issue 10)
332 **FDA** – United States Food and Drug Administration (Issue 21)
333 **GMO** – Genetically Modified Organism (Issues 42, 43, 44)
334 **IDNR** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Issue 9)
335 **IDALS** – Iowa Department of Agricultural and Land Stewardship (Issue 9)
336 **LEED** – Leadership in Energy and Efficient Design (Issue 2)
337 **LEED-ND** – Leadership in Energy and Efficient Design - Neighborhood
338 Development (Issue 5)
339 **NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (Issue 37)
340 **REAP** – Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (Issue 8)
341 **USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture (Issue 21)
342

343 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE AND LABOR**

344 **WORKERS**

345 We support:

- 346
347
348 1. The right to receive a dignified living wage, standard of living, and retirement.
349 2. Passing a Prevailing Wage law in Iowa.
350 3. Strengthening fair unemployment insurance benefits.
351 4. Safeguarding the livelihood of workers unemployed resulting from company
352 merger, takeover, or bankruptcy.
353 5. A worker's right to choice of doctor when injured on the job.
354 6. Fully financing OSHA.
355 7. Expansion and enforcement of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.
356 8. The right to care for family members without penalty.
357 9. Reducing the inequity between executive and worker pay.
358 10. Enforcing laws that guarantee the right to organize without penalty.
359 11. Enacting the EFCA.
360 12. Abolishing "right to work" laws.
361 13. The right to negotiate Fair Share agreements.
362 14. Project Labor Agreements.
363 15. Maintaining public sector jobs and services.
364 16. Financial security, integrity, and portability of promised retirement and health
365 benefits.
366 17. Passing the federal Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act.

- 367 18. Expanding Scope of Bargaining for public sector employees to include wages,
368 hours, and conditions of employment.
369 19. Competitive bidding, market wages and fair labor practices for all state agencies.
370 20. Strengthening whistle-blower protections.

371

372 **A THRIVING ECONOMY**

373

374 We support:

- 375 21. Making it advantageous for businesses to headquarter in America and increasing
376 jobs for American citizens.
377 22. Fully enforcing federal regulatory laws.
378 23. Fully enforcing federal antitrust laws.
379 24. Reversing deregulation.
380 25. Ensuring competition by scrutinizing proposed mergers and acquisitions.
381 26. Expanding availability of seed money for start-up businesses.
382 27. Demanding and enforcing fair trade agreements.
383 28. Investing in “green” technologies.
384 29. Enforcing Country of Origin labeling to accurately reflect a product’s
385 manufacture.
386 30. Requiring combined reporting for businesses that operate in Iowa but are not
387 headquartered here.
388 31. A CCC-type workforce to enhance Iowa’s infrastructure and create immediate
389 jobs.
390 32. Investing in American companies that are creating energy-efficient vehicles.
391 33. Incentives for purchases of ultra-efficient vehicles, appliances, and home and
392 building improvement materials.

393

394 **FAIRNESS IN FINANCE**

395

396 We support:

- 397 34. Toughening laws requiring honest information, transparency, and full disclosure
398 to borrowers.
399 35. Fair limits on fees, penalties, and interest rates of all commercial lenders.
400 36. Government efforts to alleviate the mortgage foreclosure crisis.
401 37. Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act.

402

403 **A MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE**

404

405 We support:

- 406 38. Expanded public transportation, specifically city bus service and regional light
407 rail.
408 39. Affordable and accessible broadband and other modern telecommunications
409 services.

410

411 **A SHARED INVESTING IN AMERICA**

412

- 413 We support:
414 40. Granting fiscal relief to states to jump-start growth and job creation.
415 41. Allowing the Bush tax breaks to expire in 2010 and creating a more progressive
416 tax structure for millionaires.
417 42. Regaining more than \$160 billion a year by closing tax loopholes and ending the
418 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
419

420 **ACRONYMS**

421 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Issue 6)

422 **EFCA** – Employee Free Choice Act (Issue 11)

423 **CCC** – Civilian Conservation Corps (Issue 31)

424

425 **EDUCATION**

426

427 We support:

- 428 1. Public education as a civil and human right and the foundation of a free,
429 democratic, and just society.
430 2. Educating all students to be critical and creative thinkers, and constructive
431 citizens.
432 3. Recognizing and valuing the unique and diverse needs, strengths, interests,
433 experiences, and potential of each student.
434 4. Tailoring education to each student's individual needs, developing the whole
435 student.
436 5. Assessing students in multiple, authentic, real-world ways that encourage
437 challenging and relevant learning.
438 6. Minimal use of standardized and multiple choice testing to reduce their
439 detrimental effects on student learning.
440 7. Using local standards and curriculum rather than nationally mandated standards,
441 tests, or curriculum.
442 8. Using multiple measures to assess school and teacher performance.
443 9. Acknowledging and addressing opportunity gaps, especially those associated
444 with poverty, that impede student learning and development.
445 10. Importance of community involvement, parents, and public educational
446 professionals in matters of education problem solving and decision-making.
447 11. An ample, equitable, and non-punitive system of financing public education.
448 12. A complete overhaul of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) version of the
449 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
450 13. Twenty-first century media and technological skills for students.
451 14. Limited class size and teacher/student ratios.
452 15. Ensuring all Iowa schools are safe places for students in terms of physical
453 dangers, predators of all types, and bullying.
454 16. Competitive salaries for educators and professional staffs of public schools and
455 community colleges.
456 17. Provision of transportation and day care, and financing of ESL classes and GED
457 courses including but not limited to humanitarian refugees.

- 458 18. Increased financing for the arts as part of a student's public school preK-12
459 experience.
460 19. Adequate financing for public vocational and special education.
461 20. Adequate financing for professionally staffed public school libraries.
462 21. Financing of Iowa Community Colleges and the Regent's Institutions at levels
463 that avoid tuition increases. [**minority report to replace "avoid" with "lower"**]
464 22. Restoring and maintaining Iowa Tuition Grant program financing, and increasing
465 amounts for dual-enrollment programs.
466 23. Restoring financing to Area Education Agencies and expanding availability of
467 diagnostic and therapeutic services to children.
468 24. Increased federal financing for public education programs of the National
469 Endowment for the Arts, an equitable portion of endowment grants go to
470 individual artists who are not in educational institutions, National Endowment for
471 the Humanities, and Public Broadcasting System, as well as the VSA arts
472 program for persons with disabilities.
473 25. Increased financing for public early childhood, preschool and after-school
474 programs.
475 26. Students at the state-run institutions receiving the same weighted special
476 education dollars that they would have received at any other public school.
477 27. Expansion of fixed interest rate federally subsidized student loan programs, and
478 increased loan limits in these programs, and restoring loan forgiveness programs
479 based on community service.
480 28. Eliminating academic fees for public preK-12 schools.
481 29. Non-discrimination, as defined in Iowa Code § 216.9, in the provision of all
482 student services, programs, and activities.
483

484 We oppose:

- 485 30. Privatizing public schools.
486

487 **ACRONYMS**

488 **ESL** – English as a Second Language (Issue 17)

489 **GED** – General Education Degree (Issue 17)
490

491 **GOVERNMENT AND LAW**

492
493 We support:

- 494 1. A constitutional amendment prohibiting the President from pardoning anyone
495 who commits malfeasance in performance of public office.
496 2. Restoring usury laws.
497 3. Legalizing marijuana.
498 4. Enforcing gun laws.
499 5. Free access to antenna-based TV and radio.
500 6. Federal tax credits for rehabilitating historic homes.
501 7. Transparency for state tax credits.

- 502 8. Passage of VOICE Act, which allows for public financing for all elections that
- 503 allows candidates to forgo fund-raising from private sources, accept spending
- 504 limits, and receive fixed public funds.
- 505 9. Public disclosure of all sources of financing and possible conflicts of interests by
- 506 candidates.
- 507 10. Comprehensive campaign finance reform to empower voters rather than
- 508 moneyed interests.
- 509 11. Using only voting systems that allow voters to see their recorded vote, provides a
- 510 clear paper trail, independent recount, and mandatory audits.
- 511 12. Voting systems that include preference ranking of candidates and instant runoff
- 512 voting for candidates in all elections.
- 513 13. Prompt Congressional action to regulate campaign finance regulations by
- 514 strengthening disclosure and disclaimer rules for corporations, protecting
- 515 elections from foreign influence, and ensuring that shareholders exert meaningful
- 516 control over corporate spending.
- 517 14. Overturning the Supreme Court decision that grants corporations person status
- 518 under the Constitution and instead granting rights to corporations by statute only.
- 519 15. Repeal of the Iowa "English Only" law.
- 520 16. Immigration reform that protects individual rights, ensures progress toward
- 521 citizenship, and protects families and children.
- 522 17. Same-sex couples' rights in adoptions and custody matters.
- 523 18. Repeal of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act.
- 524 19. The right of any two people of legal age to civil marriage.
- 525 20. Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
- 526 Against Women by the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full
- 527 senate.
- 528 21. Fair and impartial courts, and merit selection of judges.
- 529 22. Adequate financing for courts and legal services.
- 530 23. A Constitutional amendment protecting the individual's right to privacy.
- 531 24. Requiring all private entities to have permission from individuals before sharing
- 532 private information about them with a third party.
- 533 25. Fair, ethical and open competition in state government contracting by UPPCC
- 534 certified agents, enforcement of current code, and adding of penalties.
- 535 26. Creating a procedure for electing representatives to a state constitutional
- 536 convention, if such a convention is required by voters.
- 537 27. Repayment of incentive grants when corporations move out of state.

538

539 We oppose:

- 540 28. Purchase, possession or use of firearms by abusers who are convicted of
- 541 domestic abuse or subject to court order.
- 542 29. State tax credits for publicly held companies with gross receipts greater than \$20
- 543 million annually.
- 544 30. Identification requirements that prevent people from voting.
- 545 31. Utility company charges for preparing bills.
- 546 32. Use of public funds for corporate welfare
- 547 33. Attacking judges for ideological reasons.

548 34. Construction of public buildings on a flood plain.

549

550 **ACRONYMS**

551 **VOICE** – Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections (Issue 8)

552 **UPPCC** – Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (issue 25)

553

554

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

555

556 **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE**

557

558 We support:

559 1. A non-discriminatory national health care system as a fundamental right for all
560 citizens under a single-payer plan.

561

562 **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

563

564 We support:

565 2. A cost-controlled drug purchasing program ensuring affordability for all.

566

567 **PALLIATIVE/ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**

568

569 We support:

570 3. Medical marijuana.

571 4. Coverage of non-traditional approaches and provision of holistic health care.

572

573 **CHRONIC DISEASE**

574

575 We support:

576 5. Refocusing health care on keeping people healthier through disease prevention
577 with incentives to encourage healthy lifestyles.

578 6. Increasing investment in research, diagnosis, education and pioneering science
579 that will result in better treatments to prevent and lessen the toll of chronic
580 disease and neurological disorders.

581 7. 150 minutes of PE per week for all students K-12.

582 8. Only healthful selections in all school vending machines.

583

584 **HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS**

585

586 We support:

587 9. Maintaining financing for DHS social workers and case management workers to
588 reduce case loads.

589 10. Allowing continued public assistance for workers without penalty until benefits
590 and salaries exceed the living wage.

591 11. Fully financing programs promoting child health, safety, development, and
592 prenatal care.

- 593 12. Fully financing shelters, group care facilities, and outreach programs that target
594 domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and mental and physical disabilities.
595 13. Improving transitional programs for those aging out of foster care.
596 14. Increased financing for adequate, safe and affordable child care.
597 15. State legislation mirroring federal laws prohibiting the possession, purchase, or
598 use of firearms by individuals who are subject to a protection order or are
599 convicted of domestic abuse.
600 16. Parity in mental health and substance abuse treatment coverage by insurance
601 companies.
602 17. Fully financing substance abuse, mental health, developmental disabilities
603 services, and public education with comprehensive treatment options for
604 individuals and their families.
605 18. Better treatment and support for medical, mental health, physical disability, and
606 substance abuse for incarcerated or detained persons.
607

608 **HOUSING**

609
610 We support:

- 611 19. Affordable, accessible transitional and permanent housing for low-income and
612 homeless persons.
613 20. Public/private partnerships providing financial assistance programs to help
614 increase the number of low to moderate income first-time homebuyers and help
615 homeowners remain in their homes.
616 21. Gender parity and increased financing for emergency homeless shelters.
617

618 **PUBLIC HEALTH/CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

619
620 We support:

- 621 22. Consumer representation on state occupational and health and human service
622 facility boards.
623 23. Better compensation and working conditions for health care workers.
624 24. Fully financing state anti-smoking and smoking cessation programs with tobacco
625 taxes.
626 25. Legislation protecting retirees' negotiated health insurance benefits.
627 26. Standardized long-term care policies that have favorable tax consequences and
628 comply with the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Program, which
629 exempts assets from spend-downs for Medicaid.
630 27. Long-term care insurance calculated per individual excluding spousal discounts
631 in order to keep premiums more actuarially accurate and reducing dramatic
632 increases.
633

634 **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

635
636 We support:

- 637 28. The legal right of women to make their own health care decisions and the
638 preservation of Roe v. Wade.

- 639 29. Developmentally-appropriate, medically accurate reproductive education
640 including information about sexually responsible behavior, sexually transmitted
641 infections (STIs) and non-directive family planning.
642 30. State financing for family planning services including contraceptives for low-
643 income women.

644

645 **ELDERLY SERVICES**

646

647 We support:

- 648 31. A non-privatized fully-funded Social Security system.
649 32. Eliminating the cap on covered wages for Social Security, and to include interest
650 and dividend income in the Social Security tax bases. [***controversial motion to***
651 ***strike everything after the comma***]
652 33. Guaranteed financing for services to older Iowans to enable them to live
653 independently.

654

655 **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

656

657 We support:

- 658 34. Guaranteed financing to provide adequate consumer-driven, in-home,
659 community-based services, so that persons with disabilities can live
660 independently, through HCBS waivers.
661 35. The Community Choice Act.

662

663 **DEATH WITH DIGNITY**

664

665 We support:

- 666 36. Adopting Oregon's Death with Dignity Act.

667

668 **ACRONYMS**

- 669 **DHS** – Department of Human Services (Issue 9)
670 **HCBS** – Home and Community-Based Services (Issue 34)

671

672 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

673

674 **PEACE AND SECURITY**

675

676 We support:

- 677 1. Appropriate measures to resolve global poverty and reduce hunger and disease.
678 2. Reform of international institutions to fit a new globalized world.
679 3. Strong commitment to further worldwide human rights.
680 4. Efforts to prevent and end genocide worldwide.
681 5. Humane treatment and habeas corpus protection for all people.
682 6. Normalization of relations with Cuba.

- 683 7. Taking military action only with clear, attainable national defense goals, with fully
684 informed Congressional consent, and, whenever possible, in concert with the
685 international community.
686 8. Investigation and prosecution of war-profiteering and crimes committed by
687 military contractors.
688 9. Protecting victims and prosecuting human traffickers for sexual exploitation and
689 forced labor
690 10. Banning international trade in human organs for profit.
691 11. Enhancing the gender equality and political empowerment of women.
692 12. Increased financing for border and port security.
693 13. U.S. leadership in verifiable elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.
694 14. Comprehensive efforts to understand and address the origins and causes of
695 terrorism and contain its spread, creating national and international organizations
696 and alliances to combat terrorism as an international criminal problem.
697 15. Ending violence against women, including genital mutilation, honor killings, and
698 rape as a weapon of war.
699

700 We oppose:

- 701 16. Preemptive war when there is no imminent threat to U.S. security.
702 17. Subversion of democratic principles and processes throughout the world.
703 18. Torture of any kind, secret detention facilities, and extraordinary rendition of
704 detainees.
705 19. Military assistance, aid and training that repress citizens.
706 20. Indiscriminate use of herbicide applications in the war on drugs.
707 21. Developing a "Star Wars" missile defense shield.
708 22. Militarization of American foreign policy.
709

710 **DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE**

711

712 We support:

- 713 23. Efforts to aid victims of natural disasters, and in particular aid in the form of
714 grants, not loans, to Haiti, including cancelation of its international debt and
715 assistance for its future economic development.
716 24. Meeting U.N. Millennium Development goals.
717 25. Aid based on compliance with the U.N. UDHR.
718 26. Financing our share of the GFATM.
719 27. Comprehensive reproductive health care and family planning programs, including
720 voluntary contraceptive and abortion services.
721 28. Administering reconstruction and disaster relief contracts under open bid
722 processes.
723 29. UN efforts to promote socially responsible corporate investing.
724

725 **TRADE**

726

727 We support:

728 30. Culturally sensitive, non-exploitative agreements protecting human rights,
729 workers' rights, and public health/environmental needs, and renegotiation of
730 those contrary thereto, including NAFTA, CAFTA and GATT, and similar
731 agreements.

732

733 **MIDDLE EAST**

734

735 We support:

736 31. Peaceful efforts to achieve separate and secure Israeli and Palestinian States,
737 working with all parties to end the conflict.

738 32. Orderly redeployment of all US combat troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

739 33. Providing financial and diplomatic support of reconstruction in Iraq and
740 resettlement of refugees.

741 34. Finalizing transfer of authority to the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq.

742 35. Diplomacy and negotiations with Iran, including bilateral talks, the use of
743 international sanctions to prevent the development of nuclear weapons if
744 diplomacy fails.

745 36. Steps necessary to regain momentum to stabilize Afghanistan and counter
746 expanding influence of Taliban insurgents.

747

748 **UNITED NATIONS**

749

750 We support:

751 37. Full payment of dues.

752 38. Implementation of the Secretary General's reforms.

753 39. Creation of a Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers.

754 40. Adherence to the UDHR and the ICESCR.

755 41. Full participation in the new Human Rights Council.

756 42. Ending the impasse at the Conference of Disarmament negotiations for a
757 verifiable treaty, banning fissile material used in nuclear weapons.

758 43. The 2005 UN resolution on the responsibility to prevent genocide and mass
759 atrocities.

760

761 **TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS**

762

763 We support ratification and/or full participation in:

764 44. BWC.

765 45. CDCW.

766 46. CEDAW.

767 47. CMT.

768 48. CRC.

769 49. CRPD.

770 50. CTBT.

771 51. ICESCR.

772 52. GCTPW.

773 53. Ottawa Landmine Treaty.

774 54. Treaties and agreements in response to global climate change.
775 55. RSICCJ.
776 56. UDHR.

777

778 **ACRONYMS**

779 **BWC** – Biological Weapons Convention Protocol (Issue 44)
780 **CAFTA** – Central American Free Trade Agreement (Issue 30)
781 **CDCW** – Convention on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons and the Prohibition of
782 Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (Issue 45)
783 **CEDAW** – Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
784 (Issue 46)
785 **CMT** – Cluster Munitions Treaty (Issue 47)
786 **CRC** – Convention on the Rights of Children (Issue 48)
787 **CRPD** – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Issue 49)
788 **CTBT** – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Issue 50)
789 **GATT** – General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Issue 30)
790 **GCTPW** – Geneva Convention on Treatment of Prisoners of War (Issue 52)
791 **GFATM** – Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Issue 26)
792 **ICESCR** – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Issues
793 40, 51)
794 **NAFTA** – North American Free Trade Agreement (Issue 30)
795 **RSICCJ** – Rome Statute on the International Court of Criminal Justice (Issue 55)
796 **UDHR** – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Issues 25, 40, 56)