

# Convention Call

## 2016 County Convention

### Linn County Democratic Party

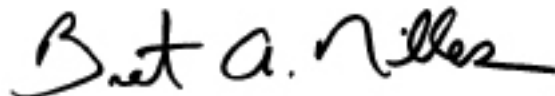
### Official Convention Call

Pursuant to the provisions, in accordance with the order, resolutions and instructions of the Democratic Central Committee of Iowa, within full compliance of the National Democratic Party requirements, the undersigned as Chair of the Democratic Party of Linn County of Iowa, hereby issues the Official Call for the Linn County Convention as follows:

The Linn County Convention shall be held at Cedar Rapids Washington High School, 2205 Forest Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52403, convening at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM, continuing until the Credentials Committee retires to prepare its report to the Convention.

The Convention will be held for the purpose of:

1. Electing Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the State Convention, who shall also serve as Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the First District Convention.
2. Electing members of the Committees for the First District Convention. (Arrangements, Credentials, Platform, Rules and Nominations)
3. Electing a Linn County Affirmative Action Chairperson.
4. Approving and adopting Linn County Platform Resolutions.
5. Transacting such other Democratic Party Business as may come before said Convention.



Bret Nilles, LCDCC Chairman

# **Convention Arrangements**

**Cedar Rapids Washington High School  
2205 Forest Dr. SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

**Registration begins at 8:00 AM**

**Convention Called to Order at 9:00 AM**

**Registration Fee - \$30.00\***

**The registration fee includes lunch.**

## **Upcoming Convention Dates**

**First District Convention - Saturday, April 30, 2016, 9:00 AM**

**State Convention - Saturday, June 18, 2016, 9:00 AM**

**Special District Election if necessary - Saturday, June 11, 2016**

**No delegate's right to vote in any convention shall be denied or abridged by the Iowa Democratic Party or the Democratic State Central Committee by reason of failure to pay any delegate fee or assessment. For assistance, contact Diane Peterson at:**

**treasurer@linncountydemocrats.org or call (319) 431 - 0673**

**\*PayPal - \$31.00 to cover incurred fees**

## ORDER OF BUSINESS AND RULES

### LINN COUNTY 2016 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Cedar Rapids Washington High School

*2205 Forest Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403*

March 12, 2016

#### RULE-FINDER

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If you have questions about the rules consult with a member of the Rules and Nominations Committee listed at the end of the rules, or the Parliamentarian.

**NOTE:** Convention rules have evolved over the years to solve various problems that have occurred in conventions as delegates have attempted to give communal expression to their competing and often conflicting notions of what is most important for the Democratic Party. Rules enable delegates to accomplish as much as possible in the limited time available. To be an effective convention delegate, who represents your precinct well, you will need to be familiar with the rules. **Read them over carefully before coming to the convention.**

There is no stated time by which the convention is to adjourn. A reasonable estimate of adjournment time is sometime in the evening. Come prepared for a full day of deliberations and voting!

**A delegate fee of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) will be assessed in order to cover the costs of the convention.** In accordance with Article VII, Section 4 of the Iowa

Democratic Party Constitution, “No delegate’s right to vote in any convention shall be denied or abridged by the Iowa Democratic Party or the Democratic State Central Committee by reason of failure to pay any delegate fee or assessment.” This means that those unable to pay will still be seated and able to fully participate as an elected delegate to the Linn County Democratic Convention.

District Convention will be April 30 and State Convention will be June 18.

If no candidate for U.S. Congress receives more than 35% of votes in the Primary on June 7, there may be a Special District Convention on June 11.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **LINN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION**

March 12th, 2016

1. Temporary Chair, Linda Langston, shall call convention to order at 9:00 A.M. There will be a recess for lunch as close as practical between 12:30 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. Food will be available for purchase at the convention. Adjournment will probably be in the evening.
2. Temporary Chair shall appoint a Temporary Secretary, Parliamentarian, Time-Keeper, and Sergeant-at-Arms.
3. Temporary Chair shall recognize a Co-Chair of the Rules and Nomination’s Committee who will ask for a motion on the temporary rules. (Preamble plus Article I, Sections A through C of these Rules (pp 5-7).
4. Temporary Chair shall ask for a motion to make delegates, as certified by the County Chair to the County Auditor, the temporary delegates to the convention.

5. Temporary Chair shall announce the Chairs of all Committees (Platform, Rules and Nominations, Credentials, and Arrangements).
6. Committees retire to meeting rooms as necessary. Temporary Chair states where each committee will be meeting.
7. Time for announcements, introductions of, and speeches by, special guests and candidates.
8. Report of the Committee on Credentials and adoption of the Credential Committee's Report by the Convention. (It will be in order at any time for a Credentials Committee Chair to announce when quorum has been reached.)
9. Rules and Nominations Committee Chair shall nominate permanent Co-Chairs of the Convention (Bret Nilles and Diane Peterson). Nominations from the floor may be received. Election of Convention Co-Chairs is then held. Chair shall appoint Permanent Secretary, Parliamentarian, Time-Keeper and Sergeant-at-arms.
10. The Chair of Rules and Nominations moves the adoption of the Rules and Nominations Committee Report. Nomination Cards for Delegates to District/ State Conventions must be submitted to the Rules and Nominations Table no later than 15 (fifteen) minutes after the adoption of the Rules and Nominations Committee Report.
11. Nomination and Election of Affirmative Action Chair.
12. A Co-Chair of the Rules and Nominations Committee shall announce the numbers of delegates (121) and committee persons (12 each for Credentials and Arrangements, 16 each for Rules and Platform) apportioned to Linn County for the District Convention, and the required procedures for proportional representation and selection of delegates and alternates to the District and State Conventions, and also for associated members/alternates of district convention committees. The election process shall be interspersed with considering the Platform Committee Report.
13. A Co-Chair of the Rules and Nomination Committee shall explain provisions for division of the convention into caucuses and the convention shall vote on a motion to determine if at least 15% (fifteen percent) of the delegates wish to divide. If division into Preference Groups is indicated, a Co-Chair of the Rules

and Nominations Committee shall explain the details of the procedure, which will be followed under the supervision of the members of the Rules and Nominations Committee, and the procedure shall begin.

14. The convention shall consider and vote upon platform planks, interspersing them with election business at the discretion of the Chair.
15. When the information is available, a Co-Chair of the Rules and Nominations Committee shall announce the number of Preference Group delegates and alternate delegates, and members/alternates of district convention committees which each group is to elect. The convention divides, if need be, into Preference Groups. Consideration of platform is temporarily suspended if division into Preference Groups takes place.
16. Each Preference Group elects its allocated delegates and alternates to District/ State Conventions, and elects allocated members and alternate-members of the Platform, Rules and Nominations, Credentials, and Arrangements Committees of the District Convention—under the supervision of members of the Rules and Nomination Committee.
17. THE CONVENTION JOINS TOGETHER, if divided into Preference Groups. The convention ratifies the delegates/alternates and committee members/alternates elected by the Preference Group(s). Consideration of the platform resumes, interspersed with any remaining elections to be conducted by the convention as a whole.
18. Upon completion of convention consideration of the platform planks, the Chair of the Platform Committee moves ratification of the platform planks as adopted, and the Convention votes to ratify.
19. The Convention Chair asks if there is other business to come before the Convention
20. Adjournment (Probably in the evening).

# RULES FOR LINN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

March 12th, 2016

## PREAMBLE

**NOTE:** The Committee on Rules and Nominations suggests that this Preamble plus Article I, Sections A through C of these Rules serve as the temporary rules during the time the convention organizes itself, up to the adoption of permanent rules. A motion to that effect will be offered at the proper time.

- A. Convention shall be called to order no later than 15 (fifteen) minutes after the time announced in the official call, 9:00 A.M.. If the Temporary Chair does not call the convention to order within this time limit, any delegate may call the convention to order and the order of business shall begin.
  
- B. Introduction of candidates and office holders: Elected officials and candidates who wish to speak or have a designee speak on their behalf must notify Linn County Chair (Bret Nilles) in writing before the convention.
  1. Federal office holders are allowed ten (10) minutes for speeches, the Chair will accommodate the person's travel schedule.
  
  2. U.S. Senate and U.S. House Candidates will be allowed five (5) minutes each; Other state-wide candidates three (3) minutes each. The Chair will accommodate the person's travel schedule.
  
  3. Candidates for and holders of legislative and county office shall be introduced and allowed three (3) minutes each for speeches.



4. Federal candidates may have a designee speak on their behalf.

5. The time limits will be strictly enforced.

C. "Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance, New Edition" by O. Garfield Jones. (Revised 1971, based on Robert's Rules of Order) shall prevail except as amended by these rules.

D. Access to the convention floor shall be limited to delegates and personnel authorized by official convention committees. Smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products of any kind are not permitted on KTOS Property. *Other policies imposed by Kirkwood Community College shall also be in force during this convention held on its KTOS property. Visit [www.kirkwood.edu/security](http://www.kirkwood.edu/security) for additional details, including weapons policy.*

## I. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

A. **Committee on Credentials:** The report of the Committee on Credentials shall be acted upon before the consideration of items number 9-20 in the Order of Business.

1. The Temporary Chair (Linda Langston) shall recognize a Co-Chair of the Committee on Credentials to present the committee report. The Co-Chair of the Committee may present committee amendments, may yield to others, and may yield for the presentation and disposition of minority reports without losing the right to the floor.

2. In the case of a challenge, the Committee on Credentials shall include in its report the name of the delegate or alternate whom it believes is entitled to participate in the convention. A minority of

the Committee on Credentials may present a minority report on any challenge to the convention. When a number of challenges are to be resolved, the Committee on Credentials shall report on each in alphabetical/numerical order by precinct which the delegates or alternates will represent.

3. The convention shall vote on the report of the Committee on Credentials on each challenge that is made. The report of the Committee on each challenge must be approved by a majority vote of the convention before a delegate or alternate being challenged may vote or participate in the convention. No challenged delegate or alternate may vote on the report of the Committee on Credentials which involves his or her respective challenge
  4. After all challenges have been resolved, the Chair shall put the question on the adoption of the report of the Committee on Credentials with amendments previously adopted, if any, to a vote without intervening motion.
  5. In the event that the committee's report shall fail to pass when voted upon, the committee shall immediately reconvene to reconsider its report, and shall present a new report to the convention as soon as possible. The convention shall be in temporary recess until the Committee shall have adopted a new report.
- B. Convention Co-Chairs:** Upon the adoption of the Credentials Committee report the convention shall proceed to elect the Convention Co-Chairs, who shall be one male and one female, in the following manner:
1. A Co-Chair of the Committee on Rules and Nominations shall be recognized to offer nomination for Permanent Co-Chairs of the Convention, and then nominations from the floor will be received.
  2. When there are no further nominations, or upon adoption of a mo-

tion to close nominations, the Rules and Nominations Co-Chair shall, after giving any nominee the opportunity to decline nomination, conduct a vote for the permanent female and male Convention Co-Chairs.

3. A majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to elect Convention Co-Chairs. If there are nominations from the floor, the Co-Chairs shall be elected separately. Balloting shall continue until the Permanent Convention Co-Chairs are elected.
4. A Convention Co-Chair will then appoint a Permanent Secretary, Parliamentarian, Time-Keeper, and Sergeant-at-Arms.

- C. **Rules and Nominations Committee:** A Co-Chair shall then recognize one of the Co-Chairs of the Committee on Rules and Nominations to present the Committee's report and the permanent rules of the convention and minority reports, if any, in the same manner as provided in these rules.
- D. **Platform Committee:** The consideration of the Platform Committee's report shall be taken up at the discretion of the Chair at appropriate times during the delegate selection process in order to save time. Rules found herein on debate and voting shall apply to consideration of the Platform Committee's Report.

## II. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

It shall be in order at any time for the Rules and Nominations Committee to report to the Convention a resolution providing a special order of business for debate of any resolution, motion, committee report or minority report or amendment to a committee report, or for the consideration of any matter for which provision is not made in these rules.

### **III. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CHAIR**

It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to conduct and expedite the business of the Convention and to preserve order and decorum in its proceedings. The Chair is authorized to:

- A. Appoint secretaries, parliamentarians, sergeants-at-arms, and such other officers as may be required to assist in the conduct of the business of the convention—to be composed of a balanced number of men and women.
- B. Appoint any person temporarily to perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Co-Chairs.
- C. Take such lawful actions as may be appropriate and necessary to preserve order throughout the Convention Hall.
- D. In the instance of excessive numbers of appeals, motions, minority reports, points of order, or other dilatory actions, the Chair may rule initiators of these actions out of order, subject to appeal and majority vote. Such appeals shall be decided without debate (see Section V).

### **IV. VOTING**

- A. Kinds of Voting and when required:
  - 1. Except as otherwise required, voting shall be by voice vote, with the Chair ruling which side prevails.
  - 2. Standing division with a count of votes for and against (of sufficient accuracy to reflect the will of the convention) shall be required:

- a. Upon the call of the Chair.
  - b. After a voice vote is announced by the Chair, if any delegate, without recognition, calls for “division”, and is supported in the call by 20 (twenty) delegates.
  - c. A paper ballot may be ordered only after a standing vote, upon a motion, which is seconded and supported by a standing vote of 40 (forty) of the delegates voting. The manner of voting shall be determined by the IDP Delegate Selection Plan, the Rules and Nominations Committee Report as adopted, or, if necessary, by the Chair. Paper ballots are “non-secret.”
  - d. All vote-counts shall be announced by the Chair and recorded in the official minutes of the Convention by the Convention Secretary.
- B. In the case of paper ballot voting, the collection of ballots and the tally of the votes shall be under the supervision of the Committee on Rules and Nominations.
- C. All questions, except as otherwise specified in these rules, shall be determined by a majority vote of the authorized delegates present and voting.
- D. When a question has been put to the vote, the vote may not be interrupted for any purpose other than for clarification of the question as put by the Chair, or to move for a standing or paper ballot vote. The Chair shall interpret a motion for a paper ballot vote as a motion for a standing vote if the issue has not yet been put to a standing vote.
- E. During the counting of the vote on a paper ballot vote on any issue, the

Chair of the Convention may entertain a new main motion on the floor and then return to the previous motion after the counting is completed (see II above).

## **V. APPEALS TO THE RULING OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any delegate, which may be debated for not more than 10 (ten) minutes. The 10 (ten) minutes will be equally divided between delegates appealing and delegates in favor of sustaining the ruling of the Chair. Before the question is called on any appeal, the Chair shall be entitled to briefly state the reasons for the ruling (see Section III. D).

## **VI. MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES**

- A. The Chair may entertain a motion to suspend the rules only for a stated purpose. If seconded, the motion shall be decided without debate, and shall require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates present and voting.
  
- B. A motion to suspend the rules or to reconsider shall be out of order after the process of selecting delegates and committee members to District and State Conventions is completed.

## **VII. MAIN MOTIONS**

- A. No question of privilege nor any motion other than those provided under these rules shall be entertained except the motion to recess to a specified time; or at the call of the Chair, which shall be privileged (see Sections II and VIII).
  
- B. Motions to recess shall be in order at any time except when the question has been called, or a vote is in progress; and shall be decided with-

out debate. A motion to recess shall be for a time period of no more than 30 (thirty) minutes. The Chair shall not entertain motions to recess when such motions closely follow another motion to recess and in the opinion of the Chair are dilatory.

- C. A motion to adjourn shall not be in order until all statutory and State Democratic Party Constitutional duties have been completed.

## **VIII. AMENDMENTS**

- A. No amendment shall be entertained unless it is germane to the subject of the motion or resolution to which it is applied, and is not, in the opinion of the Chair, dilatory.
- B. Amendments to Platform Planks shall be considered at the time the plank to which they apply are considered and in the following order:
  - 1. Written and signed minority reports from the Platform Committee;
  - 2. Amendments offered by written petition of 20 (twenty) convention delegates. If more than one amendment to the same plank is offered they shall be considered in the order received by the Chair.

## **IX. MINORITY REPORTS**

Minority reports of committees shall not be considered unless adopted by at least 10 % (ten percent) of the members of the committee in a signed minority report.

## **X. PLATFORM CONSIDERATION PROCEDURES**

- A. Planks, including Minority Plank(s), shall be presented for convention action (debate and vote, table for amendment and/or debate, adoption, or rejection) in the order they appear in the Platform Committee Report, to be considered one plank at a time, or by section. Planks from delegates likewise shall be considered before consideration of tabled planks. No further planks may be submitted after the convention Lunch Break.
  
- B. Planks reported by the Platform Committee as controversial shall be open for debate on the convention floor before they are voted on. With the support of 25 (twenty-five) delegates, a plank may be tabled for later amendment and/or debate (a motion to table is not debatable). If a plank which was tabled for the purpose of amendment comes up for consideration and there is no viable petition for amendment, then it shall not be debated unless there is support by at least 25 (twenty-five) delegates to debate the original plank.
  
- C. New planks and amendments to planks may be offered by written petition only. If supported by 20 (twenty) delegates, these may be submitted to the Platform Committee before 10:00A.M.. These planks will be considered for inclusion, substitution or amendments to existing Platform Proposals by the Platform Committee and/or may be omitted if redundant or contradictory to Existing Platform Committee reported planks.
  
- D. New planks and amendments to planks may also be offered by written petition supported by 30 (thirty) delegates, and submitted to the Chair or Secretary of the Convention before end of the Lunch Break. These will bypass Platform Committee consideration. These amendments to planks and new planks shall be open to debate at the time they come up for consideration. New planks shall be debated after all committee planks have been debated. If such plank contains more words than any other committee proposed Platform Plank, it may be ruled out of order



without debate.

- E. Debate of planks and amendments shall be limited to not more than 10 (ten) minutes each, said time divided equally between the two sides, and may be extended to a maximum of 20 (twenty) minutes upon majority vote of the convention.
  
- F. If a plank is not tabled for amendment and/or debate, the Chair of the convention will immediately put to the vote the question of whether or not the Convention will adopt the plank. Voting on a tabled and controversial plank shall proceed immediately upon completion of debate, if any, of that plank.
  
- G. Delegates may put to the Platform Committee requests for clarification of the plank it presents. Up to two (2) minutes may be spent per plank upon such clarification.
  
- H. All planks which receive majority support for adoption by the convention shall be taken by Linn County members of the District Platform Committee for consideration by the District Platform Committee.

## **XI. QUORUM**

40% (Forty percent) of the accredited delegates and accredited delegates from two-thirds (2/3) of the precincts shall constitute a quorum. No motion questioning a quorum shall be in order after the Convention has joined together following the delegate selection process.

## **XII. ROBERT'S RULES**

When a point of order is not covered by these rules, then the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, the approved Iowa Delegate Selection Plan, the Iowa Democratic Party Constitution and By-laws, the Rules and

Nominations Committee Report, or “Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance, New Edition” by O. Garfield Jones (Revised 1971, based on Robert’s Rules of Order), in that order, shall govern this convention.

### **XIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

After adoption, these rules may be amended only upon a written petition signed by 35 (thirty-five) delegates and the vote of at least half the number of the delegates initially accredited at the convention. Such a petition shall be considered by the convention as soon as practical after it is received by the Chair of the Convention.

### **XIV. RULES AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Nomination Procedure for the 2016 Linn County Convention is as follows:

- A. With credentials each seated delegate shall receive an official series of sequentially numbered ballots containing an assigned number for that delegate.
- B. After the alternates have been seated and the permanent rules have been passed, the Chair shall recognize one of the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Nominations Committee, who shall explain the procedure for nominations.
- C. If delegates representing more than 85% (eighty-five percent) of the delegate votes desire to be part of one group either uncommitted or for any one preference, then the convention as a whole shall function as a single preference group. Otherwise, the convention may divide into various preference groups under the supervision of the Rules and Nominations Committee in accord with party rules.
- D. If preference groups are formed, the seated delegates shall be given up to one hour to align themselves with a Preference Group. The Rules Committee shall add up the total number of seated delegates voting

for all groups, and then determine the viability of each group under party rules.

- E. Any delegate or alternate who wishes to be nominated as a delegate to the 2016 First District and State Convention shall complete a Delegate Nomination Card at the Rules Committee table no later than 15 (fifteen) minutes after the adoption of the Rules and Nominations Committee Report. If a seated delegate knows a person who is not at the convention, but who wants to be a State Delegate, he or she should complete a Delegate Nomination Card on that person's behalf.
- F. A Co-Chair of the Rules and Nominations Committee shall announce the names of any group, which has less than 15% (fifteen percent) of the delegate votes and the percentage of delegate votes for each viable group.
- G. Delegates in any preference group, which has less than 15% (fifteen percent) of the delegate votes, shall be given 30 minutes to realign. Delegates wishing to realign must do so at the Rules Committee table.
- H. At the end of the period allowed, the Rules and Nominations Committee shall determine the number of delegates and committee persons each group is to elect. The number of delegates to which each group is entitled shall be determined by multiplying the total number to be elected by the percentage of the total convention vote that each group represents. Where fractions exist, the groups with the largest fractions receive the delegates in question. After the final alignment, the list of delegates for each presidential preference group shall be alphabetized, numbered, typed and duplicated by the Rules and Nominations Committee.
- I. When requested by the Chair of the Convention, a Co-Chair of the Rules and Nominations Committee shall announce the number of delegates, which each group is entitled to elect to the district and state conventions, and the number of committee members to the district convention, under party prorating rules.
- J. The convention may divide into its respective groups, each seated delegate going to the group with which he or she is aligned.
- K. Each group shall elect a chair.
- L. **Procedures – Preference Groups' Elections**
  - 1. Each preference group, having been told the number of delegates

they may elect, shall proceed to elect their delegates within their own group. Written ballots shall be used for this procedure and shall be tallied by the Rules and Nominations Committee. If the number of delegates to be elected is equal to or less than the number of delegates wishing to be elected, then the preference group may declare those delegates to be their elected delegates.

2. The first formal action of the preference group chairs shall be to read the following statement, **“All caucuses, conventions, committees, and Democratic Party Officials shall take such practical steps as may be within their legitimate power to assure that all caucuses, conventions, and committees shall include: men, women, various age groups, racial minority groups, economic groups, and representatives of identifiable geographically defined populations - all in reasonable relationship to the proportions in which the groups are found in the populations of the respective constituencies. In the spirit of the above, all caucuses, conventions, and committees will also endeavor to include citizens of all national origins, ethnic identities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and disabilities.”** (from Article VIII IDP Constitution)

This statement does not impose a quota.

3. Delegates shall be presented an alphabetized list of names of those nominated. The names shall be numbered. Additional names may be submitted for nomination from the floor. They shall be placed at the end of the list and each will be given a sequence number.
4. The Chair of the Preference Group shall direct the delegates to mark the NUMBERS of the five (5) persons they want to vote for on a given ballot. Voting for fewer than five different individuals on any ballot shall constitute a spoiled ballot, except if the number of positions to be filled is fewer than five (5); then each delegate shall vote for the number of individuals equal to the number of positions to be filled. The ballots shall be collected and counted under the authority of the Rules and Nominations Committee. At the time of collection each ballot shall be checked against the delegate’s badge number. These procedures shall be followed for all marked ballots.

5. While the ballots are being counted, the delegates may proceed to elect the district convention committee members, which they have been allotted in accordance with paragraph 10.
6. No more than a simple majority of the delegate positions may be determined by the results of one balloting. No candidate may be elected with fewer than five (5) votes. All candidates receiving the same number of votes must without violation of any other rule either be defeated as a group or else elected as a group.
7. When tabulation indicates those elected, their names shall be read.
8. The delegates shall ballot again to fill the remaining positions. If the number of slots to be filled at any point is fewer than five (5), the remaining delegates may be elected by any other method approved by a majority of the group.
9. Each group shall then proceed to elect alternates. Each group may elect any number of alternates, designated by name and address. Their election may be conducted by marked ballot or any other method approved by a majority of the group.
10. Each group shall then proceed to elect its allocated members to the Rules and Nominations, Credentials, Arrangements, and Platform Committees for the District Convention. Each of the county convention committees shall make nominations of persons to their respective Congressional District Conventions Committee (Article III. C. Party Constitution.) Nominations from the floor shall be received. When there are no further nominations, or upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the chair shall, after giving any nominee the opportunity to decline nomination, conduct a vote for each position to be filled. A majority of the delegates present and voting shall be required to elect committee members.

11. The chair of the preference group shall report the names of its elected delegates/alternates and committee members along with the totaled number of ballots collected to the Rules and Nominations Committee Chair.
12. A Rules and Nominations Committee Co-Chair shall report to the convention the names of each delegate and alternate elected by each group along with the totaled number of ballots collected.
13. The entire convention shall ratify the election of the entire slate of delegates and alternates to the District and State Convention and of elected committee members to District Committees. Ratification shall mean only that it is the sense of the convention that the procedures used by the various caucuses were in conformity to required procedures under the Constitution of the State and National Party, and under applicable Convention Procedure Rules. The standard policies concerning challenges and minority reports shall apply, with such being carried to the district affirmative action committee and/or the District Convention Credentials Committee.
14. In the case of an identical tie between candidates within any preference group, a member of the Rules and Nominations Committee shall flip a coin to settle the dispute.
15. All paper ballot votes shall be conducted and tabulated by the Rules and Nominations Committee. A Co-Chair of the Rules and Nominations committee shall report the results of each marked ballot vote to the Chair of the Convention.
16. In the event that a delegate spoils a given ballot; that delegate must bring that ballot to a member or members of the Rules and Nominations Committee at a table or place designated prior to submitting that ballot. The delegate shall explain the spoiled ballot and the Rules and Nominations Committee may accept the corrected ballot for inclusion in the vote tally.

17. A Rules and Nominations Committee Co-Chair shall take possession of all ballots, signed Alignment Cards, and Delegate Nomination Cards. These cards shall be preserved for one year.

## **MEMBERS OF THE 2016 LINN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION**

### **RULES AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

- Catherine Crist, Co-Chair
- Harvey S. Ross, Co-Chair
- Valerie Smith, Secretary
- Myrt Bowers
- Bev Hannon
- Joe Hannon
- Kevan Hudson
- Gene Kaleta
- Kevin Kelly
- Julia Kottke
- Mary Muehl
- Jackson Stewart
- Joseph Young
- Jennifer Buck
- Daniel Dederling
- Bob Gilchrist
- *Nominated to go on to District Convention Rules and Nominations Committee*

### **ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

- Norm Sterzenbach, Chair
- Mike Little, Co-Chair
- Karen Hartlep, Secretary
- Jeannette Booth
- Joe Fahrner
- Susannah Moore
- Jan Patterson - Alt.
- Elizabeth Sindelar
- Angela Daugherty
- Brent Gargano
- Seth Gunnerson
- *Nominated to go on to District Arrangements Committee*

## 2016 Platform Committee Participants

We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by the following persons. These lists (below) were compiled from the sign-in sheets on February 6 and 13, 2016. We apologize for any omissions that may have occurred:

**Voting members:** Ruth Ehler, Karelyn Pohl, Joy Mincey-Powell, Don Weatherwax, Karen Black, Joe Michalec, Bernard Clayton, Thad Neil, Marcia Swift, Matthew Volk, Bob Eckles, Erin Vandivier Richard Fisk, Kelly McMahon (Co-Secretary), Daniel Waterbury, Chase Bolton, Erica Lloyd, Amelia Warner, Will Gerth, Greg T. Young, Brandon Farley, Stacey Law, Orion Davies, Judy Ahrens, Joe Stutler, Craig Canavan, Angie Spink, Tom Bullinga, Chandra Kumar Mudugere, Kyra Gilkison, Kristi Keast, Bob Homrich, Ron Ritchie, Mary Burke (Co-Secretary), Virginia Schefter and Mike Robinson (Chairperson).

**Non-voting assistants:** Clark Rieke, Jason Brown, Michelle Ray-Michalec, John Zakrasek, Ian Seiler, Kate Marshall, and Kyle Litwin.

### **Members Wishing to be Nominated to the First District Platform Committee:**

- Bernie Sanders Preference Group:** Richard Fisk, William Gerth, Chase Bolton, Karelyn Pohl, Don Weatherwax, Joe Stutler, and Judy Ahrens.
- Hillary Clinton Preference Group:** Joe Michalec, Michelle Ray-Michalec, Kristi Keast, Joy Mincey-Powell, Kelly McMahon, Bernard Clayton, and Mike Robinson.
- Martin O'Malley Preference Group:** Mary Burke.
- No Preference Group on Record:** Daniel Waterbury, Bob Eckles.



# **Linn County Democratic Party Platform 2016**

**Proposed March 12, 2016**

## **Statement of Principles**

1) Iowa Democrats are proud of our heritage, diversity, and accomplishments. The spirit that animates the United States of America's oldest political party is alive throughout the world today and stands as a model for those who strive to win the liberties and freedoms that we take for granted. Iowans embrace that spirit and nothing declares it more proudly than our State motto "Our Liberties We Prize, and Our Rights We Will Maintain."

2) No part of that heritage is more valuable than our belief in the rights and worth of each individual. Americans through history have fought and died to protect our freedoms and extend those freedoms to the oppressed. We honor our military veterans, and support those in our armed services today who, with their families, sacrifice so much.

3) The primary function of government is to accomplish those social goals collectively that we cannot achieve as individuals. Beyond food and shelter, we consider health care, employment, and education to be basic human needs. All Iowans have a stake in local, national and global efforts to provide these. Market forces alone often do not serve the common good. To remain competitive in the global marketplace, we need a strong economy that fosters a broad-based prosperity for all. We affirm the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain. An equitably determined tax base, a fairly compensated labor force, fair trade policies and joint governmental and business efforts to promote United States job growth will build our economy and create a prosperous society.

4) We believe in a truly representative government that is compassionate, progressive, responsible and fair. We support a return to meaningful checks and balances between the three branches of government so that the United States can

again inspire confidence and hope for all.

5) We consider it a travesty that many Americans cannot afford the health insurance that higher health care costs have made a necessity. We demand that our elected officials take action to correct this inequity so that all Americans have equal access to affordable, high-quality health care. The government shall not be in the business of legislating private behavior or personal medical decisions.

6) Clean air and water should be a birthright. As temporary stewards of our natural resources, we want our governing bodies to develop policies and laws that protect our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate use, and promote sound energy practices. Our national parks, oceans and ancient forests, as well as our local land, water and family farms, must be protected for our children's futures.

7) Education is an investment in that future. We need to provide high-quality, accessible and affordable education at all educational levels. To maintain the high standards expected of Iowa's education systems, they must remain relevant, innovative, accountable, and adequately funded.

8) We take seriously our obligation to uphold our basic constitutional and civil rights; therefore, we oppose government policies and laws that endanger those rights. We must stand against terrorism, but we cannot allow that fight to cost us the freedoms that so many have sacrificed to preserve. By maintaining those freedoms, we can be proud to call ourselves Iowans, Americans and Democrats.

### ***Agricultural, Energy, and Environmental Policy***

#### **Federal Agricultural Policy**

*We support:*

1) Equitable Farm Bill

- 2) Conservation Stewardship Program
- 3) USDA loan rates increased by the rate of inflation, hard cap on subsidies, elimination of LDP, elimination of tax-free exchanges under Section 1031
- 4) A fair market price for farmers; safety net programs emphasizing sustainable family farms

### **State Agricultural Policy**

*We support:*

- 1) Family farming
- 2) Humane treatment of animals
- 3) Energy, water, nutrient, chemically efficient agricultural practices
- 4) Strict enforcement of anti-trust laws, banning integrated packer-ownership of livestock
- 5) Research, funding, promotion of sustainable diversified farming practices
- 6) Soil, water conservation
- 7) Local food systems
- 8) Expanded beginning farmer programs
- 9) Hemp crops for fibers, oils, feed

### **Environmental Standards and Protection**

*We support:*

- 1) Protecting/enhancing our parks, preserves, and natural resources, outdoor recreational opportunities, environment/watersheds, increasing ecological diversity of public lands, education on resource stewardship
- 2) Adequately funding, enforcement authority for IDNR/IDALS
- 3) Honoring/enforcing the Federal Endangered Species, Clean Water, Clean Air Acts

- 4) Enforcement of laws protecting ambient air quality
- 5) Improving/maintaining municipal water facilities
- 6) Increasing penalties for all polluters, funding for reestablishing Iowa's ecosystems
- 7) Giving precedence to environmental protection/public health over corporate profits
- 8) Banning lead shot
- 9) Increased localized refining capacity to minimize adverse environmental impact of long-distance pipelines
- 10) Legislations to prepare Iowa for oil and gas extraction that protects ground water and air quality

*We oppose:*

- 1) Environmentally unsound mining/extraction methods

## **Flooding**

*We support:*

- 1) Legislating standardized mapping, buffering deterrents, stricter regulations of development, building construction, drainage, land usage within flood plains
- 2) Watershed authority, funding to manage the retaining of storm water where it falls
- 3) Programs to enhance landowner involvement in water control

## **Food Safety**

*We support:*

- 1) Increased testing and inspection of foods, and increased oversight procedures for GMOs
- 2) Food safety through education, clear product labeling including: Country of

origin; Genetic modification; Irradiation; Hormone use

- 3) Disease testing
- 4) Use of antibiotics/hormones for disease treatment only

### **Confined/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)**

*We support:*

- 1) County control in enforcing state guidelines
- 2) Environmental quality standards
- 3) Allowing aggrieved parties to file lawsuits

*We oppose:*

- 1) Tax abatements for CAFO waste systems
- 2) Restrictions on filing complaints with the IDNR/EPA

### **Protecting Agricultural, Recreational Areas from Development/Urban Sprawl**

*We support:*

- 1) Encouraging redevelopment within existing cities/towns
- 2) Eliminating property tax credits/subsidies for developers
- 3) Retaining prime agricultural land

*We oppose:*

- 1) TIF for development of farmland

### **Energy Policy**

*We support:*

- 1) Energy independence
- 2) Combating global climate change by reducing fossil fuel use by 6% annually
- 3) Employing carbon sequestration practices
- 4) University-based energy R&D programs
- 5) Incentives to promote conservation and efficiency
- 6) Produce 50% of electricity from clean, renewable sources by 2030
- 7) Ultra-energy-efficient vehicles; incentives for electric vehicle use
- 8) Expanding electrically powered mass transit
- 9) Enacting a fossil carbon fee/rebate system
- 10) Reducing greenhouse gasses, including methane
- 11) Requiring utilities to purchase surplus energies at green energy prices
- 12) Utilities increasing use of renewable resources
- 13) Encouraging energy efficient buildings through design, construction, renovation
- 14) Elimination of subsidies for ethanol, petroleum
- 15) Implementing/maintaining subsidies for wind, solar, other renewable energy

### ***Education Policy***

#### **Educators**

*We support:*

- 1) Increase funding for Iowa K-14 teacher salaries to rank in the top 10 states in nation
- 2) Living-wage salaries, benefits, unemployment benefits for substitutes, para-professionals, adjuncts

- 3) State-funded reimbursements for special education teachers attaining certification required by IDEA
- 4) Increasing tax credits for K-14 instructors' classroom materials purchased out-of-pocket

*We oppose:*

- 1) Signing bonuses/merit pay
- 2) "Fast Track" teacher certification

### **Higher Education**

*We support:*

- 1) Expanding eligibility, increasing state and federal funding of student financial aid for post-secondary education
- 2) Federal, State initiatives to provide tuition free education for students attending Iowa public universities, public colleges
- 3) Timely disbursing student loan payments
- 4) Public service for student loan repayment
- 5) Increase work study, increase tax incentives for businesses providing paid internships
- 6) Pell grants, state financial assistance for summer courses
- 7) Bankruptcy protections for borrowers

*We oppose:*

- 1) Punitive fees and interest for college loans
- 2) Un-accredited for profit colleges and universities
- 3) Denying financial aid due to prior convictions

## **Early Childhood and K-12 Student Development**

### *We support:*

- 1) Full funding early childhood education, public preschool, Head Start for ages 0-5 meeting Head Start or NAEYC performance standards
- 2) Each special education student be weighted by degree of educational need when determining special and general education classroom size and staffing
- 3) Ample funding to create rich learning experiences for all students, including TAG
- 4) Apply proven, empirical research to improve teaching/learning with Iowa Core/Common Core curriculums
- 5) Funding before-after-school, summer programs
- 6) State and federal funding for Citizen Diplomacy programs promoting understanding of diverse ethnic, cultural, religious groups
- 7) Mandatory Kindergarten
- 8) Non-sexist curricula
- 9) Foreign language in K-12
- 10) Increasing state-wide minimum drop-out age to 18
- 11) Expand access to alternative public schooling
- 12) Require all local school districts to offer free 4-year-old preschool

### *We oppose:*

- 1) Using standardized assessment as primary measures of learning, evaluation, salary, merit pay
- 2) ESSA penalties



## **Education Funding**

### *We support:*

- 1) Immediately increasing allowable growth rate of state aid providing adequate funding
- 2) K-12 funding allowable growth set yearly by legislature
- 3) Fully funding vocational education, apprenticeships, internship programs
- 4) Funding districts to improve energy efficiency
- 5) Maintaining local control of school districts regardless of increased state participation in the school aid formula

### *We oppose:*

- 1) Cutting art, music, P.E., media specialists, counseling programs, nurses to balance school budgets
- 2) Diverting monies from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits supporting private, for-profit private, home schooling
- 3) Mid-year reductions of state, federal financial aid

## **Pre-K-12 & Higher**

### *We support:*

- 1) Reinstating fully funded technology
- 2) Best-in-the-nation student/teacher ratio
- 3) Public-private partnerships enhancing community/parent involvement
- 4) Development of state-wide PSEO academy system
- 5) Timely-delivered school aid payments
- 6) Controlling instructional material costs
- 7) Career development programs

*We oppose:*

- 1) State mandates taking away local control regarding student promotion

### **Students with Disabilities**

*We support:*

- 1) Federal funding of IDEA at 40% level as legislated
- 2) Enforcement of Equal Access to all educational services, including physically-impaired accessibility for schools still without adequate facilities
- 3) Restoring funds cut from AEA's
- 4) Increased Funding for illiteracy campaigns
- 5) Increased funding for at-risk, TAG, ESL, disabled
- 6) Funding Vocational Rehabilitation eliminating waiting lists
- 7) Fully funded state-run institutions
- 8) Arts outreach programs

### **Library/Media**

*We support:*

- 1) Increased funding for The State Library of Iowa, Iowa Library Service Areas, Enrich Iowa, Open Access, Access Plus
- 2) Free, open access to knowledge
- 3) Patron privacy
- 4) Funding NEA, NEH, NSF, CPB

## ***Government and Law Policy***

### ***Civil Rights***

#### *We support:*

- 1) ERA, Affirmative Action and Title IX
- 2) Protecting same gender couples' adoption rights
- 3) Adding "Sexual Orientation", "Gender Identity", and "Victims of Domestic Violence" as protected classes
- 4) Habeas Corpus
- 5) Right to Privacy
- 6) Education for recognition and prevention of bullying, harassment, suicide
- 7) Training mandatory reporters in issues relevant to protected classes
- 8) Comprehensive Linn County Civil Rights Code
- 9) Comprehensive cultural competency and diversity programs
- 10) Strict separation of Church and State
- 11) Returning our National Motto to "E Pluribus Unum"
- 12) Equal protection of the rights of lowans regardless of faith
- 13) Legislation based on science, evidence while maintaining religious neutrality
- 14) Voting rights for all adult citizens including incarcerated persons, felons
- 15) ADA

#### *We oppose:*

- 1) Erosion of Miranda rights
- 2) Racial profiling
- 3) Religious bigotry

- 4) HF 2032-RFRA
- 5) Militarization of civil police

### **Marriage/Civil Unions**

*We support:*

- 1) Civil marriage equality

### **Government Processes**

*We support:*

- 1) Sunshine laws
- 2) Ethical government
- 3) Open, competitive bidding, disclosure in government contracts
- 4) Equal access to government services
- 5) Fair, independent judiciary as selected under the current process
- 6) Constitutional amendment declaring that corporations are not persons
- 7) Auditing government agencies for waste, fraud, abuse
- 8) Clean bills

*We oppose:*

- 1) Legislative exemption from laws passed by legislatures
- 2) Former elected officials/their employees lobbying
- 3) Pork-barrel amendments

## **Corrections**

*We support:*

- 1) Enforcement of laws against white-collar crimes and full funding for investigation/prosecution of same
- 2) Felony status for identity theft
- 3) Classifying attacks on abortion clinics as domestic terrorism
- 4) Reducing/pardoning those charged/sentenced for non-violent crimes

*We oppose:*

- 1) Capital punishment
- 2) Mandatory minimum sentencing
- 3) Prisoner access to citizen's private information
- 4) Excessive use of police force

## **Law**

*We support:*

- 1) Increasing funding for legal services
- 2) Adequate legal representation for all
- 3) Legalization of marijuana
- 4) Diverse civilian review board with powers to investigate police misconduct
- 5) Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit
- 6) Fair, independent judiciary
- 7) Decriminalizing use of illicit drugs

*We oppose:*

- 1) Any limits on financial judgments in civil liability lawsuits
- 2) Warrantless domestic surveillance
- 3) Judicial elections

## **Gun Ownership**

*We support:*

- 1) Responsible firearm ownership
- 2) Mandatory comprehensive firearms education and competency testing
- 3) Universal background checks
- 4) Liability insurance for gun ownership

*We oppose:*

- 1) Stand Your Ground legislation
- 2) Loopholes in gun safety laws for attaining, purchasing guns/weapons

## **Military/Veterans**

*We support:*

- 1) Full funding for VA
- 2) Raising Iowa's veterans' benefits to 10th nationally
- 3) Equitable benefits for reserve military members
- 4) Fully funding and escrowing full costs of all military actions, including legacy costs
- 5) Reinstating the draft for national service with no deferments
- 6) Adding a Title in GI Bill to support Veteran business start-ups
- 7) Full Rights/privileges of adulthood for all persons serving/having served in our

military forces or registered for any required selective service

- 8) Eliminating records processing backlog
- 9) Independent (non-military) judicial process for military sexual assault

*We oppose:*

- 1) Mercenaries

## **Taxation**

*We support:*

- 1) Equitable, progressive tax system
- 2) Replenishing SLTF; full State reimbursement to local governments for property tax credits for elderly, military, renters, homestead provisions
- 3) Removing income cap on FICA

## **Elections**

*We support:*

- 1) Using only voter-verified paper audit trail voting equipment
- 2) Public funding of political campaigns
- 3) Campaign Finance Reform
- 4) Increased transparency and structure of reporting of caucus counts
- 5) League of Women Voters managing presidential debates
- 6) The study/discussion of alternative election systems
- 7) A nation-wide same-day voter registration
- 8) Statehood for DC
- 9) Increased voter participation

- 10) Increased diversity of our elected representatives
- 11) Increasing voter participation by online registration
- 12) Instant runoff voting system

*We oppose:*

- 1) Citizens United v. FEC
- 2) McCutcheon v. FEC
- 3) Onerous voter restrictions
- 4) Super-delegates

### **Disaster Protection, Recovery, Accountability**

*We support:*

- 1) Disaster Recovery Reform
- 2) Efficient and transparent distribution of disaster recovery funding
- 3) Equitable interest rates on SBA loans
- 4) The elimination of SBA loans as a FEMA disqualifier for personal contents
- 5) FEMA assistance to all businesses and landlords
- 6) Federal funding for local government's tax base loss after disasters
- 7) Health Department oversight on structural rehabilitation

*We oppose:*

- 1) Rate increases or coverage cancellation of disaster-stricken property



## ***Health and Human Services Policy***

### **Universal Health Care/Medicare-Medicaid**

*We support:*

- 1) Maintaining Medicaid eligibility for disabled
- 2) Expansion of Medicaid services including funding for abortion
- 3) Universal, Single-Payer healthcare
- 4) Full funding for Medicaid, Medicare and HAWK-I
- 5) Equal reimbursement rates for health care providers and facilities for Medicare/Medicaid services

*We Oppose:*

- 1) Privatization of Medicare/Medicaid

### **Public Health/Consumer Protection and Safety**

*We support:*

- 1) Minimal standards, full funding for EMS/fire services
- 2) Organ Donation designation as an “opt-out” choice
- 3) Mandated transparency and referral between providers and patients regarding religious objections
- 4) Consumer representation on HHS review boards
- 5) Limiting the hours healthcare providers are required to work
- 6) Mandatory seat belts for all persons in a vehicle
- 7) Protecting retirees’ negotiated health insurance benefits
- 8) Ban on smoking applied to casinos
- 9) Parents’ right to recover wrongful death damages

- 10) Mandatory nurse-patient ratios
- 11) Allowing research on guns as a measure of public safety

*We Oppose:*

- 1) Malpractice/negligence limitations on general, special, or punitive damages

### **Reproductive Rights**

*We support:*

- 1) Roe v Wade extension to military servicewomen
- 2) Affordable access to contraception for all persons
- 3) Reproductive health services
- 4) Planned Parenthood
- 5) Dedicated, private, sanitary accommodations in the workplace for women expressing milk
- 6) Regulation/transparency of crisis pregnancy centers
- 7) Repeal the Hyde Amendment

*We oppose:*

- 1) Healthcare reform restricting women's healthcare decisions
- 2) Parental notification requirements

### **Human Services Programs**

*We support:*

- 1) Fully funded services that allow persons to remain at home; adequate staffing in care facilities for others

- 2) Fully funded training for in-home and residential health care providers
- 3) Maximizing federal matching funds for all human services programs
- 4) Fully-funded sexual abuse treatment, support, counseling, education and awareness
- 5) Restore state funding to food banks
- 6) Funding free/reduced lunch programs
- 7) Increased funding to provide adequate in-home, community-based services for persons with disabilities, including preventative, long-term care

### **Substance Abuse / Mental Health**

*We support:*

- 1) Substance Abuse treatment and education
- 2) The Mental Health Reform Act
- 3) Safe access to sterile needles

*We oppose:*

- 1) Prison system as primary treatment facility for mentally ill
- 2) Stigmatizing persons with mental illness
- 3) Closing/Privateizing Iowa's MHIs

### **Child Service, Protection and Welfare**

*We support:*

- 1) Gender neutral approaches in custodial matters
- 2) Aggressively pursuing unpaid child support
- 3) Funding Early Childhood Development Programs, SNAP, WIC

- 4) Improved court-approved monitoring of adjudicated child custody/visitation rights
- 5) Fully-funded programs promoting child health, welfare, safety, development, and prenatal care; programs focused on family preservation, permanency planning, and reducing social worker caseloads
- 6) Foster care systems for children up to age 21 employing measurable practices of timely, comprehensive evaluations, effective record management/training for parents and caseworkers, inclusive data collection regarding child outcomes
- 7) Fully-funded group care facilities, children's and domestic violence shelters, outreach
- 8) Funding for treatment for victims of, education regarding human trafficking
- 9) Foster parent stipend applied equally to relatives

*We oppose:*

- 1) Healthcare exemptions for minors based on religious/personal beliefs or church affiliation

## **Research / Alternative Medicine**

*We support:*

- 1) Unrestricted Stem Cell Research
- 2) Medical use of marijuana
- 3) Alternative Medicine/Wellness Programs
- 4) Implementation of NAPA

*We oppose:*

- 1) Government-funded religious-based therapies

## **Housing**

*We support:*

- 1) Emergency and permanent housing for low-income and homeless persons

## **Senior Services**

*We support:*

- 1) Community-based services for seniors/disabled persons
- 2) Investigation/prevention of/intervention in elder abuse

## **Social Security**

*We Support:*

- 1) Perpetually solvent, not privatized social security
- 2) Survivor benefits up to age 21
- 3) Minimum OASDI benefits exceeding federal poverty level

*We oppose:*

- 1) Caps on income subject to OASDI taxation

## **Prescription Drugs**

*We support:*

- 1) Curtailing advertising prescription drugs
- 2) Negotiated drug prices for government programs and removing import restrictions
- 3) Strengthening Hatch-Waxman Act to benefit patients
- 4) Naloxone Access and Good Samaritan Overdose Protection laws

*We oppose:*

- 1) Price-gouging

## **LGBTQIA**

*We support:*

- 1) Culturally sensitive/gender affirming HHS providers
- 2) HHS policies and programs respecting diversity in sexual orientations and identities
- 3) Insurance coverage for gender reassignment treatment and surgery
- 4) Gender-neutral restrooms

*We oppose:*

- 1) Discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

## **Death and Dying**

*We support:*

- 1) The right to end one's life in a humane, dignified manner
- 2) Legislation to allow those suffering a terminal illness, who are mentally competent, and under medical care, to make personal choices regarding their death
- 3) Advance directives in determining patient's wishes

## ***International Relations Policy***

*We support:*

- 1) Efforts by the people of the Middle East and Pakistan, the US, NGOs and regional/international powers to achieve peace, stability

- 2) Taking military action only with clear, attainable national defense goals, with fully informed Congressional consent, with the international community  
Peaceful recognition of independent, secure Palestine, while maintaining our commitment to independence and security of Israel, by working with all parties to end the conflict  
Full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security
- 3) Combating terrorism as an international criminal problem in cooperation with other countries  
Meaningful, timely efforts to stop genocide  
Comprehensive reform of/increased funding for border, port security  
Steady reduction/eventual elimination of nuclear, biological weapons worldwide  
Monitoring for compliance with the Iran Deal.
- 4) IVAWA  
Protecting victims, prosecuting those who traffic in human beings for sexual exploitation, forced labor
- 5) Humane treatment, habeas corpus protection for all

*We oppose:*

- 1) Subverting democratic principles/processes in the name of national security
- 2) Militarization of American foreign policy including indiscriminate drone use

### **Development Assistance**

*We support:*

- 1) Meeting UN MDG's through diplomatic, economic, cultural means  
Aid based on compliance with UN's UDHR
- 2) Funding our share of GFATM, helping to develop/deliver affordable drugs  
Comprehensive Access to reproductive health care/family planning programs
- 3) Administering reconstruction, disaster relief in conjunction with affected economy to create a sustainable domestic market

- 4) UN efforts to promote socially responsible corporate investing  
US Assistance with global pandemics

## **Immigration**

*We support:*

- 1) Increased accountability for border control spending
- 2) Improving access to legal immigration including refugees
- 3) Providing a path to citizenship for current undocumented immigrants
- 4) Protecting immigrants and their families' civil rights
- 5) Equal consideration by ICE for all seeking political asylum including refugees)
- 6) Encouraging officials of sanctuary cities to develop plans that support path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants
- 7) Sanctuary cities
- 8) Education through 6<sup>th</sup> grade for girls worldwide

## **Trade**

*We support:*

- 1) The re-evaluation, auditing, and/or renegotiation of fair trade agreements contrary to US public interest

*We oppose:*

- 1) TPP

## **United Nations**

*We support:*

- 1) The US fulfillment of its financial obligations on time/in full to, and active participation in the UN
- 2) UDHR and ICESCR



3) Paying UNESCO dues

**Treaties and Conventions**

*We support:*

- 1) Ratification and/or full participation in:
  - a) ICCPR
  - b) ICESCR
  - c) Geneva Convention on Treatment of POWs
  - d) CEDAW
  - e) CRC
  - f) Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
  - g) Biological Weapons Convention Protocol
  - h) Ottawa Landmine Treaty
  - i) Kyoto Treaty on Global Warming And Paris Agreement
  - j) Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
  - k) Optional Protocol to Convention of Torture
  - l) ICPAPED
- 2) Weapons Convention
- 3) Convention on rights of PWDs
- 4) Arms Trade Treaty
- 5) Convention on Cluster Munitions
- 6) Convention on Law of the Sea

## ***Labor, Economy, and Commerce Policy***

### **Consumer Protection**

*We support:*

- 1) Consumers' right to sue for violations of Iowa's Consumer Fraud Act
- 2) Protection against predatory lending practices
- 3) Requiring businesses and organizations directly or indirectly receiving state funds to support full constitutional/civil rights
- 4) Content diversity and public interest protections through adequate funding, transparency of operations for public broadcasting
- 5) Decreasing media consolidation
- 6) Expanded/categorized Do-Not-Call lists

### **Internet**

*We support:*

- 1) Regulating Internet access as a Public Utility
- 2) Expanding high speed internet access to underserved areas

*We oppose:*

- 1) Internet censorship

### **Jobs, Safety, and Labor**

*We support:*

- 1) The worker's right to choose a doctor/health care setting for those with on-the-job injuries
- 2) Repealing Right-to-Work Law and other union busting laws

- 3) PLAs
- 4) Strengthening the NLRA
- 5) Full funding of NLRB
- 6) “Fair-share” clauses in labor agreements
- 7) Equal wages and proportionate benefits for part time workers
- 8) Right to unionize without penalty
- 9) Public workers having the same right to bargain as private sector employees
- 10) Unemployment benefits for employees, public and private, during “lock-outs” and temporary employees during layoffs
- 11) Equal pay for equal work
- 12) Employers and government entities abiding by labor contracts and arbitrators’ decisions
- 13) Considering bidders’ safety records for government contracts
- 14) Laws discouraging “temps” replacing permanent employees
- 15) Eliminating employee/independent contractor misclassification
- 16) Public entities paying prevailing wages in contracted projects
- 17) Laws protecting prevailing wages (Davis Bacon Act)
- 18) Full funding and staffing of OSHA, MSHA and NIOSH
- 19) Rights of workers to refuse unsafe work
- 20) Covering all agricultural workers by health and safety statutes
- 21) Adequate staffing levels for workplace safety
- 22) Allowing employees and unions greater participation with OSHA
- 23) Whistleblower protection for employees
- 24) Passage of the EFCA
- 25) Reforming employer background checks conforming to EEOC green factors

- 26) Maintaining 2012 USPS standards; eliminating 75-year prefunding health benefits
- 27) Labor protection for Home-Care workers
- 28) Penalizing moving corporations outside US
- 29) Paid leave under FMLA

*We oppose:*

- 1) Employment-at-will doctrine
- 2) Privatization of public jobs and services
- 3) Use of credit scores as a basis of employment decisions when financial responsibility is not essential to the position
- 4) Employment-related polygraph tests
- 5) Prison labor that displaces non-incarcerated workers
- 6) Mandatory overtime
- 7) Efforts limiting/ending overtime pay
- 8) Out-sourcing jobs
- 9) Replacement workers for strikers
- 10) Temporary immigration status that perpetuates exploitation of workers

### **Wages, Pensions, and Benefits**

*We support:*

- 1) Appropriately funded, fully honored, secure, portable retirement and universal health care
- 2) Non-discriminatory parental leave benefits
- 3) The Railroad retirement system and FELA

- 4) Elected officials receiving the same retirement benefits as other state, county and federal employees
- 5) Adequately funding IPERS, other state pension plans
- 6) Removing exemptions from minimum wage laws
- 7) Minimum wage increased to \$15/hr., subsequently annualized to cost of living

*We oppose:*

- 1) Waiting periods before receiving Workers Compensation, unemployment benefits

### **Economic Development**

*We support:*

- 1) Incentives for companies to remain in the US
- 2) Strengthening laws protecting employees during plant closing or bankruptcy
- 3) Listing employees as first-in-line creditors
- 4) Student loan forgiveness for staying in Iowa
- 5) US-made products
- 6) Development of small local enterprises
- 7) Federal jobs program (WPA)
- 8) Encouraging local entrepreneurs through small business loans

### **Curbing Business Abuses**

*We support:*

- 1) Enforcing, strengthening antitrust legislation
- 2) Applying corporate tax penalties for excessive officer compensation

- 3) Mandating the positions of CEO and Chairman of the Board be held by separate persons within publicly-traded companies
- 4) Reinstating Glass-Steagall Act

*We oppose:*

- 1) Non-banking entities establishing banks
- 2) Tax benefits and loopholes for companies moving to offshore havens
- 3) Excessive banking fees, predatory lending practices
- 4) Insurance credit scoring

## **Commerce and Transportation**

*We support:*

- 1) Minimum 90% US manufactured content “Made in USA” labeled products
- 2) Country of origin labeling
- 3) “Fair trade” as opposed to “free trade”
- 4) Increased funding for Amtrak, FRA, High Speed Rail, commuter light rail
- 5) Securing imports from contaminants
- 6) Quality inspections of all imports, financed by importer
- 7) Regulating private equity firms similar to publicly traded companies
- 8) Controlling price-gouging
- 9) Small businesses

*We oppose:*

Deregulating industry

- 1) Corporate welfare, indiscriminate bailouts, excessive tax breaks

## 2) Fast-tracking trade agreements

### *Glossary of Acronyms*

#### **Agricultural, Energy, and Environmental Policy**

CAFO	Confined Animal Feeding Operation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
IDNR	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
IDALS	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
IVAWA	International Violence Against Women Act
LDP	Loan Deficiency Payments
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
R&D	Research and Development
TIF	Tax Increment Financing to implement
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

#### **Education Policy**

AEA	Area Education Agencies
CPB	Corporation for Public Broadcasting
ESL	English as a Second Language
ESSA	Every Child Succeeds Act
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
K-12	Kindergarten through High School

K-14	Kindergarten through Junior College
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young
NEA	National Endowment for the Arts
NEH	National Endowment for the Humanities
NSF	National Science Foundation
PSEO	Post-Secondary Education Options
TAG	Talented and Gifted

### **Government and Law Policy**

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
DC	District of Columbia; Washington
ERA	Equal Rights Amendment
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEC	Federal Elections Commission
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
RFRA	Religious Freedom Restoration Act
SBA	Small Business Administration
SLTF	Senior Living Trust Fund
VA	Veterans Administration

### **Health and Human Services Policy**

HAWK-I	Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and asexual



HHS	Health and Human Services
MHI	Mental Health Institute
NAPA	National Alzheimer's Project Act
OASDI	Old Age, Survivor and Disability Insurance
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
WIC	Women, Infants and Children

### **International Relations**

EMS	Emergency Medical Services
GFATM	Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
ICPAPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
POW	Prisoner of War
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Org

## **Labor, Economy, and Commerce Policy**

ATM	Automatic Teller Machine
CAFTA	Central America Free Trade Agreement
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EFCA	Employee Free Choice Act
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
FELA	Federal Employers Liability Act
FMLA	Family Medical Leave Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
IPERS	Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NIOSH	National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
NLRA	National Labor Relations Act
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PLA	Project Labor Agreement
USPS	United States Postal Service
WPA	Works Progress Administration