

2018 Clay County Democratic Platform

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

1. We urge the President to honor the Geneva Convention and the United Nations convention against torture.
2. We support increased U.S. government aid to developing countries.
3. We believe the policy which ties international humanitarian aid to anti-abortion efforts in other countries to be misguided. We believe that policy should be discontinued.
4. We believe the U.S. should **immediately sign the International Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons, and the U.S.A. to use its international prestige to earnestly lead the work to ban nuclear weapons and U.S. law should prohibit first strike use of nuclear weapons.**
5. Oligopolies, such as large seed/chemical companies, should be examined to determine if their policies promote price controls and adversely affect the ability of developing countries to feed themselves.
6. **The U.S. military budget should be significantly reduced.**
7. We support the new United Nations 17 Goals to Transform Our World and believe the United States should take a direct and active role to further progress on these goals:
 - Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
 - Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
 - Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
 - Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
 - Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
 - Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
 - Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
 - Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
 - Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
 - Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 - Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 - Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

THE NATION & THE ECONOMY:

8. To restore civil, coherent and functional government to the United States and her people. ~~the President, Donald Trump should be removed.~~
9. We believe the Patriot Act should be repealed.
10. We support providing stronger social services to seek out and attempt to help America's homeless people.
11. We support strengthening anti-trust laws and the vigorous enforcement of those laws.
12. We support funding the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) at a level that supports actuarial based assumptions.
13. We support the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS) finding a new funding source for the favorable experience dividend (FED), or a replacement for the FED, and to create an independent board to govern the trust fund
14. We support an effort on the federal level for comprehensive immigration reform, including, but not limited to, a pathway for legal status for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States, support for sanctuary cities and support for the Dream Act
- ~~15. We support the elimination of mandatory minimum sentencing and comprehensive prison reform.~~
15. We support comprehensive prison and bail reform and the elimination of mandatory minimum sentencing.
16. We urge Congress to recognize the right of workers to organize as a civil right.
17. We support restoring collective bargaining for public employees in Iowa.
18. We believe objective scientific data should be the basis for public policy.
19. We support improving the nation's mass transportation system, including better access in rural areas.
20. We support returning standard consumer protection to all federal and private student loan borrowers retroactively. This should include bankruptcy protection, Social Security and federal benefit garnishment and fair collection practices.
21. We support affordable post-secondary education for all Americans and the reduction of student loan interest rates.
22. We support the right of all adult citizens to enter into the contract of marriage without discrimination. We support the Obergefell vs Hodges Supreme Court decision on marriage equality.

23. We oppose the Religious Freedom Restoration Acts.
24. We support the federal legalization and regulation of marijuana.
25. We support the Renewable Fuels Standard.
26. We support comprehensive progressive tax reform
27. We support overturning the Citizens United Supreme Court case decision,
28. We support comprehensive progressive campaign finance reform.
29. We oppose the privatization of government functions, including, but not limited to prisons, social welfare, education, Medicaid and Medicare.
30. We support the adequate funding of the Iowa Judicial system to prevent closure of county courthouses.
31. We oppose any discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
32. We support raising the social security withholding tax limit on earned income
33. We support classifying attacks on abortion clinics as domestic terrorism.
34. We support a paid parental leave program for all Americans.
35. We believe that members of Congress should participate in the Social Security program with the same rights and the same restrictions as other Americans.
36. We oppose the Free Trade of the Americas, Trans Pacific Partnership and other trade agreements based on the NAFTA-model that award new rights and protections to corporations.
37. We believe trade agreements entered into by the United States should allow all nations the right to control food, seed and farm policy to support sustainable farming practices.
38. We believe all trade agreements should grant labor and environmental standards the same dispute resolution and enforcement provisions that apply to all other aspects of the agreement.

THE ENVIRONMENT:

39. We support federal investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in the next decade, emphasizing job growth, energy independence and strict environmental standards with a goal to achieve 50% clean energy by the year 2030.
40. We support full funding of the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund. We support full funding of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in FY-18 from the Environment First Fund, which comprised of state revenue from gaming receipts.
41. We believe greater emphasis should be placed on improving the quality of global air and water quality, and on protecting our wildlife, national parks and national forests from exploitation and to protect the future generations from the effects of human caused climate change.
42. We support efforts to preserve endangered species worldwide.
43. We support the elimination of non-biodegradable plastic grocery bags in the State of Iowa.
44. We are opposed to hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

45. We are opposed to the Bakken Pipeline.

AGRICULTURE:

46. We believe agribusiness operations should be held responsible for manure management and liable for violations that occur at operations they own or over which they have substantial control.

47. We support requiring improved site-specific state permits for large livestock operations, and we believe the permit process should be subject to public notice and comment.

48. We support regular inspections of large livestock facilities by the state to ensure that the facilities comply with applicable permits.

49. We support recovering the economic benefit and environmental costs when a facility violates its permit and requiring, if necessary, the installation of treatment technologies that address both water and air pollution.

50. We support increasing the safety and nutrition of the U.S. food supply.

51. We support improving water quality in the State of Iowa.

52. We support the legalization of industrial hemp for an agricultural crop.

53. We support a level playing field in taxation and regulations for all participants in the agricultural economic sector.

EDUCATION:

53. We support providing adequate funding for public schools, area education agencies, ~~and~~ **community colleges and regent universities** to regain our tradition of high quality education in Iowa and the USA.

54. We oppose diverting public monies from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits, parochial, or private, for profit, education businesses or contracts to other private organizations or persons.

55. The education of children who are home schooled should be protected by standards of achievement which parallel the standards of public education.

56. We call on Congress to support full federal funding of special education.

57. We support public funding of the arts and humanities and also support its continued presence in the public school system.

HEALTH:

58. We support restoring adequate funding for medical research, including stem cell research.

59. Because we believe it will reduce long-term health care costs, we support adequate funding for preventative health care.

60. We support full funding for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the creation of permanent and stable federal funding for services to crime victims.

61. We support the restoration of a line item in the Iowa budget and permanent state funding for services to crime victims in Iowa.

62. We support programs which help the elderly with medical needs remain in their homes or a family member's home. We support a tax credit for expenses incurred on behalf of an elderly or disabled relative.
63. We support increased funding for substance abuse rehabilitation.
64. We support increased funding for mental healthcare.
65. We believe decisions regarding health care should be only made by the doctor and the patient including those decisions regarding end of life care and those decisions regarding abortion.
66. Terminally ill adults should have access to a full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying so that Iowans are free to make end of life decisions that are best for them and their families.
67. We believe that premiums for long-term care insurance should be fully deductible on federal and state income tax forms.
68. We believe public and private facilities should continue to improve access for those with disabilities.
69. We believe all persons should have access to affordable prescription drugs, quality health care, mental health care, nutritional support programs and safe environments to assure a high quality of life.
70. We support the Affordable Care Act.
71. We support the expansion of Medicare to a comprehensive, universal, single-payer system that covers everyone from pre-natal to death.
72. We support comprehensive gun control.