

1 **POLK COUNTY PLATFORM**
2 **APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES TO THE COUNTY CONVENTION**
3 **MARCH 12, 2016**
4

5
6 **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**
7

8 We are justly proud of our Democratic Party, its heritage, and its accomplishments.
9 Polk County Democrats strive for a county, state and nation acting consistently with our
10 strong belief in the rights and worth of each individual, and with our firm commitment to
11 promoting and safeguarding a quality of life that recognizes and benefits human dignity.
12

13 Our success as a nation rests largely on the strength, inventiveness, and perseverance
14 of the American people. But too often we have denied an equal opportunity for some
15 Americans to share in that success. Our history as a party and as a nation compels us
16 to oppose discrimination based on race, age, disability, gender, economic status, sexual
17 orientation, gender identity, or any other bias-based categorization.
18

19 We Democrats value and will continue to work for a truly representative government
20 that places individual rights above special interests; one that is compassionate,
21 progressive, responsible, and fair; steadfastly seeking to promote liberty, justice,
22 security, equality, and individual freedom for every citizen; and dedicated to achieving
23 peace and prosperity through confidence and hope. We believe that everyone living in
24 America deserves the opportunity for ownership of the American dream.
25

26 The Constitution and Bill of Rights are precious gifts handed down by the Founders.
27 Defending our country is inseparable from defending the Constitution. But we will not
28 give up our rights in the name of defending our country, for doing so means giving up
29 that which makes us Americans. Our liberties are eternal, not just when convenient.
30 The right to dissent must be protected. We oppose any efforts to limit or erode our civil
31 and Constitutional rights.
32

33 As temporary stewards of our natural resources we demand the enactment and
34 enforcement of laws to protect our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate uses.
35 Clean air and water and diverse ecosystems, including our national parks, oceans and
36 forests, are essential to our children's future and must be protected.
37

38 We want young Iowans to become Democrats and we encourage all levels of the Iowa
39 Democratic Party to develop programs to increase participation in and accessibility to
40 Democratic Party Caucuses.
41

42 We take pride in our Democratic elected officials. They work diligently for Iowans and
43 our nation. They deserve our appreciation and we thank them for their hard work.
44

45 We urge the election of Democrats to all congressional seats. We must recruit
46 candidates for and re-elect our outstanding members of the Iowa General Assembly to

47 regain the majority in both houses. We also recognize the importance of electing a
48 Democrat as Governor of Iowa and to other state-wide offices.

49

50 In the light of our ideals, traditions, and history, we present our Democratic candidates
51 for local, state, and national offices. We are confident that they will continue to work for
52 liberty and justice for all. We warmly and openly invite all Iowans to join our efforts to
53 achieve these goals, because a victory for the Democratic Party in 2016 means hope
54 for a just and secure future for our state and nation.

55

56

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

57

AGRICULTURE, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

58

AGRICULTURE FOR PRODUCTIVE LIVING AND A HEALTHY FOOD SUPPLY

59

60 We support:

- 61 1. traditional family farms
- 62 2. organic farming
- 63 3. crop and livestock diversification, including industrial hemp

64

Agricultural Policy

65

66 We support:

- 67 4. increasing SNAP benefits
- 68 5. the "Farm, Food, and Jobs" bill
- 69 6. CRP, CSP
- 70 7. lower limits on crop insurance premiums subsidies
- 71 8. market indexing USDA loan rates
- 72 9. conservation compliance for crop insurance eligibility
- 73 10. anti-trust regulation of seed supply, food production, and processing
- 74 11. right to save seeds for personal use
- 75 12. GMO safe seed use labeling
- 76 13. protecting non-GMO farmers from lawsuits over accidental GMO
77 contamination/planting by GMO patent holders
- 78 14. legal protection/conservation of healthy soil as a resource
- 79 15. farmer-owned grain reserves
- 80 16. domestic ownership of farmland
- 81 17. clean water compliance required for farm subsidies

82

83 We oppose:

- 84 18. vertical integration of large-scale livestock production and corporate agriculture
- 85 19. "Ag-Gag" laws

86

Livestock Management

87

88 We support:

89

90

91

92

- 93 20. eliminating pollution control property tax exemptions for CAFOs
- 94 21. reducing antibiotic use
- 95 22. humane animal treatment
- 96 23. stronger consideration of sustainability within DNR's Master Matrix
- 97 24. fair livestock market access
- 98 25. commercial taxation of non-homestead livestock production

99

100 We oppose:

- 101 26. hormone use
- 102 27. odor nuisance lawsuit protection

103

104 **Food Supply & Safety**

105

106 We support:

- 107 28. strong standards/safety testing required for USDA organic labeling
- 108 29. legal/enforceable definition of GMOs, with testing/regulation
- 109 30. clear food labeling of:
 - 110 a. GMOs
 - 111 b. irradiation
 - 112 c. hormones
 - 113 d. antibiotics
 - 114 e. additives
 - 115 f. origin
 - 116 g. pesticides
 - 117 h. imitation

118

119 **ENERGY: COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION & USE**

120

121 We support:

- 122 31. converting from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy, including reclaimed
- 123 methane
- 124 32. electric vehicle infrastructure and use
- 125 33. higher CAFE standards
- 126 34. the "50 by 30" initiative
- 127 35. encouraging local jobs by funding aggressive policies and research to reduce
- 128 greenhouse gases and achieve energy independence
- 129 36. energy conservation
- 130 37. smart grid improvement
- 131 38. net metering without discriminatory fees
- 132 39. CPP
- 133 40. safe transport/storage of nuclear and fracking waste
- 134 41. decreasing nuclear power dependence
- 135 42. regulation of energy commodity speculation
- 136 43. extending geothermal/biomass/wind/solar energy subsidies
- 137 44. carbon fees and dividends
- 138

- 139 45. full disclosure of fracking materials/chemicals/locations
- 140 46. the Clean Line
- 141 47. new sustainable energy jobs to transition workers from the fossil fuel industry
- 142 48. IRPS and FIT

143

144 We oppose:

- 145 49. fossil fuel/nuclear power subsidies
- 146 50. tar sands oil, pet-coke, crude oil pipelines
- 147 51. new coal power plant construction
- 148 52. nuclear power plants re-licensing/construction
- 149 53. fracking without environmental/geological protections
- 150 54. deep water and arctic oil drilling

151

152 **ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP AND LIVABILITY**

153

154 We support:

- 155 55. environmental protection/public health over corporate profits
- 156 56. preservation of the land, air, and water, with the resources they hold, which are
- 157 owned in common by the American public (the Commons) with no new clear-
- 158 cutting, mining, grazing, or fuel drilling on public lands/eco-sensitive areas and no
- 159 exceptions for religious organizations
- 160 57. reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics, electronics, batteries
- 161 58. municipally supported composting
- 162 59. protecting water resources from industrial/agriculture pollution including point
- 163 source
- 164 60. enforcing EPA and IDNR regulations, ESA, CAA, and CWA
- 165 61. fully funding REAP
- 166 62. enacting the IEQA
- 167 63. protecting bees by banning neonicotinoid pesticides
- 168 64. expanding the bottle bill, including single use containers
- 169 65. sequestering carbon, and reclaiming mercury and lead
- 170 66. local sand mining regulation
- 171 67. legislation funding IWILL

172

173 We oppose:

- 174 68. lead/plastic shot
- 175 69. lead wheel weights
- 176 70. corporate polluters' "grandfather" clauses

177

178 **Watershed Management**

179

180 We support:

- 181 71. publicly owned, affordable clean water
- 182 72. incentives for farmers using integrated watershed management, including:
- 183 a. buffer zones
- 184 b. retention basins

- 185 c. aquifers
- 186 d. wetlands
- 187 e. springtime nitrogen application
- 188 f. cover crops
- 189 74. reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and other pollutants
- 190 75. returning waterways to healthy, swimmable and fishable condition

191

192 We oppose:

- 193 76. rainwater collection bans

194

195 **Planning and Zoning**

196

197 We support:

- 198 77. "Smart Growth" planning
- 199 78. sustainable development
- 200 79. livable, walkable neighborhoods
- 201 80. preserving farmland and sensitive/unique natural areas
- 202 81. the right of counties to zone and issue or deny permits for CAFOs
- 203 82. local control at the county level of CAFO sitings
- 204 83. moratorium on all CAFOs
- 205 84. LEED requirements for public buildings
- 206 85. strict adherence to ADA
- 207 86. minimum 6-inch top soil replacement for new development

208

209 We oppose:

- 210 87. subsidies for urban growth on farm and park lands
- 211 88. eminent domain abuse

212

213 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

214 50 by 30 – 50% clean energy by 2030

215 ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

216 CAA – Clean Air Act

217 CAFE – Corporate Automotive Fuel Economy

218 CAFO – Confined/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

219 Clean Line – electrical transmission lines to transport wind-generated electrical energy
220 from NW Iowa to Illinois

221 CPP – Clean Power Plan

222 CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

223 CSP – Conservation Services Program

224 CWA – Clean Water Act

225 EPA – Environmental Protection Act

226 ESA – Endangered Species Act

227 FIT – Feed-In Tariffs

228 GMO – Genetically Modified Organism

229 IDNR- Iowa Department of Natural Resources

230 IEQA - Iowa Environmental Quality Act

231 IRPS – Iowa Renewable Portfolio Standards
232 IWILL – Iowa’s Water & Land Legacy
233 LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
234 REAP – Resource Enhancement and Protection
235 SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps)
236 USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

237

238 **COMMERCE, LABOR, AND ECONOMY**

239

240 **Commerce**

241

242 We support:

- 243 1. high-speed rail service along interstate corridors
- 244 2. expanding statewide public transit
- 245 3. expanding locations and services provided by Iowa Workforce Development
- 246 4. regulations preventing banks and financial institutions from engaging in risky
- 247 behaviors that are detrimental to the economy
- 248 5. establishing a \$15 per hour minimum wage with a COLA to be incrementally
- 249 implemented
- 250 6. tying business tax credits and expansion benefits to wages, benefits, and number
- 251 of newly created jobs

252

253 We oppose:

- 254 7. public assistance for American businesses that shift assets out of the country
- 255 and reduce American jobs

256

257 **Labor**

258

259 We support:

- 260 8. the right for workers to organize
- 261 9. expanding the federal prevailing wage law to include state-funded public projects
- 262 10. protecting the rights of public employees by maintaining Chapter 20 in its current
- 263 form
- 264 11. allowing injured workers the right to choose their own doctors in workers'
- 265 compensation claims
- 266 12. the right to negotiate "fair share" agreements
- 267 13. enforcement of labor laws
- 268 14. expanding local governments' ability to transparently award contracts with
- 269 considerations beyond lowest responsible bidder
- 270 15. reforming the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act
- 271 16. equal pay and benefits for women and men
- 272 17. guaranteed paid family leave
- 273 18. guaranteed paid sick leave
- 274 19. mainstreaming people with disabilities into the workplace with equal pay,
- 275 benefits, and treatment

276

- 277 We oppose:
278 20. privatization of public sector jobs
279 21. right-to-work legislation
280 22. wage and benefit discrimination based on sex, gender, race, age, religion, or
281 sexual orientation

282

283 **Economy**

284

285 We support:

- 286 23. passage of comprehensive tax reform to include a progressive national income
287 tax and the elimination of corporate tax loopholes
288 24. vigorously enforcing existing federal securities statutes
289 25. President Obama's \$35.7 billion tax increase on oil and gas companies in order
290 to fund public infrastructure jobs
291 26. access for every home to high-speed internet regardless of location, race, or
292 income
293 27. net neutrality
294 28. efforts to reduce income inequality
295 29. an online sales tax to support local government (communities)
296 30. federal legislation protecting LGBTQ individuals from discrimination in
297 employment, public accommodation & housing
298 31. consideration of increased medical costs when determining increases in social
299 security benefits based on cost of living
300 32. imposing a cap on executive pay to worker pay ratios
301 33. enforcement of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act
302 34. municipalities offering high-speed internet service to residents

303

304 We oppose:

- 305 35. data caps on internet connections

306

307 **EDUCATION**

308

309 We support:

- 310 1. the importance of community involvement, parents, and public educational
311 professionals in matters of education problem solving and decision-making
312 2. providing effective, research based training and resources (to include, but not
313 limited to latest technological tools) for teachers to educate students
314 3. providing tools and resources for students who need additional assistance
315 4. the anti-bullying law as stated in the Iowa code
316 5. eliminating the "school to prison pipeline," and zero tolerance policies
317 6. a proactive approach in public school implementation of fully funded Restorative
318 Justice, Justice Circle and/or equivalent trained volunteer & student mediators
319 7. federally subsidized student loan programs
320 8. restoring loan forgiveness programs based on community service
321 9. free tuition for Iowa residents for:

- 322 a. vocational programs (offered through community colleges and previously
323 funded worker displacement training programs)
324 b. community colleges
325 c. regent state universities
326 10. the right of students with disabilities to have access to public education through
327 the age of 21
328 11. the teaching of personal finance in the existing high school core curriculum
329 12. state mandated, thorough, medically accurate, fact-based, age appropriate,
330 relevant reproductive health and sex education curriculum in all public schools
331 13. teacher training in all four literacy skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing
332 14. full funding for the research, development and implementation of
333 a. fine and applied arts
334 b. ELL/ESL programs
335 c. high school career and vocational education
336 d. literacy education
337 e. math, science, technology
338 15. sufficiently funding Iowa school districts and requiring them to provide Iowa
339 teachers with living wage salaries, pensions and benefits at or above the national
340 average
341 16. the eligibility of para-educators and teacher mentors for unemployment benefits
342 17. expansion of universal preschool programs
343 18. increased state funding of Regent universities
344 19. a thorough and fact-based approach to the teaching of American and world
345 history and science and a transparent and authoritative textbook adoption
346 process for all K-12 schools
347 20. eliminating de facto segregation in public schools
348 21. efforts to reduce the high school dropout rate
349 22. tuition free public colleges and universities across the nation

350

351 We oppose:

- 352 23. high interest rates on student loans
353 24. tying teacher pay and evaluations to the results of student standardized tests
354 25. any voucher system, tuition tax credit or charter school plan using tax dollars to
355 fund pre K-12 private schools
356 26. religious bias in all publicly funded education, including charter schools

357

358 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

359 ELL – English Language Learners

360 ESL – English as a Second Language

361

362 **GOVERNMENT**

363

364 We support:

- 365 1. state and federal constitutional amendments providing that corporations shall not
366 be considered natural persons and shall enjoy only rights granted by statute
367 2. limits on contributions to campaigns and PACs

- 368 3. overturning Citizens United
- 369 4. a constitutional amendment specifying that money is not speech
- 370 5. full transparency in campaign contributions, PACs, and lobbying
- 371 6. publicly-funded campaigns
- 372 7. comprehensive filibuster reform
- 373 8. the Iowa VOICE Act
- 374 9. vote-by-mail
- 375 10. early voting
- 376 11. federal election days as paid holidays
- 377 12. non-partisan redistricting commissions
- 378 13. redistricting based on actual population
- 379 14. placing polling places on tribal land with the consent of tribal leadership
- 380 15. automatic, accessible and permanent voter registration
- 381 16. restoring the Voting Rights Act
- 382 17. a fair and independent judiciary
- 383 18. "Ban the Box" legislation removing criminal record question from initial
- 384 applications for employment & housing
- 385 19. restoring voting rights of felons upon sentence completion
- 386 20. Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit, not political appointment or
- 387 election
- 388 21. comprehensive criminal justice reforms, including:
- 389 a. expanding restorative justice and other diversion programs for defendants
- 390 b. eliminating mandatory minimum sentencing
- 391 c. creating a judicial process to seal or expunge criminal records
- 392 d. civil forfeiture process reform
- 393 e. ending discriminatory housing policies toward individuals convicted of non-
- 394 violent drug offenses
- 395 22. expanding domestic violence laws to protect individuals in dating relationships
- 396 23. legislative initiatives that promote the safety of crime victims
- 397 24. strong release requirements for repeat violent offenders
- 398 25. eliminating fees charged to criminal defendants for court-appointed attorneys,
- 399 probation, community service, and jail rent
- 400 26. increased funding and oversight of DHS social workers
- 401 27. restoring funding to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
- 402 28. the elimination of the immigration detention quota mandate
- 403 29. comprehensive immigration reform that includes an expedited pathway to
- 404 citizenship and works to keep families together
- 405 30. President Obama's executive orders on immigration
- 406 31. limiting immigrant detention
- 407 32. attorney appointments for unrepresented and unaccompanied minors in
- 408 immigration removal proceedings
- 409 33. ending discriminatory policing/profiling, providing for collection of relevant data
- 410 and a legal remedy for individuals subjected to discriminatory policing
- 411 34. a Congressional study of slavery and its lingering effects, with recommendations
- 412 for appropriate remedies
- 413 35. firm separation of religion and government

- 414 36. ensuring religiously neutral policies regarding the rights of LGBTQ citizens,
- 415 including adoption placement, family leave, public accommodations and other
- 416 forms of discrimination
- 417 37. legalizing marijuana
- 418 38. ending the War on Drugs
- 419 39. the Constitutional Right to Privacy
- 420 40. aggressive funding for our aging transportation infrastructure
- 421 41. universal background checks for gun purchases
- 422 42. increased funding for the NICS
- 423 43. banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- 424 44. holding guardians accountable if minors are permitted inappropriate access to
- 425 guns
- 426 45. mandatory, non-profit, gun ownership and safety classes for gun owners
- 427 46. rights of responsible gun owners to participate in hunting and shooting sports
- 428 47. President Obama's executive orders on gun control
- 429 48. statehood for DC
- 430 49. offering banking services through USPS
- 431 50. continued government funding of public broadcasting
- 432 51. funding for the NEA
- 433 52. a 36% APR cap on "payday loans"
- 434 53. taxing capital gains at same rate as labor
- 435 54. reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act
- 436 55. eliminating the Social Security taxable wage cap
- 437 56. a COLA minimum for Social Security recipients of 1% when the CPI does not
- 438 provide for an increase
- 439 57. the creation of a hybrid COLA to replace the depleted FED in IPERS
- 440 58. increased excise tax on assault weapons
- 441 59. enforcement of laws barring religious institutions and other 501(c)(3)
- 442 organizations from partisan political activities
- 443 60. a cap on tax-free housing allowance for clergy
- 444 61. an independent, transparent audit of DHS
- 445 62. an independent, transparent audit of DOD spending practices
- 446 63. an independent investigation into the selection process of companies chosen for
- 447 the privatization of the Iowa Medicaid program
- 448

449 We oppose:

- 450 64. privatization and profitization of government services such as health coverage,
- 451 prisons, and Social Security
- 452 65. wasteful military spending
- 453 66. Iowa's STO income tax credit
- 454 67. sales tax on feminine hygiene products
- 455 68. reducing USPS services
- 456 69. voter ID laws
- 457 70. capital punishment
- 458 71. the Senate's obstruction of judicial appointments
- 459 72. denying drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants

- 460 73. detention of undocumented immigrant minors
- 461 74. efforts to create religious exemptions to LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws
- 462 75. insurance companies denying or limiting health coverage based on sexual
- 463 orientation or gender identity
- 464 76. collection and use of personal data without express consent
- 465 77. "stand your ground" laws
- 466 78. basing insurance rates on FICO scores
- 467 79. super delegates

468

469 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

- 470 APR – Annual Percentage Rate
- 471 COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment
- 472 CPI – Consumer Price Index
- 473 DC – District of Columbia
- 474 DHS – Iowa Department of Human Services
- 475 DOD – Department of Defense
- 476 FED – Favorable Experience Dividend
- 477 FICO – Fair Isaac Corporation
- 478 ICRC – Iowa Civil Rights Commission
- 479 IPERS – Iowa Public Employees Retirement System
- 480 LGBTQ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning/Queer
- 481 NEA – National Endowment for the Arts
- 482 NICS - The National Instant Criminal Background Check System
- 483 PACs – Political Action Committees
- 484 STO – School Tuition Organization
- 485 USPS – United States Postal Service
- 486 VOICE – Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections

487

488 **HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES**

489

490 **General Health**

491

492 We support:

- 493 1. universal access to health care, including mental health, dental and vision care
- 494 2. single payer health care system for all including mental health, dental and vision
- 495 care
- 496 3. the ACA, its effective implementation, and information sharing among
- 497 appropriate agencies
- 498 4. medical aid in dying
- 499 5. expanded access to medical marijuana
- 500 6. clean water and food security as basic human rights
- 501 7. free non-emergency medical transportation

502

503 We oppose:

- 504 8. denial of medical services or substandard care due to personal and/or religious
- 505 bias by any medical or pharmaceutical professional

- 506 9. non-medical exemptions to vaccinations
507 10.the casino exemption to the Smokefree Air Act
508

509 **Mental Health, Addictions, and Disability**

- 510
511 We support:
512 11.mental health parity
513 12.delivery systems providing sufficient high quality, community-based and other
514 needed services
515 13.restoring and expanding mental health facilities
516 14.increasing respite services
517

518 **Children and Families**

- 519
520 We support:
521 15.implementing a children’s mental health system
522 16.sufficient funding/services for:
523 a. child welfare systems
524 b. child and maternal health programs
525 c. programs that prevent child abuse and neglect
526 d. Iowa Medical Examiner’s services to the annual Child Death Review Team
527 e. high quality child care and financial support for families
528 17.adequate supervision and timely inspection of child-care centers
529 18.stronger enforcement of the federal Child Support Recovery Act and Deadbeat
530 Parents Punishment Act
531

- 532 We oppose:
533
534 19.forcible conversion therapy for LGBTQ persons
535

536 **Adults**

- 537
538 We support:
539 20.rigorous, timely state inspection of all nursing homes, assisted living facilities,
540 paid in-home care, residential and group home care
541 21.improving direct care staffing levels in nursing facilities and increasing staff-to-
542 resident ratios
543 22.tax credits for caregivers including the costs for caring for elderly and disabled
544 family members
545

546 **Reproductive Rights**

- 547
548 We support:
549 23.the right of women to make their own reproductive choices
550 24.Planned Parenthood funding
551 25.student access to barrier-based contraceptives in public schools

552

553 We oppose:

554 24. parental notification requirements for minors seeking contraceptives

555 25. parental notification requirements for minors seeking abortions

556

557 **Reimbursement and Coverage**

558

559 We support:

560 26. continuity of Medicaid coverage for individuals with an autism diagnosis
561 transitioning to the age of majority

562 27. sufficient long-term funding for Medicare, Medicaid

563 28. regulating healthcare costs

564 29. regulating prescription drug prices

565 30. expanding Medicare and Medicaid to include long term and skilled care

566 31. increasing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to providers

567 32. insurance coverage for contraceptives and abortions

568 33. expanding coverage for transgender-related healthcare

569 34. establishing a state run health record information exchange with patient opt out

570 35. enacting the physician-assisted death with dignity act

571

572 We oppose:

573 36. privatization of Medicare and Medicaid

574 37. discrimination against Medicare, Medicaid, and ACA patients by providers

575

576 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

577 ACA – The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148) of 2010,
578 colloquially known as “Obamacare”

579 LGBTQ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning/Queer

580

581 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

582

583 **Peace and Security**

584

585 We support:

586 1. eliminating biological, chemical and nuclear weapons

587 2. closing Guantanamo Bay detention facilities

588 3. human rights and habeas corpus protection

589 4. combating terrorism with measured, rational and proportional responses,
590 including diplomacy

591 5. promoting human dignity, resolving global poverty, protecting clean air and water,
592 improving education, and reducing hunger and disease

593 6. gender equality and political empowerment of women

594 7. preventing genocide and mass atrocities

595 8. taking military action only with clear national defense goals, informed

596 Congressional consent and funding, and, whenever possible, international
597 cooperation

- 598 9. ending violence against women, including genital mutilation, honor killings, and
- 599 rape
- 600 10. international support for democratic movements
- 601 11. protecting victims and prosecuting human traffickers for sexual exploitation and
- 602 forced labor
- 603 12. strengthening cyber-security

604

605 We oppose:

- 606 13. rendition to foreign prisons and secret sites
- 607 14. persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- 608 15. US-initiated coups, juntas, and unelected governments
- 609 16. use of torture and collective punishments
- 610 17. US military aid not approved by Congress
- 611 18. militarization of space
- 612 19. rape as a weapon of war
- 613 20. indiscriminate use of weaponized drones

614

615 **Development Assistance**

616

617 We support:

- 618 21. culturally sensitive, non-exploitive (look it up for spelling) foreign aid and fair
- 619 trade agreements protecting human rights, public health, workers' rights and the
- 620 environment
- 621 22. reducing dependence on non-renewable energy
- 622 23. promoting voluntary reproductive health and family planning
- 623 24. debt remediation for impoverished countries
- 624 25. trade restrictions with nations allowing child and slave labor, sweatshops or
- 625 human trafficking
- 626 26. complete transparency of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

627

628 We oppose:

- 629 27. religious Bias in US Foreign Aid
- 630 28. the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement without reform to its ISDS protocol

631

632 Middle East

633

634 We support:

- 635 29. regional cooperation to contain and resolve the conflict with ISIL
- 636 30. continued peaceful efforts to resolve the Syrian conflict and provide humanitarian
- 637 assistance
- 638 31. identifying Assad's Syria as a terrorist regime and referring Assad and ISIL to the
- 639 ICC for prosecution for war crimes
- 640 32. the international agreement verifiably containing Iran's nuclear program
- 641 33. peaceful efforts to achieve separate and secure Israeli and Palestinian states,
- 642 working with all parties to resolve the conflict and respecting the rights of all
- 643 persons

644 34. admission of a Palestine state to full UN membership
645 35. stabilization, reconstruction, and refugee resettlement in the region through
646 international cooperation

647

648 We oppose:

649 36. further Israeli settlements in disputed territories

650

651 **Ukraine**

652

653 We support:

654 37. peaceful conflict resolution in the Ukraine

655

656 We oppose:

657 38. Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territory

658

659 **Latin America and the Caribbean**

660

661 We support:

662 39. continued normalizing relations with Cuba and lifting the embargo

663 40. regional cooperation against activities of drug cartels

664

665 We oppose:

666 41. training, military, financial support of repressive regimes

667 42. clear-cutting Amazon rainforests and displacement of inhabitants

668

669 **Africa**

670

671 We support:

672 43. rapid international peacekeeping and cooperation against extremist groups, such
673 as Boko Haram

674 44. refugee settlement, famine relief, and development assistance

675

676 We oppose:

677 45. training and use of child soldiers in Africa

678

679 **Asia**

680

681 We support:

682 46. diplomacy expanding Chinese citizens' rights and protecting dissidents, including
683 Tibetans

684 47. diplomacy and stronger sanctions containing North Korea's nuclear weapons
685 development and missile testing

686 48. territorial integrity of Japan, including the Senkaku islands

687

688 **United Nations (UN)**

689

690 We support:
691 49. full dues payment
692 50. meeting UN Millennium Development Goals
693 51. regional security partnerships to resolve crises
694 52. arms transfers code of conduct
695

696 **Treaties and Conventions**

697
698 We support:
699 53. ratification and/or full participation in:
700 a. UDHR
701 b. ICESR
702 c. CEDAW
703 d. CRC
704 e. CTBT
705 f. BWC
706 g. Ottawa Land-mine Treaty
707 h. Paris Agreement under the Convention on Climate Change
708 i. CWC
709 j. Geneva Conventions
710 k. UNCRDP
711 l. CDCW
712 m. CMT
713 n. GFATM
714 o. START
715 p. RSICC
716 q. UNCLOS
717

718 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

719 BWC - Biological Weapons Convention Protocol
720 CDCW - Convention on Destruction of Chemical Weapons
721 CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
722 CMT - Cluster Munitions Treaty
723 CRC - Convention on the Rights of Children
724 CTBT - Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
725 CWC - Chemical Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,
726 Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction
727 GFATM - Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
728 ICC - International Criminal Court
729 ICESR - International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
730 ISDS - Investor States Dispute Settlement
731 ISIL - The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant
732 RSICC - Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
733 START - New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
734 UDHR - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
735 UN - United Nations

736 UNCLOS - Convention on the Law of the Sea
737 UNCRDP - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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739 **MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

740

741 We support:

- 742 1. free lifetime medical care for all military service members
- 743 2. equitable benefits for reserve military members
- 744 3. reproductive rights for service personnel
- 745 4. independent, non-military judicial process for cases of military sexual assault
- 746 5. housing and employment assistance for homeless veterans
- 747 6. a "Veterans' Black Arm Band Day" to raise awareness of issues concerning
- 748 PTSD, MST, TBI and other war induced mental illness
- 749 7. aggressive communication and enforcement of veterans' preference hiring
- 750 practices
- 751 8. Iowa increasing the veterans' property tax exemption to the greater of ten percent
- 752 of assessed value or the percentage of the veteran's service disability rating
- 753 times assessed value
- 754 9. any service member with other than an Honorable Discharge due to sexual
- 755 orientation or conduct caused in whole or in part due to PTSD, TBI, MST, be
- 756 reevaluated using current standards
- 757 10. recognizing that illnesses caused by military service are not limited to the current
- 758 presumptive medical conditions
- 759 11. official recognition that veterans that served in Vietnam prior to January 9, 1962
- 760 could have been exposed to Agent Orange

761

762 We oppose:

- 763 12. privatization of the VA Health Care System

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765 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION**

766 MST: Military Sexual Trauma

767 PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

768 TBI: Traumatic Brain Injury