

# 2024 Dubuque County Democratic (DCD) Party Platform

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Completed by the Platform Committee on March 2, 2024; approved at the Democratic County Convention on Saturday, 23 March 2024.

## **The Dubuque County Democratic Party Mission**

We believe that the American dream of peace, security, and opportunity is achieved through securing human rights, economic equality, and environmental justice for all people.

Therefore, we advocate the adoption of the practices summarized below.

## **AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

We believe in certifiable agricultural practices that are economically sustainable and protect people, land, water, and air resources now and for future generations. To this end, we advocate the following:

1. Promoting small farms, farm jobs, and eco-friendly farm management, preserving natural resources for future generations.
2. Expanding Iowa crop diversity and local markets.
3. The humane treatment of all animals and stewardship of resources required for and impacted by the livestock industry.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**

We believe that protecting our environment will counter the destructive effects of climate change, greatly expand employment opportunities, and improve our quality of life. To this end, we advocate for:

1. The adoption of a state constitutional amendment that protects the people's right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment.
2. A greater investment of resources in environmentally sustainable industries, reducing harmful emissions and waste while creating jobs in sustainable energy industries.
3. Educating Iowans on climate change, enabling them to become knowledgeable and action-oriented stewards of our environment.
4. Community action to raise public awareness, implement sustainable practices, and protect the environment.
5. Funding of Iowa Water Land Legacy fund to promote natural waterways for flood control and to protect our aquifers from environmental threats.
6. Preserving our cultural and historical sites (including indigenous input) while enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities.
7. Immediate and aggressive action to slow and reverse climate change, including continuing support for the Paris Climate Agreement.
8. Expanding mass transit resources by utilizing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## **EDUCATION**

We believe in providing sufficient funding to ensure that all students learn in an environment that is safe, accessible, comprehensive, and affordable. Doing so leads to improved student outcomes and creates a lifelong love of learning. To this end, we advocate for the following:

1. The Iowa Legislature and Governor facilitate timely and adequate funding for:
  - a. Universal public preschool.
  - b. Public schools that offer career and technical education, including implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM).
  - c. The attraction and retention of a diverse workforce of educators, support professionals, and licensed professional medical and brain health workers.
  - d. Affordable community colleges/universities and/or tuition-free public post-secondary education.
  - e. Unemployment and medical benefits for eligible Education Support Professionals (ESPs).
  - f. Area Education Associations (AEAs).
  - g. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSPs).
2. The use of education funds only for public education, barring the use of public funds for vouchers, tuition tax credits, and private for-profit education businesses.
3. The use of an accurate, diverse, equitable, and inclusive education curriculum that represents the community.
4. Restoring full rights of Iowa public employees in collective bargaining for wages, terms, and conditions of employment.
5. Protecting Iowa Public Employee Retirement Systems (IPERS).
6. Total federal funding of Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

## **GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND IMMIGRATION**

We believe that our elected leaders must improve social justice and domestic tranquility by promoting ethical, legal treatment for all and providing equal rights under the law through the following:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform that includes promoting policies that are:
  - a. Extending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program until the Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.
  - b. Revamping the system to promote timely application processing, issuing work permits, and creating an expedited roadmap to citizenship.
  - c. Including long-term protection for asylum seekers/refugees from conflict zones.
  - d. Fast-tracking T and U Visas for survivors of human trafficking.
  - e. Promoting policies that prevent family separation, support family reunification, and increase special protections for minors.
  - f. Decreasing the reliance on physical barriers and force in border security by utilizing technology and timely legal processes.

- g. Opposing efforts to make state and local law enforcement responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws.
  - h. Providing a path for individuals, regardless of immigration status, to purchase vehicle insurance and obtain a driver's license in Iowa.
  - i. Providing additional services for integrating immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.
  - j. Removing restrictions on visas that make it difficult for immigrants to work and attend school at the same time.
  - k. Supporting the establishment of international relationships fostering human rights as outlined in International Affairs.
  - l. Acknowledging the importance of immigration in reinvigorating our labor force.
2. Upholding The Second Amendment rights while reinforcing common sense safety measures that include:
    - a. Universal background checks, mandatory registration of all gun purchases, and maintaining a “weapon-free zone.”
    - b. Authorizing sheriffs to deny permits to persons who are adjudicated mentally ill, on the “no-fly” list, or convicted of domestic violence.
    - c. Banning kits or parts that would convert semi-automatic weapons to fully automatic weapons.
  3. The reformation of law enforcement agencies at all levels through demilitarization, emphasizing respecting due process and improving community policing.
  4. Adequate funding for the judicial systems.
  5. Publicly (not privately) owned and operated correctional systems that rehabilitate and assist offenders to become contributors to a civil and just society.
  6. The protection from coercive non-disclosure agreements of persons alleging sexual harassment.
  7. Supporting the decriminalization, legalization, and expungement of cannabis drug convictions at the national and state levels for adults and release inmates held solely for nonviolent cannabis crimes.
  8. Developing and expanding services based on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  9. Maintaining the integrity of elections by:
    - a. Securing elections against foreign and domestic interference and protecting voter rights by way of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021.
    - b. Overturning Citizens United and enacting comprehensive campaign finance reform.
    - c. Enacting impartial redistricting laws to prevent gerrymandering.
    - d. Adopting a constitutional amendment to protect voter rights.
  10. Disengaging with the punitive nature of criminal sentencing.
  11. Elevating The Bureau of Conflict Resolution to cabinet-level status to more effectively resolve world conflicts.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

We believe that a healthy society acknowledges and supports the need for self-determination and dignity of all people in achieving mental and physical wellness. To this end, we are advocating for:

1. A single-payer healthcare system that is accessible and affordable to all Iowans includes vision, hearing, behavioral, and brain health treatment and allows the government to negotiate prescription drug costs.
2. The recruitment and retention of a diverse and well-paid healthcare workforce.
3. Fully funding brain healthcare and services that utilize researched best practice models.
4. The right to self-determination for healthcare decisions.
5. The protection of the individual's right to personal, accessible, and affordable reproductive decisions.
6. The protection of medical care providers to ensure all medical care needs are met.
7. The medical use of cannabis for children and adults.
8. The treatment of addiction as a healthcare issue.
9. Increasing funding for medical research at public institutions apart from the influence of drug manufacturers and any business or entity holding patents or using patent loopholes.
10. Fully funding social programs, affordable quality housing for low-income and the elderly, and the Iowa Department of Aging through public, not-for-profit organizations.
11. Fully funding and utilizing state inspectors and ombudsman positions to follow state and federal safety guidelines to ensure the safety of Iowa nursing home residents.
12. Programs aiding in the transition from institutional restrictive living.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES**

We believe in expanding opportunities for everyone regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, or disability status by advocating for:

1. The right to make personal medical decisions, including reproductive healthcare.
2. The accessibility and affordability of gender-affirming healthcare options.
3. Equality of all opportunities and elimination of discriminatory practices - not limited to pay, housing, education, employment, and commerce.
4. The codification of The Declaration of Human Rights.
5. Voting accessibility with mail-in, early, satellite, and other voting options.
6. Educating and enforcing measures to end human trafficking.
7. Increasing efforts to support the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

We are committed to worldwide peace and sustainable prosperity by supporting international laws and treaties that heavily emphasize diplomacy, human rights, and peaceful conflict resolution. To this end, we advocate for the following:

1. Providing U.S. leadership in diplomatic conflict resolution and support of human rights for all people, including the right of self-governance and self-determination.
2. Ensuring economic and participatory support for The United Nations and for The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
3. Achieving international agreements to end proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, landmines, chemical weapons, cluster bombs, and cyber warfare.
4. Adhering to the Geneva Convention agreements with respect to prisoner treatment and prosecution of violators.
5. Ensuring physical and economic protection of non-combatant civilians and children in war.
6. Developing assistance for emerging countries through the International Monetary Fund and World Food Program to promote long-lasting growth, an improvement in trade, and an increase in economic opportunity.
7. After decades of violence, the Israeli and Palestinian peoples deserve to live safely and freely within secure borders.
  - a. Commitment to Israel's security and a sovereign Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 lines based on United Nation Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which have been annually reaffirmed by the UN and is the international consensus. Opposition to ongoing military suppression of occupied Palestinian Territories (which include the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip). A just resolution between Palestine and Israel should be based on the principle of United Nation General Assembly Resolution 194 calls for the return of the Palestinian Refugees of 1948, after an end-of-conflict treaty between the Palestinian and Israeli states, followed by normalization between Israel and the Arab states.
8. Supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and defense.

## **LABOR**

We believe all workers deserve the right to fair pay, equitable working environments, and safe working conditions by advocating for the following:

1. Rights of workers to form unions, engage in collective bargaining, and choose the terms and requirements of union membership.
2. The repeal of Right to Work laws that allow nonunion members to receive benefits and protections of unions without paying union dues.

3. The right of every person to earn a livable wage by raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour and indexed to inflation, as well as paid family and sick leave.
4. Making all forms of wage theft illegal and creating penalties to support enforcement.
5. Opposing Child Labor laws that conflict with the National Labor Relations Act and Department of Labor Regulations.
6. The Institution of Project Labor Agreements; PLAs organize complex construction projects and ensure their efficient and timely completion.
7. Strengthening and protecting public employees' pension fund ([IPERS](#)).
8. The right of every person to receive equal pay for equal work and ending sub-minimum wage for individuals with disabilities.
9. Holding businesses accountable for adhering to ethical standards set by regulatory and oversight agencies.
10. Workers' rights to ethical corporate practices and safe working conditions.
11. Eliminating outsourcing labor beyond the U.S. borders
12. Allowing workers to select their preferred medical provider for worker compensation injuries.

### **ECONOMY AND TAXES:**

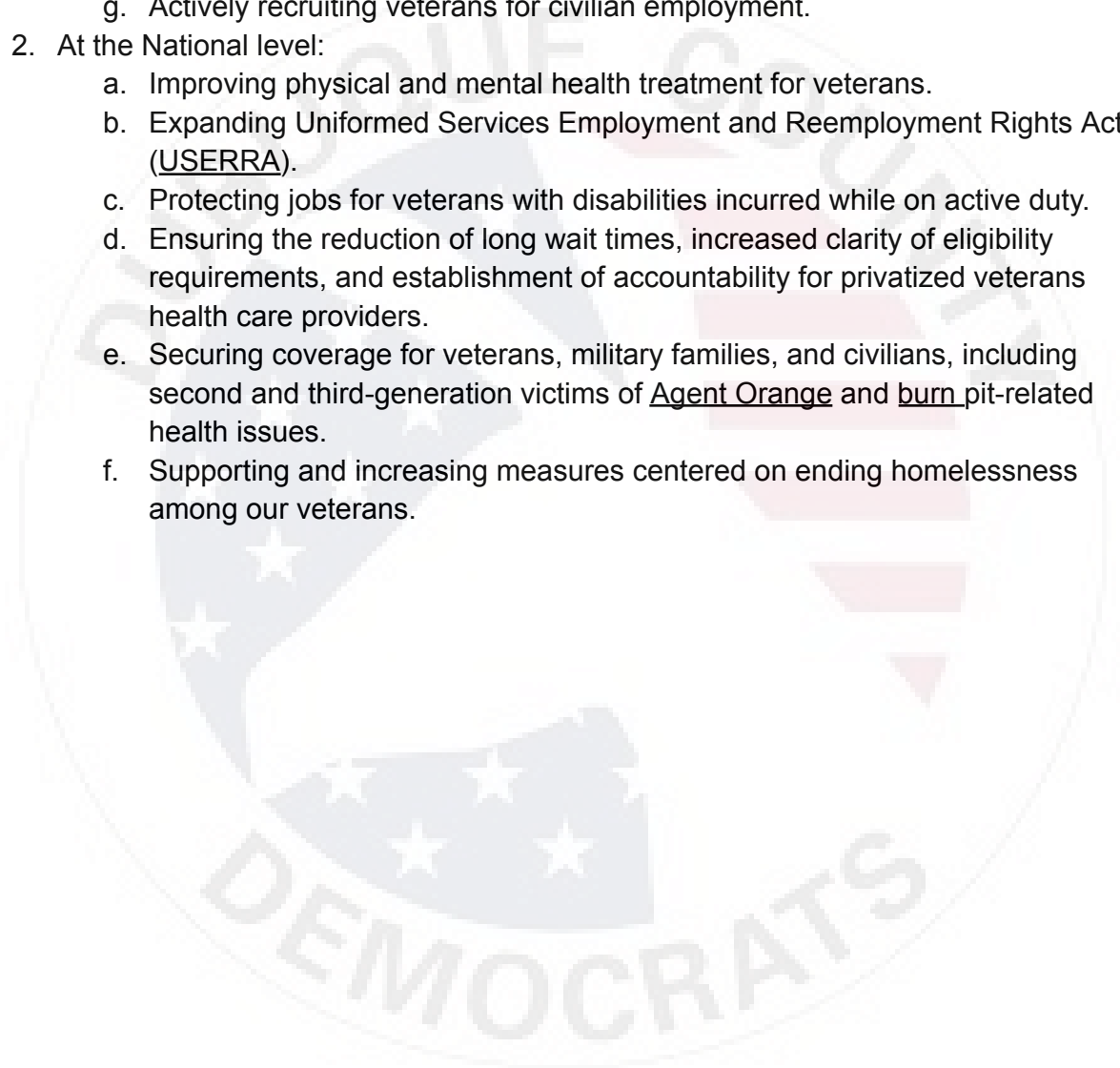
We believe in a just economy that benefits all workers, vulnerable populations, and businesses. We are advocating for:

1. Growing the U.S. economy through jobs related to clean and sustainable energy.
2. Investing in infrastructure repair, safety, long-term planning, and climate-change adaptations.
3. Expanding broadband internet access in all locations and secure net neutrality.
4. The creation of a progressive income tax that alleviates the tax burden from the lower to middle-class population and distributes it equitably across all earners.
5. Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit.
6. Supporting and enforcing legislation that requires the wealthy and corporations to pay their proportionate share to reduce the tax burden on persons of lesser means and close tax loopholes.
7. The protection of historic preservation tax credits and TIFs (Tax Increment Financing).
8. Negotiating trade agreements that are transparent and environmentally responsible and that safeguard:
  - a. Rights and best interests of the American public.
  - b. U.S. jobs.
  - c. The well-being of populations in countries where the U.S. imports goods and materials.
9. Recognize the tens of thousands of projects locally and around the nation based on [APRA](#).

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

We appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans and the men and women and their families serving today and pledge our full support in the following ways:

1. At the State level:

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- a. Improving funding for the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.
  - b. Subsidizing counties in timely access and delivery of veterans' services.
  - c. Creating state income tax exemptions for military retirement or disability pay of personnel with Iowa as their primary residence.
  - d. Continuing Military Service Ownership Assistance.
  - e. Continuing funding for the Injured Veterans Grant Program.
  - f. Increasing funding for Iowa Veterans Home.
  - g. Actively recruiting veterans for civilian employment.
2. At the National level:
    - a. Improving physical and mental health treatment for veterans.
    - b. Expanding Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
    - c. Protecting jobs for veterans with disabilities incurred while on active duty.
    - d. Ensuring the reduction of long wait times, increased clarity of eligibility requirements, and establishment of accountability for privatized veterans health care providers.
    - e. Securing coverage for veterans, military families, and civilians, including second and third-generation victims of Agent Orange and burn pit-related health issues.
    - f. Supporting and increasing measures centered on ending homelessness among our veterans.