

2016 Scott County Democratic Party Platform
Approved in Convention - 12 March 2016

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Democratic Party has a long and proud history of inclusion, political empowerment and equal rights and privileges for all Americans. Diversity has served as a keystone for the Democratic Party since its inception. As Democrats we believe that the full force of governments, at all levels, should be used to protect, preserve, and advance the rights and liberties of all, including the poorest, weakest and those most vulnerable to exploitation. The Democratic Party supports programs that encourage all Americans to reach their full potential with appropriate protections and incentives for them to achieve the fulfillment of human dignity including the right to vote. Only then can the United States of America be the shining beacon of democracy for the world.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

International Affairs

WE SUPPORT:

IA-1 continuing active and cooperative participation in UN to reconcile international issues and deal with global concerns; recognizing US sovereignty.

IA-2 the responsible withdrawal of all troops from Afghanistan.

IA-3 diplomatic efforts with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

IA-4 the Israeli/Palestinian peace process providing Palestinians an independent state and Israelis peace with secure borders.

IA-5 a UN sanctioned world summit for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

IA-6 international cooperation and consistent opposition to human rights violations in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights, including education and awareness initiatives on human trafficking.

IA-7 adding sexual orientation and gender identity wording to UN Human Rights agreements.

IA-8 fighting global hunger and extreme poverty through international initiatives by empowering individuals, focusing on education, access to and preservation of clean water, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and microeconomic aid.

IA-9 closing the Guantanamo Detention Facility.

IA-10 US participation in free-trade organizations **ONLY IF** trade is fair and provisions protect: labor's right to organize and negotiate a living wage; human rights, the environment, and economic interests of all countries related to public health and safety of their citizens; national sovereignty while ensuring democratic accountability of regulations.

IA-11 ending subsidies and tax breaks for companies relocating jobs out of country.

IA-12 The Paris Climate Agreement.

IA-13 continued food aid to distressed nations.

IA 14 the combating of terrorist organizations and affiliates through international coalitions.

A 15 immigration reform that allows for refugees and immigrants to become legal citizens in a just and fair manner.

WE OPPOSE:

IA-16 tying international family planning to abstinence-only and anti-abortion programs.

IA-17 all pre-emptive wars.

IA-18 the initiation of major military involvement without congressional authorization.

IA-19 whaling.

Education

WE SUPPORT:

ED-1 that our governor and legislature increase state funding for early childhood and preschool education programs.

ED-2 fully funding programs in foreign languages, music, the arts, and physical education.

ED-3 research and vetting of education reform proposals before implementation.

ED-4 the funding of academic technology integration in Iowa public schools.

ED-5 restore state spending concentrated on obtaining/retaining excellent teachers.

ED-6 public school, community college, and public university budgets for teacher and administrator salaries not falling below the national median.

ED-7 full funding of special education programs.

ED-8 raising paraprofessional/teacher-aide compensation commensurate with training and experience.

ED-9 requiring initial and ongoing training for para-educators.

ED-10 government-subsidized student meal programs to be nutritional and include locally grown fresh foods.

ED-11 organic gardening classes as part of curriculum.

ED-12 additional funding for school-to-work programs to help prepare high school students for future careers.

ED-13 flexible individual learning plans to help teachers, parents and counselors promote students' future success.

ED-14 anti-bullying measures and fully fund implementation.

ED-15 creating a system that accurately identifies struggling public schools, directing resources where needed to help improve performance.

ED-16 increasing state funding to state universities and other regent institutions, area education agencies, and community colleges.

ED-17 the continued use of Pell Grants to help college students to reach 100% of need.

ED-18 an extension to starting payback of student loans from six months to one year after college graduation date.

ED-19 the formation of public/private incentive programs to encourage Iowa college graduates to reside in Iowa.

ED-20 revenue from gaming and gambling to be used to supplement and enrich public education.

ED-21 legislation that requires the legislature to set the allowable growth rate for public schools within 30 days of the governor's budget submission.

ED-22 Every Student Succeeds Act.

ED-23 capping student loan interest rate at 3%. Rates higher than 3% shall be void as contrary to public policy.

ED-24 The SSWA recommendation of a maximum ratio of one MSW level school social worker to 250 general education students or one school social worker per building serving 250 students or fewer.

ED-25 a moratorium be declared on repayment of student loans until student loans become dischargeable in bankruptcy.

ED-26 to refinance all student loans at a lower interest rate.

ED-27 the implementation of more vocational education programs.

ED-28 capping class size at 20 students in all public schools for grades K-6.

ED-29 tuition free secondary education at public institutions.

WE OPPOSE:

ED-30 attempts to distort science or health education.

ED-31 diverting public money from public schools to fund vouchers; tuition tax credits or private, for-profit education businesses.

ED-32 the retention of non-proficient 3rd grade readers.

Agriculture, Energy, and Environment

WE SUPPORT:

AE-1 sustainable farming and urban development.

AE-2 clean air, water, and soil as a basic right.

AE-3 expedited expansion of renewable energy resources and research (wind, solar, hydro, biofuel, geothermal) to combat global climate change and enhance energy security.

AE-4 air and water quality monitoring and strengthened pollution regulations.

AE-5 banning leaf burning.

AE-6 cap-and-trade to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and carbon emissions.

AE-7 energy conservation education.

AE-8 making permanent and expanding renewable energy tax credits.

AE-9 ending taxpayers' subsidies to oil companies.

AE-10 permanent protection of ANWR.

AE-11 unique landforms preservation.

AE-12 fully funding Federal Land and Water Conservation Act, National Wildlife Refuge System, American Everglades ecosystem, Conservation Security Program, and REAP.

AE-13 sustainable urban development and green building standards.

AE-14 fuel-efficient government vehicles.

AE-15 retrofitting government buildings to be carbon neutral.

AE-16 expanded recycling and recycled products.

AE-17 methane and carbon recapture.

AE-18 moratorium on out-of-state garbage/toxic waste.

AE-19 soil conservation.

AE-20 regulating GMOs.

AE-21 country-of-origin labeling and inspection of food products including pharmaceuticals.

AE-22 CAFO moratorium.

AE-23 limiting CAFO health impacts.

AE-24 affordable credit for family farms.

AE-25 electric net metering.

AE-26 timely Environmental Impact Statements for publicly funded projects.

AE-27 biodiversity preservation.

AE-28 research and regulation in determining invasive species and eradication of those deemed harmful.

AE-29 criminally punishing environmental violations and compensating victims.

AE-30 brownfields remediation by violators.

AE-31 organic farming.

AE-32 the stringent regulation of agricultural and horticultural chemicals.

WE OPPOSE:

AE-33 reclassifying water systems to allow waste dumping.

AE-34 "liquid coal."

AE-35 subsidies for nuclear power plants.

AE-36 coal-fired or nuclear fission power facilities in Iowa.

AE-37 Keystone XL and Bakken Pipelines.

AE-39 the use of toxic agricultural chemicals.

AE-40 the mining of fracking sand in Iowa.

AE-41 fracking.

Health and Human Services

WE SUPPORT:

HH-1 adequately funding health care, child care, vocational/educational training, housing, and transportation programs to assist families transitioning to economic independence.

HH-2 cost-of-living indexing for the federal food stamp program ensuring basic nutritional standards.

HH-3 children's right to a safe, stable environment; adequately staffed/funded family preservation programs; appropriate interventions and out-of-home placement of children in danger; family reunification, whenever indicated, and timely permanency planning.

HH-4 adequately funded community-based programs preventing child and elder abuse and neglect and providing protective services for victims of domestic violence and abuse for victims of other at-risk populations.

HH-5 domestic violence programs including counseling and shelter care for victims and remediation and treatment for offenders.

HH-6 "Safe Family Act" modification to prohibit forced adoptive placement of minors developmentally competent to decide for themselves.

HH-7 prison reform strengthening families and considering best interests for children of incarcerated parents.

HH-8 developing alternative correctional options for mentally ill or addicted individuals committing crimes.

HH-9 adequate funding for treatment, including in-patient facilities, for mentally ill and addicted individuals of all ages.

HH-10 public/private partnership for construction, renovation, and adequate supply of affordable low and

moderate income family housing.

HH-11 accessible public transportation meeting community needs, funded through public/private partnership.

HH-12 ending federal barring of TANF assistance for legal immigrant families.

HH-13 increased funding for the Older Americans Act.

HH-14 expanded stem cell research.

HH-15 healthcare as an individual right.

HH-16 expanding the PPACA, emphasizing savings and controls on insurance companies.

HH-17 single-payer health care system.

HH-18 expanding CHIP coverage.

HH-19 family health care insurance coverage for non-traditional families.

HH-20 Medicare/Medicaid expansion, increased funding and oversight.

HH-21 funding Medicare by a progressive tax on all income.

HH-22 Medicare negotiating lower drug prices.

HH-23 expanding Medicare formulary.

HH-24 lowering drug prices, through increased competition, limitations on patent extensions and re-importation of drugs.

HH-25 national health information database with privacy safeguards.

HH-26 cooperative efforts reducing medical injuries and malpractice.

HH-27 smoking prevention/cessation, strict tobacco regulation.

HH-28 programs reducing obesity, encouraging healthy lifestyles.

HH-29 dental, vision, hearing, mental health, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, birth control, and hospice coverage in all health plans.

HH-30 health care plan coverage for male breast examination and treatment.

HH-31 Patient's Bill of Rights including right to litigate.

HH-32 right to access contraceptives and have legal prescriptions filled.

HH-33 age-appropriate programs teaching responsible behavior regarding sexual activity, including family planning and STDs.

HH-34 hepatitis funding including prevention, control, treatment.

HH-35 all stakeholder representation on HHS review boards.

HH-36 disaster/pandemic readiness, including first-responder training and compensation.

HH-37 adequately funding gun violence prevention programs and allowing CDC to research the effectiveness of such programs.

HH-38 laws defining grandparent's rights to take charge of grandchildren in unhealthy home situations.

HH-39 health care plans that cover any care that is effective.

HH-40 providing an appeal process for chiropractors proven qualified during internship to be licensed.

HH-41 Iowa Death with Dignity Act.

WE OPPOSE:

HH-42 the privatization of Medicaid and converting funding into block grants.

HH-43 abstinence-only programs.

HH-44 reformulation of drugs for the purpose of circumventing patent restrictions.

Government and Law

WE SUPPORT:

Campaigns, Elections, Institutions

GL-1 Reversal of corporate personhood and laws recognizing that money is not speech.

GL-2 Improving publicly-financed elections at all government levels.

GL-3 timely, full disclosure of all political donations.

GL-4 equitable and open voter registration laws and policies.

GL-5 electronic voting systems with permanent record trail and voter anonymity.

GL-6 restoring voting rights to all felons who have completed the terms of sentence.

GL-7 Iowa's system of selecting judges based on merit, not political appointment or partisan election.

GL-8 reinstatement of Fairness Doctrine.

GL-9 returning partisan labels and controls of municipal elections.

GL-10 fair and independent state Judiciary accountable to the state constitution and state law.

GL-11 vote by mail.

GL-12 automatic voter registration, if eligible when obtaining or renewing driver license or state issued ID.

Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

GL-13 full restoration of habeas corpus.

GL-14 individual's rights to privacy and constitutional protection from intrusion in all personal matters.

GL-15 requiring written permission before companies share personal, non-public information.

GL-16 marriage equality for all, recognized as a civil right.

GL-17 legislation ensuring same-sex couples' rights in adopting children.

GL-18 addition of sexual orientation, gender identity and disability to human rights policies, civil statutes, anti-discrimination, hate-crime and anti-bullying laws.

GL-19 a woman's fundamental right to personal reproductive decisions.

GL-20 Roe v. Wade.

GL-21 the First Amendment. Religion is a matter of personal belief that the government must neither hinder nor assist.

GL-22 dissolution of Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; reallocations of funding and duties to appropriate departments; providing government funds solely through non-sectarian entities.

GL-23 a livable federal minimum wage; linking increases to Commerce PCE price index.

GL-24 the separation of church and state and maintain the applied principle within crafting legislation and policy that all are equal within the eyes of law.

GL-25 anti-bullying legislation including provisions protecting sexual orientation and gender identity.

Consumer Protection

GL-26 eminent domain, when due process is followed, solely for common good and not private interests.

GL-27 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act.

GL-28 fair lending standards that cap predatory payday lending interest rates.

GL-29 stronger protections against wage theft and worker misclassification.

GL-30 federal and state protections to maintain ownership and individuals' right to privacy for genetic testing and materials.

GL-31 banning the use of credit ratings for purpose of advancement in/or for employment.

GL-32 reasonable, not punitive interest rates and fees charged by credit unions, banks and credit card companies or any financial institution.

Criminal Justice

GL-33 strengthening World Court's right to prosecute war crimes committed by political leaders and affiliated others.

GL-34 ending costly War on Drugs.

GL-35 alternative sentencing involving treatment and rehabilitation for first offenders, youths, and the mentally ill.

GL-36 alternatives to incarceration for drug offenders; continuing education assistance during rehab.

GL-37 medical marijuana and industrial hemp.

GL-38 the authorization of cultivation, wholesale, resale, and possession and use of marijuana with appropriate controls to prevent abuse.

GL-39 legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana.

GL-40 repeal of Iowa Drug Tax Stamp.

GL-41 eliminating discrimination in prosecution and sentencing.

GL-42 repealing 2000-foot sex offender law.

GL-43 limiting sex offender laws to serious and active predators; distinguishing between categories of offenders.

GL-44 federal ban on capital punishment.

GL-45 criminal charges as a prerequisite for property seizure, criminal conviction as a prerequisite for property forfeiture; individual right to jury trial in forfeiture cases.

GL-46 penalties for cruelty to animals.

GL-47 classifying attack on abortion clinics as domestic terrorism.

GL-48 a greater coalition of law enforcement agencies and community organizations fighting domestic terrorism.

Government Services

GL-49 increasing indigent legal services funding.

GL-50 restoring funding of social relief programs aiding vulnerable citizens.

GL-51 IPERS funding increases of 1% per year for four years; with current 60/40 employer/employee funding split.

GL-52 full access to public records, including those in electronic format.

GL-53 expanding USPS to include postal banking and other possible services.

GL-54 single payer healthcare system.

GL-55 the creation of a Department of Peace.

Immigration

GL-56 immigration reform eliminating biases, reflecting skills needs, emphasizing family reunification, respecting national security needs, and providing quicker pathways to citizenship.

GL-57 the DREAM Act.

GL-58 legislation that creates temporary driver's licenses to all tested and qualified Iowa residents, regardless of immigration status.

GL-59 an end to unconstitutional immigrant detention and support local and state policies that approach detention of immigrants as the last resort.

Internet & Telecommunications

GL-60 adequate funding for CPB; maintaining independence in its operation.

GL-61 restoring authority of FTC to restrict harmful or deceptive advertising and regulate children's marketing.

GL-62 net neutrality protecting open and free Internet.

GL-63 opening unlicensed broadcast spectrum for community networks.

Reasonable Gun Regulation

GL-64 individual right to bear arms with fair, reasonable and responsible restrictions, including: licensing requirements for firearms ownership; state and national firearm registries; closure of gun show loophole.

GL-65 instant Background Check.

GL-66 full enforcement of state and federal gun laws.

GL-67 maintaining current "gun free zones".

GL-68 mandatory liability insurance for gun owners, sellers and manufacturers.

Taxes & Social Security

GL-69 fair and simplified tax system, taxing all income equitably and relying on simplified, graduated income tax.

GL-70 tax penalties on corporations sending jobs out of the country.

GL-71 tax on corporations selling products formerly made in USA.

GL-72 a micro-tax on all securities transactions.

GL-73 restoration of the top tax rate to Kennedy era tax rates.

GL-74 raising Social Security payroll tax cap to 100% of taxable income.

GL-75 protecting, strengthening, and expanding Social Security.

GL-76 a \$1 contribution check off to NASA to support exploration of space to be offered during the submission of taxes.

GL-77 a security tax on Wall Street speculation.

WE OPPOSE:

Veterans & Military

GL-78 the Military Commission Act.

GL-79 provisions in ECSA supplying military recruiters with student names or permitting recruitment in K-12.

Campaigns, Elections, Institutions

GL-80 Citizen's United.

GL-81 voter suppression or voter group intimidation including abuse of governmental investigative and legislative authority.

Civil Rights and Liberties

GL-82 government-sanctioned surveillance without probable cause and due process.

GL-83 replacement of patrol officers by electronic surveillance technologies.

GL-84 national identity cards.

Consumer Protection

GL-85 further deregulation of banks and financial institutions.

Criminal Justice

GL-86 mandatory minimum and indeterminate sentencing.

GL-87 incarceration without treatment for mentally ill offenders.

GL-88 private, for profit prisons and detention centers.

GL-89 militarization of law enforcement.

Government Services

GL-90 privatizing the USPS.

GL-91 privatization of any government services.

Immigration

GL-92 the Secure Communities Deportation Program.

Internet and Telecommunications

GL-93 media consolidation.

Reasonable Gun Regulation

GL-94 Iowa becoming an "open carry" state.

GL-95 issue of concealed carry permit to sex offenders, domestic violence offenders, and those deemed not mentally fit by law.

Taxes and Social Security

GL-96 exorbitant tax breaks for the top 1%.

GL-97 cuts to Social Security benefits.

Economy, Commerce and Labor

WE SUPPORT:

EC-1 renewed WPA jobs program focusing on infrastructure, alternative forms of transportation, and alternative energy.

EC-2 equitable subsidy distribution among transportation modes, emphasizing mass transit, bicycling, and high speed rail.

EC-3 development of locally owned small businesses, a halt to large chain business subsidies, and recouping economic assistance and tax relief monies.

EC-4 reforming earmarks to prevent abuse.

EC-5 more rigorous enforcement of antitrust laws and breaking up companies considered "too- big-to-fail."

EC-6 significant re-budgeting from defense contracting into education, health, human services, and benefits for military.

EC-7 Rock Island Arsenal as critical to Iowa employment.

EC-8 increasing public-private partnerships at Rock Island Arsenal.

EC-9 comprehensive alternative energy R&D plan that employs US workers.

EC-10 harsher penalties for employers violating workforce development plans.

EC-11 barring insurance companies and employers from using personal credit information.

EC-12 strengthening the Iowa Business Corporation Act to include a duty to safeguard the public interest.

EC-13 fair trade.

EC-14 strengthening pension protection and criminal penalties for violations.

EC-15 requiring prompt crediting of contributions to employee benefit package.

EC-16 federal legislation to protect worker pensions, retirement and 401-K funds in corporate mergers and takeovers; prohibit misuse of such funds, including using funds as loan collateral.

EC-17 requiring US manufacture of critical military components.

EC-18 increased funding for worker retraining programs.

EC-19 national high-speed internet policy, including universal broadband; high speed, open internet; consumer protections.

EC-20 revising Mining Act of 1870 to provide fair compensation for use of mineral rights on public lands, including restoration costs.

EC-21 guaranteeing right to organize and join unions.

EC-22 rescinding Right to Work laws.

EC-23 raising minimum salary of FLSA exempt workers.

EC-24 Iowa law strengthening public employees' bargaining rights.

EC-25 legislation limiting mandatory overtime.

EC-26 strengthening OSHA coverage, inspection, and enforcement.

EC-27 improved workplace ergonomic requirements.

EC-28 employee choice of medical provider for occupational injury.

EC-29 workers' right to six-month notice of employer intention to relocate.

EC-30 "Fair Share" to assure exclusive bargaining agents recoup representation costs from entire bargaining unit.

EC-31 Iowa honoring binding arbitration commitments.

EC-32 passage of "Prevailing Wage."

EC-33 enforcement of state licensing of skilled construction trades.

EC-34 use of PLAs on public works construction projects.

EC-35 adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to federal workplace discrimination standards.

EC-36 developing an indicator which measures national quality of life, not just GDP.

EC-37 funding Iowa Workforce Development programs to previous levels.

EC-38 annual public audits of the Federal Reserve and Department of Defense.

EC-39 equal pay for equal work.

EC-40 strengthening federal and state labor laws to guarantee worker rights.

EC-41 paid parental leave program for all Iowans.

EC-42 increase state minimum wage.

WE OPPOSE:

EC-43 repeal of Davis-Bacon.

EC-44 expanding FLSA exemptions.

EC-45 privatizing public services.

EC-46 diverting Iowa road use revenue into general fund.

EC-47 economic development assistance for companies not paying a living wage or offering affordable health insurance.

EC-48 subsidies to big business.

EC-49 misclassification of workers to avoid payment of unemployment benefits and workers compensation

Veterans

WE SUPPORT:

VE-1 adequate IANG and Reservist family assistance during extended active duty tours.

VE-2 eliminating security clearance backlog and barring use of non-bona fide factors in clearance adjudications.

VE-3 housing for all homeless and foreclosed veterans.

VE-4 full physical, emotional, and mental health care for all veterans.

VE-5 protecting Veteran's Assistance Funds from diversion.

VE-6 free tuition for all military veterans to state post-secondary institutions of higher learning.

VE-7 full funding veterans benefits.

WE OPPOSE:

VE-8 cutting promised military benefits.

Acronyms Used

AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANWR Arctic National Wildlife Reserve
CAFO Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
CAFTA Central American Free Trade Agreement
CDC Center for Disease Control
CHIP Children's Health Insurance Program
CPB Corporation for Public Broadcasting
DREAM Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors
FLSA Fair Labor Standards Act
FTC Federal Trade Commission
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GMO Genetically Modified Organism
HHS Health and Human Services
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IANG Iowa National Guard
IPERS Iowa Public Employees Retirement System
MSW Master of Social Work
NAFTA North American Free-Trade Agreement
PLA Project Labor Agreement
PPACA Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act
REAP Resource Enhancement And Protection
SSWA The School Social Work Association
TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TPP Trans-Pacific Partnership
UN United Nations
USPS United States Postal Service
WPA Works Progress Administration
WTO World Trade Organization