

The 2020 Platform of the Muscatine County Democratic Party

We, the Democratic Party of Muscatine County, believe the purpose of government is to do as a society that which we cannot do as individuals and to assure that each individual may enjoy freedom without encroaching on the freedoms of others.

We affirm that we each, regardless of gender or lack thereof, have the right as humans to the basics of a good life, including security, adequate diet, decent shelter, access to necessary health care, quality education that cultivates the unique abilities of all, opportunities for meaningful work, and the freedom to marry whomever we choose.

We also believe that those of us blessed with abilities to acquire wealth beyond our basic needs have an obligation to share from our surplus with those who are less fortunate, and that an equitable tax system is the fairest way for us all to meet this obligation.

We support a government that adheres to the rule of law.

We support strong protection of the human and civil rights of all minorities, the free expression of ideas, and free choice in our individual actions so long as they do not interfere with the lives of others.

We believe in the power of diplomacy and dialogue, so we want our government to be a leading force within the world community toward elimination of armed conflicts among nations, as well as the establishment of guarantees of basic human rights for all people.

Our shared belief in the good that citizens and government can do together gives us purpose, while diversity of individual opinions is our strength. Together we form the character of the Democratic Party.

Beyond broad principles, the remainder of this platform expresses consensus on specific issues – whether raised in our neighborhood caucuses or carried forward with much deliberation from past platforms.

This is what Democrats agree upon in Muscatine County, Iowa.

1. AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – AE

Agriculture & Livestock Management – A & LM

We support:

1. Local control over CAFO siting
2. Requiring Clean Water Act permits for all CAFO farms
3. Preventing the loss of farm land to development and erosion
4. Crop diversification aid
5. Research for sustainable, low-impact farming practices
6. Industrial hemp, for biofuel, agricultural, and industrial crop diversity, including intrastate manufacturing and retail.

Recycling and Energy – RE

We support:

1. Incentives for renewable energy resources development
2. Extending the Bottle Bill to all water and beverage containers, requiring Iowa durable goods manufacturers to label product parts as to recyclability
3. Economic incentives to process and recycle waste rather than disposal in landfills
4. Research on fusion as a safer future energy source
5. Increased R&D, installation and subsidizing of carbon-neutral/renewable energy alternatives
6. 50% renewable Energy by 2030, 100% by 2050

Environmental Enhancement & Regulation – ER

We support:

1. Rights of all Iowans to clean air and water
2. The increase of at least 3/8 cent sales tax to support of Iowa's Natural Resources & Outdoor Trust Fund.
3. Renewing the REAP Fund.
4. Wildlife preservation, and wilderness and wetland areas expansion
5. Aggressive EPA, and other governmental agency regulations guaranteeing clean water, air and healthy agricultural and food policies.
6. Holding corporations accountable for environmental damage, increasing fines for repeated environmental law violations
7. Net zero carbon /Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2030

Watershed Management – WM

We support:

1. Protecting aquifers and waterways
2. Building and maintaining waste-water infrastructure using best available technology
3. Effective measures to control non-point-source pollution
4. Ground water protection, requiring ground liners for all open storage of toxic material, including coal and coal ash

Sustainable Rural Development – SD

We support:

1. The Iowa DNR to retain control of all funds collected rather than flowing to Iowa's general fund
2. Zoning flood plain areas for land-use activities which facilitate flood prevention and control and mitigate economic damage

2. Economic Equality

We support:

1. \$15 minimum wage indexed with inflation within two years
2. Reducing the extreme uneven distribution of the nation's income and wealth
3. Effective regulations of stocks, commodities and derivatives trading
4. Full entitlement program funding
5. American companies priority for government contracts
6. A UBI (Universal Basic Income) tax on all industrial robots that replace individual workers
7. Economic reparations for descendants of slaves

Job Security – JS

We Support:

1. Financial deterrents preventing companies from outsourcing U.S. jobs or taking businesses outside the U.S.
2. Fair trade agreements ensuring nations and companies provide decent wages, humane working conditions, and sound environmental policies
3. Preferential governmental purchases of U.S-made products
4. Extension of unemployment benefits to all employees laid off for seasonal or routine reasons
5. Full Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) funding

We Oppose:

1. Employers' use of subcontractors to evade full-time employment responsibilities
2. Any employer's efforts to deny standard employee benefits

Workers' Rights & Safety – WR

We support:

1. Repealing all legislation inhibiting individuals' rights to organize in labor unions
2. Reinstating Chapter 20 for public sector employees

3. Promote laws enabling unions to organize for fair wages and safe working conditions
4. A prevailing wage law for Iowa workers on government projects, promoting proven beneficial effects on the economy, quality of work, and worker safety
5. Requiring insurers to pay all bills directly that result from on-the-job injury and allowing injured workers to choose their medical care providers
6. Allowing workers court redress courts in worker compensation cases
7. Combined nine-month paid parental leave
8. 3 weeks minimum full-pay vacation
9. Eliminated Right to Work status
10. Scheduling protections for part time workers
11. Full benefits for part time workers
12. Protections for victims of wage theft

3. EDUCATION – ED

School Funding – SF

We support:

1. All non-administrative Iowa Public School salaries in the top half of the national average
2. Meaningful professional development for teachers and educational support personnel
3. Eliminating “administrative bloat,” with less than 3% of school-district budgets devoted to administration and administration support
4. Full funding of quality, free to the public, education for Head Start, nutritional school meals, special education, preK-12, baccalaureate, and vocational certification
5. Student-loan forgiveness for teachers in locales and disciplines with teacher shortages
6. Increasing federal funding for veterans’ educational benefits
7. Establishing a permanent allowable growth rate minimum, equal to the CPI
8. Investments in before and after-school programs providing safe, enriched children’s environments
9. Full funding of certification costs for paraeducators

We oppose:

1. Public tax dollars supporting homeschooling, private schools, for-profit schools, vouchers, and all non-public k-12 alternative

2. Balancing school budgets by cutting counseling programs, nurses, and non-STEM items

Public School Programming - SP

We support:

1. School decision making determined by Faculty and non-administrative staff
2. Using course-delivery computer technologies for teacher-assisted instruction, not to replace face-to-face instruction
3. Mandated hands-on, non-computer simulated, industrial-arts and home-economics curriculum for grades 7-12, with gender neutral enrollment
4. Incorporation of dual-credit Academy programs with community colleges for high-school seniors meeting GPA and college qualifying minimums
5. Teacher designed curricula to engage every child
6. Sex positive, comprehensive, research-based sexual health-educational programs, including non-binary gender identifications
7. Full funding and protection of special education and alternative education programs
8. Foreign language study for student fluency beginning between pre-K and third grade
9. Requiring high-school American Civics proficiency
10. Iowa student-teacher ratios below national average
11. Mandating fully funded, Iowa School Board/community approved, K-12 diversity programs
12. K-12 controlled public/private partnerships for STEAM programs
13. All public-school boards having gender equal, ethnically and economically diverse, representation from all major stakeholders, determined by community composition and relationship to the school
14. Hiring more health professional

We oppose:

1. Abstinence-only education programs
2. Unfunded educational reform mandates

Higher Education - HE

We support:

1. Fully funding community colleges, guaranteeing no school receives less funding than the previous year
2. Reducing and preventing “administrative bloat” with less than 3% of college budgets devoted to administration and administration support

3. Eliminating community college District Offices due to redundancy in function and millions of dollars in unnecessary expense
4. Tax-funded, free-to-all-students, community-college/university tuition, room and board for all lowans
5. Uniform student loan collection repayments
6. Full funding of community college job-training programs
7. Expansion of community college locations, providing every lowan equal opportunity toward a post-secondary degree, vocational program, or community education program
8. All non-administrative community college salaries in the top half of the national average
9. All community college/university trustee boards having gender equal, ethnically and economically diverse, representation from all major stakeholders, determined by community composition and relationship to the school

4. GOVERNMENT & LAW – GL

Campaigns and Elections – CE

We support:

1. Electing U.S. Executive Offices by Ranked Choice voting
2. A national holiday for federal elections
3. Universal voter registration
4. Vote-by-mail processes providing adequate time for ballot request and return
5. Requiring auditable code and paper trails for all voting machines
6. Requiring mandatory statistical audits of results after every election
7. Partial public financing of campaigns, with individual contribution limits
8. Reversing the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision
9. Elimination of "Gerrymandering," and setting Federal districting Standards as adopted by Iowa
10. Elimination of Superdelegates and closed primaries
11. Term limits

We Oppose:

1. Any felony voting restrictions
2. Super PACs

Legislative Process – LP

We support:

1. Reducing needed cloture vote numbers in the U.S. Senate
2. Restricting individual nominee holds

Civil Rights – CR

We support:

1. Adopting the Equal Rights Amendment to U.S. and Iowa Constitutions
2. Sexual orientation as a protected category in federal and state civil rights acts
3. Funding and staffing the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
4. Same sex marriage and nationwide recognition
5. Mediation and arbitration before litigation

We oppose:

1. Laws establishing English as sole official language of any governing body
2. Legislation purporting to “protect” religious liberty while infringing on others’ rights
3. Patriot Act and Freedom Act provisions violating Constitutionally protected civil liberties
4. Red light cameras
5. Marginalization of Indigenous Peoples

Budget and Taxation – BT

We support:

1. Fully funded IRS and Iowa DOR
2. Inheritance tax on estates over \$3.5 million
3. Closing tax loopholes, and pursuing prosecution for individual/corporate tax evasion
4. Extending middle-class tax cuts, including child tax credit and marriage penalty relief
5. Progressive residential property tax on \$300,000+ assessed values
6. Capping personal residential taxes for low-income citizens
7. A more equitable tax system

Social Security and Medicare – SM

We support:

1. Strengthening and expanding Social Security and Medicare
2. Social Security Trust Fund protection and separation from the Unified Federal Budget
3. Cost-of-living adjustments formula improvement
4. Increasing earned-income limits
5. Removing FICA wage caps

We oppose:

1. Social Security and Medicare privatization

Reproductive Rights – RR

We support:

1. Reproductive freedom for all individuals

We oppose:

1. Government restrictions impeding access to abortion or contraception

Criminal Justice – CJ

We support:

1. Equal justice for all
2. Incarceration alternatives, focused on rehabilitation and parole
3. Thorough videotaping of all interrogations
4. Restorative justice programs
5. Marijuana legalization
6. A strong, properly funded Iowa Judicial system
7. Full funding for and timely processing of rape kits

We oppose:

1. The death penalty
2. Minimum mandatory sentencing for non-violent offenses
3. Racial profiling
4. For-Profit and/or private prisons or detention centers
5. Militarizing local law enforcement

Internet – IN

We support:

1. Universal broadband internet access
2. Online access to all publicly accessible documents

Consumer Protection – CP

We support:

1. Strengthening product safety standards and enforcement for all consumer goods
2. Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and the Consumer Protection Act
3. Reinstating Glass-Steagall

Gun Regulation – GR

We support:

1. Responsible weapon ownership and care
2. Effective gun-dealer and gun-show regulatory controls
3. 15-day waiting period and mandatory universal background checks for firearm purchases

4. Prohibiting handgun sale or delivery to anyone convicted of a felony involving a firearm, or under age 21
5. Firearm and hunting safety classes required to obtain a permit
6. Prohibiting civilian carrying of firearms in public buildings
7. Property owners' right to prohibit firearms on their properties
8. Banning "bump stock" or similar device sales, that allow increased rapid-fire in semi-automatic rifles
9. Limiting firearm capacity to 11 rounds

We oppose:

1. Open-carry laws

Comprehensive Immigration Reform – IR

We support:

1. Earned citizenship paths for the undocumented workforce
2. A clean Development, Relief, and Education for Minors Act
3. Granting immigrant detainees due process, access to counsel and legal information
4. Ending the Immigrant Detention Quota
5. Expediting the family reunification process
6. Improving border security
7. Classification as refugees of unaccompanied minors seeking entry to the U.S.
8. Humane local and state laws, integrating immigrants into our society

We Oppose:

1. Building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico
2. Unnecessary Travel Bans
3. Federalization of ICE and local law enforcement

Reduction of Violence and Abuse - RV

We support:

1. Properly educated, funded and staffed victim services agencies
2. Annual law enforcement and EMT education to recognize, respond to, and properly care for Human Trafficking, mental illness, and abuse victims
3. Education and implementation of Harm Reduction techniques

5.Veterans and Military Affairs-VE

We Support:

1. Adequate Funding of Healthcare, Education, Housing, COLA and Military Benefits for Armed Forces, Veterans, Families.
2. Investigation, prosecution of sexual assault/ harassment by civilian LE and the courts.

3. Codifying MISSION act, streamlining access to care, payments by VA to civilian providers rigorous oversight by OIG
4. 24-hour observation hold until medically stable for transfer to VA bed per MISSION act, Codified in Iowa Hospital Code.
5. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, (HOT) for TBI, Brain Trauma, Spinal Injuries
6. Doing away with percentages of disabilities to acquire benefits through the VA for injured Veterans for Health Insurance, Life Insurance, tax benefits, vision, dental, education, other benefits, including compensation tiers, once a Veteran acquires 50% disability
7. Accounting for all POW/MIA and recoverable remains for all time
8. PTSD/TBI as a Qualifying Medical condition (124.e) with Steam Vapor of dry flower as an adequate treatment option for relief, no cap on THC
9. An undocumented person can volunteer for military service as a path to citizenship

We Oppose:

1. VA service budget cuts
2. Union busting by Federal Government
3. Randomized and/or mandatory drug testing of Veterans for THC, and subsequent denial of refilling of medications for refusal to test, or for positive test results
4. Distribution of military combat equipment to LE or any other non-military entity
5. Criminalization of Marijuana in CSA Schedule 1
6. Trans Ban
7. Bigotry or intolerance based SOP directed towards any Active Duty, Veterans, Retirees, Federal Support Employees, Immigrants, Union Members, POC, LGBTQI, Religion, Race, Culture, Gender or lack thereof

6.HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – HH

Universal Healthcare Coverage – UH

We support:

1. Universal single-payer healthcare as an option for all including:
 - A. Traditional healthcare, chiropractic, acupuncture, physical therapy, full vision coverage including vision wear, dental and dental wear, hearing including hearing devices, prosthetic and assistive devices, prescription drug coverage, long-term care, preventive care, mental health, and substance-abuse treatment programs and facilities
 - B. Unrestricted access for reproductive health services, including family planning, contraceptive services, emergency contraceptives, and fertility services, including access for minors no parental consent or notification

- C. Access to abortion services as defined by the 1973 Roe v. Wade
- D. Transgender healthcare, including all meds, puberty blockers and surgical services and mental health services
- E: Medical use of Cannabis with Iowa dispensaries, cannabis access, dry flower, whole plant, steam vapor, expanding medical conditions
- F. Federal exemption from schedule 1
- G: Non-emergency and emergency medical transportation
- 2. Public Educational programs for prevention of STD and pregnancy
- 3. Physician/hospital choice
- 4. Increased HIV and stem cell research funding
- 5. Patient records confidentiality, with patients controlling access to their records and genetic information
- 6. Decriminalizing 1 ounce of cannabis, personal possession, no intent to distribute, for medical card holders who have dispensary cannabis from other states
- 7. Patients' right to die, right to try, honor ISTAT
- 8. Federally funded stem-cell research
- 9. FDA vitamins and supplements regulation
- 10. Allowing doctors to use telecommunication to prescribe abortion inducing drugs

We oppose:

- 1. Costly insurance company practices that cover too little, and which determine rates and deny coverage
- 2. Denied/substandard care due to personal/religious bias by medical/pharmaceutical professionals.
- 3. Prescription drug advertising
- 4. Health provider drug kickbacks
- 5. Abortion waiting periods and trimester limits, heartbeat bills
- 6. Legislation requiring transvaginal ultrasound prior to abortion
- 7. Requiring abortion provider physician-admitting privileges
- 8. Requiring pre abortion counseling, in person or through video/print
- 9. Personhood legislation restricting women's right to abortion
- 10. Medicare/Medicaid privatization
- 11. Conversion therapy
- 12. Non ACA compliant insurance policies
- 13. Any judicial action or court cases to overturn the ACA
- 14. Taking individual's assets including savings and homes before they can get adequate medical or nursing home care.

Mental Health - MH

We Support:

- 1. A long-term funding formula to assure adequate access to mental-health services for all Iowans
- 2. Implementing a childrens' mental-health system

3. Expansion of mental health and substance abuse programs instead of incarceration
4. Adequate funding for treatment, including in-patient facilities, for mentally ill and addicted individuals of all ages

Child Protection and Well Being - CP

We support:

1. Fully funded programs promoting child health, safety, development, and pre-natal care
2. Fully funded child-welfare programs with attention to family preservation, pregnancy planning, parenting training, and childhood stability
3. Foster care for children up to age 21, including independent living
4. Fully funded domestic violence shelters, prevention services, and outreach
5. Increased funding for Aid to Dependent Children

Affordable Housing - AH

We support:

1. Affordable housing construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation
2. Public/private partnership for construction, renovation, and adequate supply of affordable low and moderate income family housing

Homeless Services - HS

We support

1. Providing homeless people with food, shelter, hygienic services financial services, educational opportunities, greater access to social services, and job and training opportunities
2. Broader dissemination of public information concerning housing programs
3. Increasing Section 8 housing vouchers, landlord incentives to accept vouchers, and tools for program communication and acceptance

Disability Services – DS

We support:

1. Improving accessibility toward full participation in all life aspects
2. Ending discriminatory employment practices/policies
3. Improving early diagnosis and treatment
4. Improving respite and in-home services
5. Transportation for employment

Elderly Services – ES

We support:

1. no limits on services to keep people in their homes including 24 hour nursing services

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – IA

The Rule of Law – RL

We support:

1. U.S. adherence to the rule of law and international standards regarding humane treatment of prisoners of war and security detainees
2. Immediate closing of the Guantanamo detention facility and the transfer of those prisoners that cannot be released to a Federal prison in United States.
3. Access to federal courts for foreigners detained by presidential order
4. U.S. joining the International Criminal Court
5. U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Middle East Peace - ME

We support:

1. US effort to reach a 2-state solution to the Palestine/Israel conflict
2. Palestine's and Israel's right to live within secure borders
3. Health and welfare of the Palestinian and the Israeli people
4. The Right of return or just compensation for displaced Palestinians
5. US pressure to end Israeli's settlement activity on territory occupied in the Six-Day War (1967), including sanctions on products/investments from settlements
6. Affirm the right of the Palestinians to a viable, contiguous state.
7. Remove any relative of the current US president and the current Administration that possesses financial interests in the State of Israel (and in related lobbies) from holding any role in negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis
8. Moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Tel Aviv.

We oppose:

1. Trump Deal of the Century
2. Any move by the US government to consider Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel before any final resolution and agreement between the two parties
3. The Separation Wall precluding Palestinian freedom of movement

Building Peace – BP

We Support:

1. International humanitarian relief and reconstruction of affected Nations
2. Increasing humanitarian involvement and international support for democratic governments
3. Normalization of relations with Cuba
4. Fair, free, and open elections in post-war societies that are accepted as legitimate by their own citizens
5. Promoting citizen diplomacy with people of other countries
6. Reducing U.S. military forces abroad

We oppose

1. ALL forms of terrorism and torture
2. Any policy that weakens the United Nations work and initiatives.
3. Any Plan to leave NATO