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**IOWA DEMOCRATS
STATE CONVENTION
June 17, 2006**

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Keeping the Promise to America's Servicemembers and Veterans

We recognize the service and sacrifices of our servicemembers and veterans, including Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Leonard Boswell, who are the only veterans serving Iowa in the United States Congress.

We recognize that no political party, religious body, or individual can speak for all veterans.

We also recognize that expressing differing opinions on governmental policy can never be unpatriotic, as it is the basic right that protects our liberties and the underlying strength of our democracy. Thomas Jefferson said it best: "When the people fear their government there is tyranny; when the government fears the people there is liberty."

We renew our long standing commitment to our veterans and in recognition of our debt owed to them:

We support:

- Military service pay adequate to support service members and their families including cost of living increases
- Family health benefits for all soldiers called to active duty
- Expanding the Voluntary Active Duty and Reserve Military strength with adequate funding to properly equip our troops with the most advanced equipment including body and vehicle armor and promised benefits
- The reorganization, funding, and training of the National Guard to ensure readiness for any state or national emergency
- Eliminating the use of National Guard units to fight foreign wars unless directed by Congress
- An exemption from federal and state income tax of all military compensation while serving on active duty
- Veterans' priority preference in training programs and employment
- Active recruitment of veterans and priority preference for hiring veterans
- Mandatory funding for VA health care, including hospitals, clinics, and services
- A Gulf War / Afghanistan War / Iraq War veterans' bonus
- Full accounting of POW/MIA's and quick declassification of relevant documents
- Designation of the third Friday in September as "POW/MIA Day"
- Full funding, salary adjustments and staffing for the Iowa Veterans' Home
- Enhanced specialized treatment and research for service-related conditions, such as mental illness, disabilities caused by injury, and Agent Orange

- 47 • Full funding sufficient to accomplish missions assigned by statute to the Iowa Veterans
- 48 Commission Office at Camp Dodge
- 49 • A Veterans Affairs Office and a Director of Veterans Affairs for each Iowa county
- 50 • Financial support for the service officers of veterans' service organizations
- 51 • Payment of the full \$50 million dollars that was previously authorized by the Iowa
- 52 Legislature for the Veterans Trust Fund
- 53 • Promised benefits, retirement, and severance pay to veterans without offsets of disability
- 54 compensation
- 55 • An immediate increase of the amount of the veterans' property exemption and indexing it
- 56 to the rate of inflation, and a comparable credit for those who rent
- 57 • Increased support for homeless veterans
- 58 • Full funding of the Iowa Veterans' Cemetery
- 59 • Renaming Iowa Interstate 35 as "The Purple Heart Trail" to include Iowa among the
- 60 states from Minnesota to Texas that have already done so

61

62

63 **Americans Remember September 11, 2001**

64

65 We remember the families who lost loved ones who were either on the planes or in the

66 buildings that were hit on September 11, 2001. There were more lives taken on September

67 11, 2001 than in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

68

69 We remember Karen Ann Kincaid. We also remember the brave men and women who died

70 trying to take back Flight 93 and who kept that plane from getting to the White House.

71

72 We support the funding of the Flight 93 Memorial and the passage of a bill to award these

73 heroes the Freedom Medal.

74

75

76 **Rosa Parks Remembered**

77

78 Not all our freedoms are fought on the battlefield. The struggle for and defense of our

79 freedoms occur daily through big and little acts.

80

81 Rosa Parks' refusal to surrender her bus seat in segregated Montgomery, Alabama, which

82 led to massive social change was such an act.

83

84 For her lifelong contribution and devotion to the struggle for civil rights, we propose honoring

85 Rosa Parks every December 1st.

86

87

88 **Investigation of the Bush Administration**

89

90 We call for an investigation into crimes that may have been committed by President George

91 W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and their Administration

92

93

94 **Iowa Army Ammunitions Plant**

95
96 We support community members who lived on, or adjacent to, the Iowa Army Ammunitions
97 Plant from 1947 and on to be included in health screenings being done by the University of
98 Iowa Hospital
99

100
101 **Special Resolution of the Platform Committee**

102
103 We expect a Democratic candidate to uphold the ideals of the Democratic Party and to
104 publicly support a substantial majority of the planks in the platform
105

106
107 **IOWA DEMOCRATS**
108 **2006 STATE CONVENTION PLATFORM REPORT**

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110
111 **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**
112

113 We Iowa Democrats are proud of our Party's heritage. We salute the heroes of September
114 11th and we stand united in support of our troops in the field, and remember that legitimate
115 diversity of political opinions is not seen as weakness but rather as strength. We are proud
116 to call ourselves Americans especially in these trying days and tough economic times.
117

118 The spirit that animates America's oldest political party is alive throughout the world.
119 American's faith in democracy is a beacon to persons of the developing world as they strive
120 to win the rights Americans take for granted. We are justly proud of our Democratic Party,
121 its heritage, its accomplishments and its diversities. No part of that heritage is more valuable
122 than our belief in the rights and worth of each individual. Iowans and other Americans have
123 given their lives to maintain those rights and we unequivocally oppose policies that require
124 forfeiting those rights in the name of fighting terrorism. Giving up our most precious rights
125 means losing that which makes us Americans. Liberty and diversity are our strengths, and
126 we understand that it is only in maintaining those strengths that we will continue to stand as
127 a beacon of freedom to the world.
128

129 We support Iowans serving in the military and look forward to their return home to this
130 beautiful land. Every day they serve is a testament to their love of country and we honor
131 their service. We love our country, but will never support government policies we think are
132 bad for America.
133

134 As temporary stewards of our natural resources, we demand that our governing bodies
135 develop policies and laws promoting sound energy practices and permanently protecting
136 our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate use. Clean air, clean water, and diverse
137 ecosystems, including our national parks, oceans, and ancient forests, are part of our
138 children's future and must be protected. As stewards of Iowa's heritage, we cherish our land
139 and family farms.
140

141 All Americans have a stake in local, national and global economic systems that provide first
142 and foremost for the basic human needs: nourishment, shelter, health, employment and
143 education. The answer to governmental fiscal problems lies in a strong economy founded
144 upon broadly based prosperity. An equitable and wide distribution of wealth and a free and
145 fairly compensated labor force expands our economy and creates a healthier society.
146 Market forces alone often do not serve the common good.

147

148 We must provide accessible, affordable, and quality education to all Iowans at all
149 educational levels. Adequate funding, accountability, innovation, and cost-effective
150 programming are essential to ensure Iowans are competitive in the national and global
151 economy. Education is an investment in Iowa's future.

152

153 Whenever the rights of any of our citizens are threatened, the rights of all are endangered.
154 We take seriously the obligation to preserve, protect and secure basic constitutional and
155 civil rights for ALL. We believe in a government which consistently and fairly serves and
156 protects ALL people. We believe in a government that protects ALL individuals and assures
157 equal opportunities for all. We believe none are truly free unless all are free; that justice is
158 the right of all, not just those who have the means or power to seize it.

159

160 The legitimate function of government is to accomplish those social goals which we cannot
161 achieve as individuals. We believe in and will continue to work for a truly representative
162 government: working for the good of the people; compassionate, progressive, responsible
163 and fair; striving to achieve peace, prosperity, and instilling confidence and hope.

164

165 We support a return to meaningful checks and balances between legislative, judicial, and
166 executive branches of government.

167

168 We continue to stand with people everywhere who demand freedom, justice, and
169 opportunity; and applaud their peaceful progress while extending a helping hand to support
170 new, fragile democracies. We look forward to the day when all countries are open to the free
171 exchange of ideas and the fair and equitable exchange of goods.

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STATEMENT OF ISSUES

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AGRICULTURAL, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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179

FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY

180

We support:

181

- Senator Harkin's efforts to implement the Conservation Security Program, extending the 2002 Farm Bill until it and other conservation programs are fully funded and implemented
- Increasing USDA loan rates by the rate of inflation, a hard cap on subsidies, elimination of LDP, elimination of tax-free exchanges under Section 1031, increased testing and inspection of foods, and increased oversight procedures for GMOs

186

187

STATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY

188

We support:

- 189 Policies and programs which enhance the proud tradition of Iowa family farming, the
190 humane treatment of animals, and the further development of a new bio-based economy in
191 rural Iowa including:
- 192 • Strict enforcement of anti-trust laws and banning integrated packer ownership of livestock
 - 193 • Greater research funding and promotion of sustainable, diversified farming practices, soil
194 conservation, organic agriculture, alternate crops, local food systems, efficient use of
195 energy and chemical inputs, and more beginning farmer programs
 - 196 • Permitting the cultivation of industrial hemp

197
198 **FOOD SAFETY**

199 **We support:**

- 200 • Food safety and informed consumer choice through education and product and country
201 of origin labeling so that citizens have the ability to accept or reject irradiated, genetically
202 altered, transgenic or hormonally enhanced food products.

203
204 **CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO)**

205 **We support:**

- 206 • Legislation regulating CAFOs providing for county control in applying state guidelines,
207 with a temporary moratorium until zoning is returned to counties, requiring an
208 environmental impact statement, repealing the tax abatement for waste systems, creating
209 an indemnity fund to allow aggrieved parties damages associated with CAFOs, ensuring
210 the ability to file lawsuits against CAFOs, and no restrictions on filing complaints with the
211 IDNR/EPA.

212
213 **PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL AREAS FROM DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN**
214 **SPRAWL**

215 **We support:**

216 Policies/programs to protect agricultural land and natural areas by:

- 217 • Encouraging redevelopment within existing cities/towns
- 218 • Prohibiting the designation of Urban Renewal Districts/Zones outside of urban areas or
219 requiring such designations outside urban areas to be approved by a majority of voters in
220 the proposed District
- 221 • Requiring approval of 80% of the involved property-owners in calculating the area to be
222 annexed under any 80%/20% involuntary annexation and excluding public lands from the
223 calculation
- 224 • Limiting TIF to its original intended use
- 225 • Eliminating property tax credits/ subsidies for developers
- 226 • Eliminating ag-related payments to landowners whose land/buildings become used for
227 criminal purposes

228
229 **ENERGY POLICY**

230 **We support:**

231 Promoting energy independence and combating global climate change by:

- 232 • Leveraging our universities for energy research and development
- 233 • Energy conservation and efficiency through grants, loans, and incentives
- 234 • Accelerated development of alternative energy resources and ultra fuel-efficient vehicles
- 235 • Increasing CAFE standards to 50 miles per gallon by 2010

- 236 • Creating CAFE standards for SUVs and pickups
- 237 • Increased infrastructure for bio-fuel production and distribution
- 238 • Expansion of mass transit
- 239 • A standardized interconnect agreement between all energy companies and
- 240 Farmer/Neighborhood owned renewable energy producers that includes access to the
- 241 grid with reasonable compensation.

242

243 **ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND PROTECTION**

244 **We support:**

245 Protecting/ enhancing our parks, preserves, and natural resources, outdoor recreational
246 opportunities, cultural historic heritage, increasing ecological diversity of public lands, and
247 educating Iowans to become better resource stewards through:

- 248 • Full funding and enforcement authority for IDNR and IDALS, including fines to support
- 249 these agencies' regulatory actions
- 250 • Enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water and Clean Air acts
- 251 • Governmental and private efforts to permanently protect our environment and
- 252 watersheds for future generations
- 253 • Reforming the state's "Credible Data" law to permit collection of water samples by
- 254 volunteers
- 255 • Full funding of REAP
- 256 • Increasing penalties for all polluters and increasing funding for reestablishing Iowa's
- 257 ecosystems
- 258 • Enforcement of hazardous material transport management and tracking regulations
- 259 • Additional 2% tax on non-renewable, resource disposable goods to benefit
- 260 environmental, landfill, and emission-reducing efforts and expansion of recycling
- 261 programs by increasing container deposits and handling fees
- 262 • Increased funding to build and maintain wastewater infrastructure

263 **We oppose:**

- 264 • Subordinating environmental protection and public health to corporate profits, exempting
- 265 the timber industry from regulation, and drilling and clear cutting on public lands,
- 266 including the ANWR.

267

268 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

269 **ANWR** - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

270 **CAFÉ** - Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency

271 **CAFO** - Confined Animal Feeding Operation

272 **EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency

273 **GMO** - Genetically Modified Organisms

274 **IDNR** - Iowa Department of Natural Resources

275 **IDALS** - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

276 **LDP** - Loan Deficiency Payments

277 **REAP** - Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund

278 **SUV** - Sports Utility Vehicle

279 **TIF** - Tax Increment Financing

280 **USDA** - United States Department of Agriculture

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ECONOMY, COMMERCE, & LABOR

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JOBS, SAFETY, & LABOR

We support:

- Repealing the Right-to-Work Law
- PLA's
- Strengthening the NLRA
- Full funding for the NLRB
- "Fair-share" clauses in labor agreements
- Equal wages and proportionate benefits for part time workers
- The right to unionize without penalty
- All issues as mandatory subjects of bargaining
- Unemployment benefits for employees in case of "lockouts"
- Penalties for hiring undocumented workers
- Equal pay for equal work
- Employers and government entities abiding by labor contracts and arbitrators' decisions
- Considering bidders' safety records for government contracts
- Laws discouraging "temps" replacing permanent employees
- Eliminating employee/independent contractor misclassification
- Public entities paying prevailing wages in contracted projects
- Leaving Davis Bacon Act unchanged
- Adequate funding and staffing of OSHA, MSHA and NIOSH
- The right of workers to refuse unsafe work
- Covering all agricultural workers by health and safety statutes
- Adequate staffing levels for workplace safety
- Allowing employees and unions greater participation with OSHA
- Allowing employee choice of physician for worker's compensation claims
- Whistleblower protection for publicly funded employees and health care workers

We oppose:

- Employment-at-will doctrine
- Privatization of public jobs and services
- Employment-related polygraph tests
- Prison labor that displaces non-incarcerated workers
- Mandatory overtime
- Efforts to limit or end overtime pay
- Out-sourcing of jobs
- Replacement workers for those on strike
- Temporary immigration status that perpetuates exploitation of workers

WAGES, PENSIONS, & BENEFITS

We support:

- "Living wage" as minimum wage
- Appropriately funded, fully honored, secure, portable retirement and health care plans
- Non-discriminatory parental leave benefits
- Requiring large employers to contribute to health care coverage or contribute to Iowa's Medicaid fund

- 329 • The Railroad retirement system and FELA

330

331 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

332 **We support:**

- 333 • Incentives for companies to remain in the US
- 334 • Strengthening laws to protect employees during plant closing or bankruptcy
- 335 • Listing employees as first-in-line creditors
- 336 • Student loan forgiveness for staying in Iowa
- 337 • Rebuilding the US with a WPA-type program
- 338 • Encouraging the purchase of US made products
- 339 • Eliminating subsidies for large chain businesses
- 340 • Development of small local enterprises
- 341 • A federal jobs program, vocational training and retraining
- 342 • Encouraging local entrepreneurs through small business loans

343

344 **CURBING BUSINESS ABUSES**

345 **We support:**

- 346 • Enforcement of anti-trust legislation
- 347 • Applying corporate tax penalties for excessive officer compensation

348 **We oppose:**

- 349 • Allowing non-banking entities to establish banks
- 350 • Tax benefits and loopholes for companies moving to offshore havens
- 351 • Double charges on ATM's, excessive bank fees and credit card interest rates, payday
- 352 loans, car titles loans, tax refund anticipation loans, and other predatory lending practices
- 353 • Insurance credit scoring

354

355 **COMMERCE & TRANSPORTATION**

356 **We support:**

- 357 • Minimum 90% US manufactured content "Made in the USA" labeled products
- 358 • Country of origin labeling
- 359 • "Fair trade" as opposed to "free trade"
- 360 • Increased funding for Amtrak and FRA

361 **We oppose:**

- 362 • Manipulating foreign currency that adversely affects U.S. commerce
- 363 • Deregulating the electric utility industry
- 364 • Corporate welfare, indiscriminate bailouts, and tax breaks
- 365 • WTO, NAFTA and CAFTA
- 366 • Price gouging
- 367 • No-bid government contracts
- 368 • Large business/conglomerates destroying small businesses

369

370 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

371 ***ATM*** - Automatic Teller Machine

372 ***CAFTA*** - Central America Free Trade Agreement

373 ***FELA*** - Federal Employers Liability Act

374 ***FRA*** - Federal Railroad Administration

375 **MSHA** - Mine Safety and Health Administration
376 **NAFTA** - North American Free Trade Agreement
377 **NIOSH** - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
378 **NLRA** - National Labor Relations Act
379 **NLRB** - National Labor Relations Board
380 **OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
381 **PLA** - Project Labor Agreement
382 **WPA** - Works Progress Administration
383 **WTO** - World Trade Organization

384
385

EDUCATION

386

EDUCATORS

387

We support:

- 389 • Adding paid teacher contract days for professional development and new teacher
- 390 mentoring
- 391 • Student loan forgiveness for teachers in shortage areas
- 392 • Increasing funding for K-14 teacher salaries to at least 25th in the nation
- 393 • State-funded reimbursement for special education teachers for attaining certification
- 394 required by 2004 IDEA
- 395 • Tax credit for K-14 instructors for classroom materials purchased out-of-pocket
- 396 • Living wage salaries for substitutes, para-educators and adjuncts

397

We oppose:

- 398 • Signing bonuses and merit pay
- 399 • "Fast track" teacher certification

400

HIGHER EDUCATION

401

We support:

- 402 • Expanding eligibility and increasing state and federal funding of student financial aid for
- 403 post-secondary education
- 404 • Public service for student loan repayment
- 405 • Timely disbursements of student loans and grants
- 406 • Fully funding community colleges and Regents' universities
- 407 • Federal and state incentives to keep tuitions affordable
- 408 • Eliminating disqualification for student financial aid sources due to drug-related charges,
- 409 arrests, convictions, and/or incarceration
- 410 • Increasing work-study programs

411

We oppose:

- 412 • Punitive fees and interest for college loans

413

EARLY CHILDHOOD & K-12 STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

414

We support:

- 415 • Full funding for early childhood education, public preschool, Head Start for ages 0-5 that
- 416 meets Head Start performance standards or NAEYC
- 417 • Mandatory kindergarten
- 418 • Ample funding to create rich learning experiences for all students, including gifted

419

- 422 • Foreign language in early elementary years
- 423 • Non-sexist curricula
- 424 • Funding before-/after-school and summer programs
- 425 • A state-wide "anti-bully law" to protect ALL children
- 426 • Each special education student be weighted by degree of need when determining special
- 427 and general education classroom size and staffing
- 428 • State and federal funding for Citizen Diplomacy programs to promote understanding of
- 429 diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious groups
- 430 • Repealing NCLB
- 431 We oppose:
- 432 • NCLB penalties until fully funded
- 433 • Using standardized assessments as primary measure of learning
- 434 • The teaching of "intelligent design" as science in public schools
- 435

436 **STUDENT PRIVACY**

437 **We oppose:**

- 438 • Databases of personal information under NCLB
- 439

440 **EDUCATION FUNDING**

441 **We support:**

- 442 • Immediately increasing allowable growth rate of state aid to 6 percent
- 443 • Funding districts to improve energy efficiency
- 444 • Full funding for vocational education
- 445

445 **We oppose:**

- 446 • Cutting art, music, physical education, media specialists, counseling programs and
- 447 nurses to balance school budgets
- 448 • Diverting monies from public schools to fund or subsidize private educational ventures
- 449 • Mid-year funding pullbacks
- 450

451 **PRE-K-12 & HIGHER**

452 **We support:**

- 453 • Timely delivery of school aid payments
- 454 • Controlling textbook costs
- 455 • Reinstatement of full funding for technology, including ICN
- 456 • Development of a state-wide career academy system
- 457 • Public-private partnerships enhancing community involvement
- 458 • Best-in-the-nation student/teacher ratio
- 459

460 **SPECIAL NEEDS**

461 **We support:**

- 462 • Federal funding of IDEA at the 40% level as legislated
- 463 • Enforcement of Equal Access to all educational services, including physically-impaired
- 464 accessibility for schools still without
- 465 • Restoring all funds cut from the area agencies
- 466 • Increased funding for campaigns against illiteracy
- 467 • Increased special needs funding (at-risk, talented and gifted, ESL, and disabled)

- 468 • Funding Vocational Rehabilitation to eliminate waiting lists
469 • State-run institution students funded equally as if in public school
470

471 **LIBRARY / MEDIA**

472 **We support:**

- 473 • Increased funding for The State Library of Iowa, Iowa Library Service Areas, Enrich Iowa,
474 Open Access, and Access Plus
475 • Free and open access to knowledge
476 • Patron privacy
477 • Funding for NEA, NEH, NSF and CPB
478

479 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

480 **CPB** - Corporation for Public Broadcasting

481 **ESL** - English Second Language

482 **ICN** - Iowa Communications Network

483 **IDEA** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

484 **K-14** - Kindergarten through junior college

485 **NAEYC** - National Association for the Education of Young Children

486 **NCLB** - No Child Left Behind

487 **NEA** - National Endowment for the Arts

488 **NEH** - National Endowment for the Humanities

489 **NSF** - National Science Foundation
490

491

492

492 **GOVERNMENT & LAW**

493

494 **CORRECTIONS**

495 **We support:**

- 496 • Alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders
497 • Restorative justice and transition-to-community programs
498 • Increased funding for prisoner substance-abuse, disability and mental health treatment
499 and screening, including educational, vocational, and technical training programs
500 • Voting rights for felons upon completion of their sentence
501 • Aggressive prosecution and sentencing of white-collar criminals
502 • Risk-related ranking of sex offenders to determine residency restrictions, rehabilitation
503 and monitoring
504 • Reclassification of sex offenders to reflect the severity of their crimes
505 • Decriminalizing marijuana
506 • Increased funding for juvenile delinquency prevention

507 **We oppose:**

- 508 • The Drug Tax Stamp
509 • Mandatory minimum sentencing
510 • Capital Punishment
511

512 **GOVERNMENT PROCESSES**

513 **We support:**

- 514 • Enforcement of "Sunshine Laws" and "Open Meeting Laws"

- 515 • Restricting the redrawing of congressional and state legislative districts to the year
- 516 following the national decennial census
- 517 • Presentation of state constitutional amendments only at the time of regular, general
- 518 elections
- 519 • Full representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia
- 520 • The use of open and competitive bidding and disclosure in government contracts
- 521 • The protection of historically significant structures and neighborhoods with tax credits and
- 522 restoration effort funding
- 523 • Fully funding legislative mandates and entitlement programs
- 524 • Adequate federal funding for the independent operation of PBS
- 525 • Reinstating the FCC Fairness Doctrine
- 526 • Ensuring all citizens equal access to government services and no consolidation of judicial
- 527 districts or county offices without prior approval by area residents
- 528 • Requiring legislators and members of Congress be given adequate time to read bills prior
- 529 to a vote
- 530 • Legislation giving greater protection to property owners from seizure of private property
- 531 for economic development purposes

532 **We oppose:**

- 533 • Annexation without prior approval by residents
- 534 • Media consolidation

535

536 **CHILD SERVICES**

537 **We support:**

- 538 • Gender neutral approaches in custodial matters
- 539 • Aggressively pursuing unpaid child support
- 540 • Improved monitoring of child custody visitation rights
- 541 • Improved monitoring of child visitation rights

542

543 **MILITARY/VETERANS**

544 **We support:**

- 545 • Full combat pay awarded retroactively to US military personnel serving in combat
- 546 theaters
- 547 • Full rights and privileges of adulthood for all military personnel and those registered for
- 548 any required selective service
- 549 • Reducing or eliminating state institution tuition fees commensurate with military service

550 **We oppose:**

- 551 • A military draft without a Congressional declaration of war
- 552 • Using mercenaries for combat operations

553

554 **CIVIL RIGHTS (PRIORITY PLANK)**

555 **We support:**

- 556 • The ERA
- 557 • Equal marital rights for all consenting adults regardless of sexual orientation or gender
- 558 identification
- 559 • Repealing DOMA
- 560 • Legislation protecting same sex couples' adoption rights

- 561 • Adding "Sexual Orientation", "Trans-Gender", and "Disability" to State and Federal Anti-
- 562 Hate Crime, Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Bullying and any other civil rights laws
- 563 • Forbidding the Defense Department and branches of the military from discriminating on
- 564 the basis of sexual orientation
- 565 • Federal legislation guaranteeing the right to privacy including reproductive choice
- 566 • Legal written permission from individual account holders for any sharing of non-public
- 567 information
- 568 • Due process of law for all individuals held by U.S. authorities
- 569 • Affirmative Action and Title IX
- 570 • Recruitment of members of protected classes to serve in government
- 571 • Strict enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act

572 **We oppose:**

- 573 • The erosion of 4th Amendment protections in the conduct of government surveillance
- 574 • Erosion of separation between church and state
- 575 • National identification cards
- 576 • Any Constitutional amendment limiting or denying civil rights
- 577 • The erosion of Miranda rights
- 578 • Any governmental assets used to support the Boy Scouts of America or other
- 579 organizations that do not accept gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender & atheists as
- 580 members, leaders and staff

581

582 **TAXATION**

583 **We support:**

- 584 • An equitable, progressive tax system
- 585 • Increasing the dependent exemption
- 586 • Rescinding tax cuts for the top two federal income tax brackets
- 587 • Reestablishing the Estate Tax with appropriate exemption limits
- 588 • Reestablishing property tax credits to qualified seniors, veterans and the disabled
- 589 • Requiring businesses to repay loans, grants, and tax incentives if they fail to meet
- 590 required conditions
- 591 • A uniform licensing system for non-commercial vehicles
- 592 • Reducing the deficit
- 593 • Increasing the tobacco tax

594

595 **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

596 **We support:**

- 597 • Giving consumers the right to sue for violations of the state Consumer Fraud Act

598 **We oppose:**

- 599 • Efforts to increase corporate control and restriction over the Internet, including efforts to
- 600 impose a surcharge for email and limit bandwidth availability
- 601 • Corporate personhood with 14th Amendment rights

602

603 **IMMIGRATION**

604 **We support:**

- 605 • Immigration programs that create fair, accessible and legal paths to citizenship
- 606 • Protection of all immigrants' civil and human rights

- 607 • Equal consideration by CIS for all people seeking political asylum
608 • Vigorous enforcement of immigration laws
609 • Immigration Titles within the McCain-Kennedy-Kolbe-Flake-Gutierrez Bill promoting
610 family unity, access to health care, civics integration, protection against fraud and
611 adjustment of status
612

613 **LAW**

614 **We support:**

- 615 • Responsible firearm ownership
616 • Requiring that forfeiture of private property include adequate due process, protect
617 innocent property owners, and fit the crime
618 • Treating substance abuse as a public health issue instead of a criminal issue
619 • Equal process for non-domestic abused and harassed victims to obtain no contact orders
620

620 **We oppose:**

- 621 • Limiting judgments in civil liability lawsuits
622 • Private ownership of assault style weapons
623

624 **SOCIAL SECURITY**

625 **We support:**

- 626 • Social Security remaining a universal, non-privatized, mandatory, contributory, social
627 insurance system and equal benefits accessible to all contributors
628 • Eliminating the cap on personal contributions to Social Security
629 • Repayment of Social Security funds borrowed for general federal budgetary items
630 • A Social Security fund that is separate from the federal budget
631 • Correction of the Social Security "notch" inequity
632

633 **PATRIOT ACT**

634 **We oppose:**

- 635 • The Patriot Act
636

637 **ELECTIONS**

638 **We support:**

- 639 • Voter-verified paper audit trail, statistically significant random audits of precincts and
640 public disclosure of voting software used
641 • A program using voting system standards that will test voting, reporting and auditing
642 systems
643 • Publicly financed elections for state and federal offices
644 • Campaign finance reform that limits, restricts and monitors all campaign contributions
645 • Having National Election Day as a holiday, allowing same day voter registration, mobile
646 registration and strongly encouraging voter registration for all high school students upon
647 reaching the legal age
648

648 **We oppose:**

- 649 • Fee-connected voter identification requirements
650

651 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

652 **CIS** - *Citizenship and Immigration Service*

653 **DOMA** - *Defense of Marriage Act*

654 **ERA** - Equal Rights Amendment
655 **FCC** - Federal Communications Commission
656 **PBS** - Public Broadcasting Service

657
658

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

660

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE/MEDICARE-MEDICAID (PRIORITY PLANK)

We support:

- 663 • A National health care system that provides access to comprehensive, high-quality
664 affordable healthcare
- 665 • Full funding for Medicaid, Medicare and HAWK-I
- 666 • Nationally equalizing reimbursement rates for health care providers and facilities for
667 Medicare and Medicaid services

668

PUBLIC HEALTH/CONSUMER PROTECTION & SAFETY

We support:

- 671 • Open, honest and full Federal participation and leadership in preparation for potential
672 pandemics
- 673 • Equitable consumer representation on review boards in health and human service areas
- 674 • Nurse Reinvestment Act and creation of the Office of National Nurse
- 675 • A National electronic patient health information database
- 676 • Limiting the hours health care providers may be required to work in a given period
- 677 • Legislation restoring local control for laws governing smoking prohibitions in public and
678 work places
- 679 • FDA regulation of tobacco as a drug
- 680 • Directing all tobacco settlement monies towards antismoking education, smoking
681 cessation programs and related health services
- 682 • Legislation protecting retirees negotiated health insurance benefits

683

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

We support:

- 686 • Limiting advertisement of prescription drugs
- 687 • State and Federal health programs negotiating drug prices
- 688 • Limiting patent extensions of pharmaceuticals, biological processes and "Me2"
689 generation drugs

690

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

We support:

- 693 • The legal right of women to make their own health care decisions and the preservation of
694 Roe v. Wade
- 695 • Developmentally-appropriate, medically accurate reproductive education including
696 information about sexually responsible behavior, sexually transmitted infections (STI's)
697 and non-directive family planning

698

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

We support:

700

- 701 • Iowa maximizing federal matching funds for all human services programs
702 • Preventing human service providers from discriminating on the basis of race, color,
703 creed, disability, religion, national origin, gender or social orientation, including the
704 provision of services and hiring practices
705 • Allowing public assistance recipients to work without penalty while receiving benefits
706

707 **CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE**

708 **We support:**

- 709 • Fully-funded programs promoting child health, safety, development, and prenatal care
710 • Fully-funded child welfare programs with attention to family preservation, permanency
711 planning, and reducing caseloads of DHS social workers
712 • A foster care system for children up to age 21 that uses best practices: timely and
713 comprehensive evaluations, effective record management, training for parents and case
714 workers, inclusive data collection, including child outcomes.
715 • Fully-funded shelters and group care facilities
716 • Fully-funded domestic violence shelters and outreach
717

718 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH**

719 **We support:**

- 720 • Fully-funded substance abuse, mental health and developmental disabilities services and
721 education with comprehensive treatment options for individuals and their families
722 • Building on recently enacted legislation for parity in mental health and substance abuse
723 treatment coverage by insurance companies
724

725 **RESEARCH/ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**

726 **We support:**

- 727 • Stem Cell Research
728 • Medical use of marijuana
729

730 **HOUSING**

731 **We support:**

- 732 • Provisions for affordable, accessible, transitional and permanent housing for low-income
733 and homeless persons
734 • Public/private partnerships providing financial assistance to increase the number of low to
735 moderate income first-time homebuyers and help them remain in their homes
736 • Increased funding for emergency shelters for homeless persons
737

738 **ELDERLY SERVICES**

739 **We support:**

- 740 • Providing services to older lowans that are consumer-driven and enable them to live
741 independently in their homes and communities with dignity as long as possible
742 • A non-privatized Social Security system
743 • Increasing funding for services to older lowans and persons with disabilities that are
744 consumer driven and enable them to live independently in their homes and communities,
745 including waivers and long term care
746

747 **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

748 **We support:**

- 749 • Strict enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 750 • Increased funding to provide adequate in-home, community-based services for persons
- 751 with disabilities, including long-term care

752

753 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

754 ***DHS*** – Department of Human Services

755 ***FDA*** – Food and Drug Administration

756 ***HAWK-I*** – Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa

757

758

759

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

760

PEACE AND SECURITY (PRIORITY PLANK)

762 **We support:**

- 763 • Diplomatic, economic, and cultural measures to resolve global poverty, hunger and
- 764 disease
- 765 • Creating organizations and alliances to combat terrorism and contain its spread
- 766 • Strong commitment to worldwide human rights
- 767 • Efforts to stop genocide in Darfur, Sudan, including military assistance
- 768 • Humane treatment and habeas corpus protection for all people
- 769 • Renouncing development of new nuclear weapons and leading verifiable elimination of all
- 770 weapons of mass destruction
- 771 • Normalization of relations with Cuba
- 772 • Taking military action only with clear, attainable, national defense goals, with fully
- 773 informed Congressional consent, and, whenever possible, in concert with the
- 774 international community
- 775 • Protecting victims and prosecuting offenders of human trafficking for sexual exploitation
- 776 and forced labor
- 777 • Ending violence against women and enhancing gender equality and empowerment
- 778 • Comprehensive reform of and increased funding for border and port security

779 **We oppose:**

- 780 • Subversion of democratic principles and processes in the name of national security
- 781 • Torture of any kind, secret detention facilities, and extraordinary rendition of detainees
- 782 • Operation of Guantanamo, the "School of the Americas" ("Western Hemisphere Institute
- 783 for Security") and foreign military assistance, aid and training that represses citizens
- 784 • Mass aerial herbicide applications in the war on drugs
- 785 • Developing a "Star Wars" missile defense shield
- 786 • Militarization of American foreign policy

787

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

789 **We support:**

- 790 • Meeting U.N. Millennium Development goals
- 791 • Aid based on compliance with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 792 • Funding our share of the GFATM, and helping to develop and deliver affordable drugs
- 793 • Comprehensive reproductive health care and family planning programs
- 794 • Canceling impoverished countries' unsustainable debt

- 795 • Administering reconstruction and disaster relief contracts under open bid processes
796 • UN efforts to promote socially responsible corporate investing

797

798 **TRADE**

799 **We support:**

- 800 • Culturally sensitive, non-exploitive agreements protecting human rights, workers' rights,
801 and public health/environmental needs, and renegotiation of those contrary thereto,
802 including NAFTA, CAFTA, and GATT

803 **We oppose:**

- 804 • Companies marketing technology suppressing free speech

805

806 **THE MIDDLE EAST**

807 **We support:**

- 808 • Peaceful efforts to achieve separate and secure Israeli and Palestinian States, working
809 with all parties to end the conflict
810 • Orderly redeployment of all US troops from Iraq to be completed by end of 2006, hand-
811 over of all US Iraq military bases, and financial and diplomatic support of reconstruction
812 in cooperation with the government of Iraq and the UN
813 • Finalizing transfer of authority to the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq, giving them control
814 over their own economy and security
815 • Diplomacy and negotiations, including bilateral talks, regarding Iran's nuclear program

816

817 **UNITED NATIONS**

818 **We support:**

- 819 • Payment of dues and active participation
820 • Implementation of the Secretary General's reforms
821 • Creation of a Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers
822 • Adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ICESCR
823 • Full participation in the new Human Rights Council

824

825 **TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS**

826 We support ratification and/or full participation in:

- 827 • GCTPW
828 • CEDAW
829 • Convention on the Rights of the Child
830 • Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
831 • Biological Weapons Convention Protocol
832 • Ottawa Landmine Treaty
833 • Kyoto Treaty on Global Warming
834 • RSICCJ
835 • CDCW

836

837 **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS SECTION:**

838 **CAFTA** - Central American Free Trade Agreement

839 **CDCW** - Convention on The Destruction of Chemical Weapons, and the Prohibition of
840 Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons

841 **CEDAW** - Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

842 **GCTPW** - Geneva Convention on Treatment of Prisoners of War
843 **GFATM** - Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
844 **GATT** - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
845 **ICESCR** - International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
846 **NAFTA** - North American Free Trade Agreement
847 **RSICCJ** - Rome Statute of the International Court of Criminal Justice
848 **WTO** - World Trade Organization

849 850 **PUBLIC HEARING**

851
852 Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph G of the Iowa Democratic Party By-Laws require that the
853 Platform Committee of the State Convention shall hold a public hearing to allow Democrats
854 the opportunity to comment on the draft platform. A report of this hearing shall be included
855 in the Platform Committee's report to the State Convention. A public hearing has tentatively
856 been set for Monday evening, June 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the Party campaign headquarters
857 at Southridge Mall in Des Moines. A copy of the draft platform, along with details of the time
858 and location of the public hearing will be posted to <http://www.iowademocrats.us/> for public
859 viewing. Comments on the draft platform will be accepted online at
860 <http://www.iowademocrats.us/> both before and after the Public Hearing up until June 16th.
861 Your input is both welcome and invited!

862 863 864 **CONVENTION PLATFORM AGENDA**

- 865
- 866 • The Platform Committee will meet at 8 AM in an assigned room
 - 867 • Amendments to the platform must be submitted to the Platform Committee in writing with
868 signatures of 30 convention delegates no later than 9 AM
 - 869 • The Platform Committee will adjourn its meeting no later than 10 AM
 - 870 • Amendments to the platform approved by the Platform Committee will be posted no later
871 than 10:30 AM
 - 872 • Platform debate will begin with proposed changes to the Statement of Principles, followed
873 by debate on Amendments approved by the Platform Committee at its meeting on the
874 morning of the State Convention, and then followed by debate on Minority Reports to the
875 Statement of Issues printed in the State Convention Call
 - 876 • The first electronic ballot for the purpose of determining whether the ballot items pass,
877 fail, or become controversial will be taken on the platform as amended by the Convention
878 Delegates
 - 879 • Those ballot items which receive more than 1/3 but less than 2/3 votes of the Convention
880 Delegates become controversial and will automatically be debated by the Convention
881 Delegates
 - 882 • The final electronic ballot for the purpose of determining the priorities of the Iowa
883 Democratic Party will be take on the platform as amended by the Convention Delegates

884 885 886 **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING**

887 The following summarizes the comments that were received from individuals who
888 responded to the call for public comments:
889

890 Lines 158 – 168: Three comments expressed opposition to the statement in the Principles
891 beginning with “Therefore, be it demanded that for endorsement and support of the
892 Democratic Party...”
893

894 Line 435: One commenter proposed changing this line to read, “We oppose: The creation
895 and maintenance of state and federal databases of student information.”
896

897 Line 497: One commenter said that the restoration of voting rights for felons should be
898 restricted to only non-violent felons who had (1) fully completed their sentences, including
899 payment of any financial penalties and (2) remained lawfully compliant for at least 10 years.
900

901 Line 502 and 504: Decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana was opposed by one commenter
902 who asserted that marijuana is a “gateway drug” whose usage may threaten good judgment
903 and lead to usage of more dangerous drugs.
904

905 Plank 506: Banning the Drug Tax Stamp was opposed by one commenter since the tax
906 stamp applies to all illegal drugs and helps fund law enforcement’s efforts to control illegal
907 drug usage. Another commenter supported repealing the Iowa Drug Tax Stamp because
908 paying the tax requires a person to become a witnesses against himself, the tax applies to
909 only one crime instead of being applied equally to all crimes, and the penalty for failure to
910 pay the tax deprives people of their property without requiring proof of guilt beyond a
911 reasonable doubt in a criminal trial (right against self-incrimination and guarantee of due
912 process – 5th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States).
913

914 Line 643: One commenter strongly supported the plank on voter-verified paper audit trails.
915

916 Line 652: One commenter strongly supported the minority report calling for paper ballots
917 tallied by electronic scan machines.
918

919 Line 727: One commenter encouraged the insertion of the words “services and” before the
920 word “education” to create the new sentence “Fully-funded substance abuse, mental health
921 and developmental disabilities education with comprehensive treatment options for
922 individuals and their families.”
923

924 Lines 745 and 751: One commenter urged combining ballot numbers 42 and 43 to a single
925 heading of “Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Services” and changing lines 754-755 to
926 “Increasing funding of services to older lowans and persons with disabilities that are
927 consumer driven and enable them to live independently in their homes and communities
928 including waivers and long-term care.”