

2010 Platform for Davis County Convention

Preamble

We urge the Democratic majorities in the U.S. Congress and in the Iowa General Assembly to show some courage and enact Democratic priorities. We may not have this opportunity again.

Agriculture and Environment

Planning and Zoning/Livestock Management

1. We support legislation regulating CAFOs, providing for county control in applying state guidelines, with a temporary moratorium until zoning is returned to counties, requiring an environmental impact statement, repealing the tax abatement for waste systems, creating an indemnity fund to allow aggrieved parties damages associated with CAFOs, ensuring the ability to file lawsuits against CAFOs and no restrictions on filing complaints with the Iowa DNR/EPA. (2004 state party platform)

Environmental Enhancement and Regulation

2. We support legislative funding for Environmental Health Officers to assist livestock operations to identify and control manure and air emanating from permitted operations.
3. We support restoration of more prairie as a means to moderating climate change and to increase wildlife habitat.
4. We support national air quality regulations for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.
5. We support additional funds in the Iowa DNR budget be used to specifically fund additional staff who will rigorously enforce the Clean Water Act.

Environmentally Safe Energy

6. We support energy independence as a goal and combating global climate change by:
 - Leveraging our universities for energy research and development.
 - Energy conservation and efficiency through grants, loans and incentives.

- Accelerated development of alternative energy resources and ultra fuel-efficient vehicles.

Economy, Commerce and Labor

Worker's Rights and Safety

1. We support the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act by Congress to protect the rights of workers to form unions and bargain collectively.
2. We support legislation that allows Iowa workers who are injured on the job to choose their own medical care providers.
3. We urge the Iowa General Assembly to pass Prevailing Wage legislation.
4. We support state legislation amending chapter 731 and pertinent parts of chapter 20 of the Iowa code to allow private and public sector workers in Iowa to negotiate "fairshare" clauses that ensure that all workers covered by and benefiting from a negotiated contract would share in the cost of the service provided.
5. We urge the Iowa General Assembly to pass Expansion of Scope of Bargaining legislation.

Budget and Taxation

6. We support vigorous enforcement of the tax code, especially emphasizing auditing of incomes above \$300,000 and large corporate payers. Also we support closure of loopholes that allow those who use them to pay no tax on huge incomes.
7. Iowa minimum-wage law does not apply to establishments with gross income of less than \$300,000.; therefore: eliminate this exemption or lower the gross income level to \$99,000 annually.
8. We oppose corporate welfare, indiscriminate bailouts and tax breaks.

Pension and Insurance

9. We support turning over closed corporate assets to Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and to protect pension benefits of workers and retirees.
www.pbgc.gov

Education

School Funding

1. We support increased state and federal funding to improve access to quality pre-kindergarten and after-school programs for all Iowa children.

Government and Law

Veterans

1. We support veterans having hiring preference.
2. We support ending the war in Iraq and the bringing home of troops beginning with National Guard units.
3. We support increased funding for the VA and reduced administrative delays so that needed medical care is more readily available to all qualified veterans.
4. We recommend that the Iowa Legislature give the authority to the Iowa Veterans Commission for oversight of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, continued oversight of the Iowa Veterans Home, the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund and all State Veteran's initiatives.
5. We recommend county funding continue at the current level to fulfill legislative mandates regarding hours of operation, education and additional services for veterans through the local office of Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Government Services

6. We support changes that would allow back child support owed to be amended, if it has been proven that the original order was in error.

Consumer Protection

7. We support changes to utility regulation that would allow a low income utility rate be established for those earning less than 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.
8. We support HF288 and SF463 to regulate payday lenders.

Campaigns and Election

9. We support Iowa voter-owned, clean elections, Iowa HF805 and Iowa SF553.

Health and Human Services

Universal Health Coverage

1. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass national single payer health care for all.

Child Protection

2. We support increased state and federal funding to eliminate abuse and neglect of children.

Consumer Protection

3. We support immediate passage of a bill establishing a Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

Internal Affairs

International Trade Policy

- We support countervailing tariffs on all imported goods.
- We support “fair trade” as opposed to “free trade”.
- We oppose NAFTA and WTO.

Platform Committee:

Joe Rush

Stephen Tews

Sheila Westegard