

Statement of Principles:

1 Bold, progressive action is needed to ensure the promise of the American Dream. For the last
2 half-century, economic policy in this country has been written and re-written to benefit a very small,
3 very wealthy subset of our population. Corporate interests have become too powerful and have rigged
4 the political and legal systems to defend their unethical behavior, wealthy campaign contributors have
5 bought a Congress that suits their needs, and the needs of tens of millions of our citizens have gone
6 unmet. Government can and should, through laws, regulation, and taxation, encourage behaviors that
7 provide the maximum long-term benefit to society rather than those that focus on increasing short-term
8 profits. We support policies that will redistribute our GDP and return buying power back to the working
9 class.
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11 We understand that the promise of liberty can never be realized without economic freedom.
12 Stagnating wages combined with an increase in the cost of goods and services have given our country a
13 new class of indentured servants who, thanks to the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC,
14 lack the financial resources to petition their government for a redress of grievances. Income and wealth
15 inequality is the defining issue of our time and the primary focus of our platform.

16 We see the toxic affect that money has on our political system. As such, we whole-heartedly
17 reject the notion that corporations should be afforded the same rights as citizens. We strongly support
18 the concept of one-person-one-vote as a fundamental principle of our democracy and support a
19 constitutional amendment to ensure its protection. We support complete public financing of elections
20 at all levels of government to level the playing field and allow any citizen the opportunity to run for
21 public office.

22 We believe that no one who works a full time job should be living in poverty. The current
23 federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is a starvation wage and must be raised to \$15 per hour over the next
24 few years. We believe that all occupations have value and that no one who is working should go
25 without basic necessities. We support the rights of public and private employees to organize and
26 negotiate for better wages and benefits.

27 We believe that education is an investment, not an expenditure. A well-educated population is
28 critical to our nation's economic success and to the health of our political system. Rapid advances in
29 technology and automation have raised the bar for workplace competency and, in many ways, a college
30 degree is the equivalent of a high school diploma 50 years ago. We believe that it is time make college
31 affordable for everyone.

32 We believe that in a developed society, comprehensive healthcare should be a right afforded to
33 all residents; we do not believe the profit-motive should have a place in the healthcare industry. We
34 support a Medicare-for-All, single-payer healthcare system that provides complete coverage of all health
35 issues including dental, vision, auditory, reproductive, and mental health.

36 We oppose economic policy based solely on supply-side economic theory. We believe that our
37 party should once again take up the mantle of the Franklin D. Roosevelt and demand an economic bill of
38 rights to protect all of our citizens. We support the ideals of the progressive movement within the
39 Democratic Party, and strive to champion those ideals on behalf of the party and of the American
40 people.

2016 Buena Vista County Platform

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Economy, Commerce, & Labor

We Support

- Balanced budgets for all levels of government if consistent with provision of necessary services.
- Legislation that regulates interest rates and fees charged by financial institutions
- Withdrawal from, and renegotiation of free trade agreements such as NAFTA
- Reforming commercial property taxes and other tax laws to make Iowa attractive for business while not overburdening homeowners.
- A Federal minimum wage of \$11/hr phased in over 1 year and tied thereafter to a cost of living adjustment similar to the one used by Social Security
- Mandated net-metering at a fair price for all utilities and rural co-ops, and participation in energy saving programs and rebates.
- Increased subsidies for use of alternative energy and for energy conservation.
- An investigation into alleged wrongdoing by banks and other organizations that helped create the recent recession.
- Modern Glass-Steagall banking regulation and anti-trust actions against large financial institutions.
- The right of workers to refuse to do unsafe work without penalty.
- The right of public and private employees to form unions and bargain collectively.
- Local organizations such as the Lake Preservation Association, Storm Lake United, and others who work to improve our community.
- Expanding Social Security by raising the cap on taxable income and considering healthcare costs in the cost of living adjustment.
- Renewing the Vision Iowa Program to fund projects which improve our quality of life.

- 66 • The Production Tax Credit for renewable energy.
- 67 • A 0.06% sales tax on stock and other securities transactions.

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69 We Oppose

- 70 • Tax breaks for outsourcing jobs to outside the United States.
- 71 • The Trans-Pacific Partnership
- 72 • Any legislation that seeks further deregulation of financial institutions
- 73 • Allowing internships that provide neither pay nor college credit.
- 74 • Construction of nuclear power plants unless fully privately insured against the largest
- 75 plausible disaster.
- 76 • Construction of new coal-fired power plants.
- 77 • Tax breaks for oil, natural gas, and coal companies that are unavailable to other
- 78 industries.
- 79 • “No bid” government contracts.

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81 Agriculture & Environment

82 We Support

- 83 • Financially viable family farms.
- 84 • Sustainable and organic farming practices.
- 85 • A viable, environmentally safe livestock industry.
- 86 • Reducing antibiotic and hormone use in livestock production.
- 87 • Local control by elected officials on placement of Concentrated Animal Feeding
- 88 Operations (CAFO’s) in cooperation with the State.
- 89 • Consumption of locally produced food as much as possible.

- 90 • Further research on Genetic Engineered Plants and Animal Products.
- 91 • Federal, state and local laws, policies, and regulations that ensure timely and substantial
- 92 reductions of carbon dioxide emissions to slow climate change.
- 93 • Efforts by farmers and the DNR to promote soil conservation and ensure high water
- 94 quality.
- 95 • Protecting natural areas and wildlife and their habitat while supporting responsible
- 96 hunting and fishing.
- 97 • The IOWater volunteer water quality monitoring program of the DNR.
- 98 • Requiring mining, drilling, and hydraulic fracturing operations to disclose the chemicals
- 99 they inject into the environment and make such operations pay for any damage they
- 100 cause.
- 101 • Enforcing and not weakening environmental laws and regulations including the Clean Air
- 102 Act and the Clean Water Act.
- 103 • Dredging operations in Storm Lake and renovations of Little Storm Lake to improve lake
- 104 water quality.
- 105 • Reduction of waste by means of laws and regulations reducing packaging, promoting use
- 106 of recyclable materials, and promoting recycling

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108 We oppose

- 109 • Allowing hog confinement facilities and the associated manure lagoons to be sold
- 110 separately.
- 111 • Subsidies for large agribusiness.
- 112 • The Bakken Pipeline
- 113 • The casino exemption in the Smoke-Free Air Act

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116 Government & Law

117 We support

- 118 • Campaign finance reform at all levels that eliminates undue influence of special interest
119 money, reduces the escalating cost of running for office, and requires transparency of all
120 donations to organizations or campaigns for political purposes.
- 121 • A constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision in the Citizens
122 United case.
- 123 • Standardizing and simplifying the permitting, titling, and licensing rules for off-road land
124 recreational vehicles.
- 125 • Replacing armed contract security forces with government employees.
- 126 • Penalties for corporate wrongdoing at least 3 times as large as any profits made from the
127 criminal behavior, and prosecuting culpable individuals as well as the corporations.
- 128 • Separation of church and state.
- 129 • A law prohibiting elected officials from obtaining employment at a lobbying firm after
130 they have served their term.
- 131 • Net neutrality, i.e. neither internet service providers nor government may censor web
132 sites nor give speed priority to certain sites.
- 133 • Protecting whistle-blowers from retaliation.
- 134 • Increased funding for the state court system.
- 135 • Defending intellectual property rights.
- 136 • Due process in dealings with criminal suspects, including those suspected of terrorism,
137 whether or not they are U.S. citizens.
- 138 • Responsible gun ownership.
- 139 • Gun regulations including universal background checks, and banning private ownership of
140 assault weapons: semiautomatic guns able to accept detachable magazines containing
141 greater than 10 rounds.

- 142 • Requiring Leadership in Energy and Efficient Design (LEED) certification for publicly
- 143 financed buildings.
- 144 • Spending to improve transportation, electricity transmission, and school infrastructure to
- 145 provide jobs and enhance quality of life.
- 146 • Taxing capital gains and wage/salary income at the same rate.
- 147 • Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences
- 148 • Government protection of consumers from fraudulent and deceptive corporate practices
- 149 and the continuation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- 150 • Iowa’s system of selecting judges based on merit, not political appointment or partisan
- 151 election
- 152 • Full statehood for the District of Columbia

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154 We Oppose

- 155 • Unfunded mandates by all levels of government.
- 156 • Omnibus bills and bills with provisions unrelated to the main purpose of the bill.
- 157 • Corporations having the same rights as people.
- 158 • Using eminent domain to take property and give it to private enterprise.

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160 4) Education

161 We support

- 162 • Free, safe public primary and secondary education.
- 163 • Legislation that caps student loan interest rates at 3%
- 164 • Expanding the Pell Grant and other student financial aid
- 165 • Increasing funding to the Iowa Tuition Grant.

- 166 • Measures to educate and encourage young voters to attend political meetings and
- 167 participate in the political process.
- 168 • Using multiple measures to assess student and teacher competence.
- 169 • Increasing funding to both remedial and gifted primary and secondary school programs
- 170 • Allowing state government to use cash reserves to fully fund allowable growth in public
- 171 schools.
- 172 • Finding a new funding source or a replacement for the IPERS Favorable Experience
- 173 Dividend and creating an independent board to govern the trust
- 174 • The arts and physical education in schools as well as academic subjects.
- 175 • Legislation that allows non-teaching employees of a school to receive unemployment
- 176 benefits during the summer

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178 We Oppose

- 179 • Using school vouchers or any other form of public money for private primary and
- 180 secondary schools.

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182 5) Human Resources & Health Care

183 We support

- 184 • A Medicare-for-All, single-payer healthcare system covering all injuries, ailments, and
- 185 conditions of the body including dental, vision, reproductive, and mental health services
- 186 from birth until death.
- 187 • Keeping secure electronic medical records.
- 188 • A woman’s right to reproductive choice as defined by Roe v. Wade.

- 189 • State and federal funding for reproductive health services and for age appropriate,
190 comprehensive, and medically accurate sexual education.
- 191 • Federal funding for voluntary international and domestic family planning programs.
- 192 • Efforts to position Iowa universities as leaders in stem cell research.
- 193 • Maintaining an appropriate budget for the Department of Human Services, Court
194 Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Juvenile Court System and maintaining an
195 appropriate number of employees.
- 196 • Allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies and providers.
- 197 • Standardization and publication of costs of all medical procedures
- 198 • Fairness in Medicare reimbursement.
- 199 • Safe Tele-health services.
- 200 • Adequate appropriations for Veterans funding.
- 201 • Welcoming immigrants to the U.S. and affirming the human rights of immigrants to work,
202 eat, to have shelter and to learn.
- 203 • Sufficient funding for local legal representation of immigrants
- 204 • Immigration reform including a pathway to citizenship for otherwise law-abiding
205 unauthorized immigrants
- 206 • Legislation that extends drivers licenses to all tested and qualified Iowa residents,
207 regardless of immigration status

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209 We Oppose

- 210 • Corporations requiring all their employees to enroll in the corporate insurance plan,
211 when they have proof of their own insurance.
- 212 • The anti-trust exemption for health insurance companies.
- 213 • Reductions in Veterans benefits.
- 214 • State and local laws regulating immigration.
- 215 • Deportation of productive, peaceful people

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- Compliance by local law enforcement with immigration detainer requests.

217 6) International Affairs

218 We Support

- 219
- Using diplomacy and international cooperation, rather than military force, as the primary
- 220 means of enhancing US security.
- 221
- Auditing the pentagon and reducing the military budget
- 222
- Reducing nuclear weapons in the world, increasing world-wide security of fissionable
- 223 materials, and preventing nations from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.
- 224
- An official, non-partisan inquiry into the accuracy of the pre-war intelligence about Iraq
- 225 and holding individuals accountable for any misuse of that intelligence they committed.
- 226
- Adherence to international law by all nations in all dealings with foreign countries and
- 227 enemy combatants.
- 228
- Making foreign aid conditional on the recipient adhering to international law and
- 229 upholding its own laws.
- 230
- Furthering worldwide human rights.
- 231
- U.N. and local leadership in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
- 232
- Transparency of criteria used to place enemy combatants on “kill lists”, and independent
- 233 oversight of decisions to kill them.
- 234
- Using trade restrictions/tariffs against nations that engage in unfair trade practices.

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236 We Oppose

- 237
- Military action without an imminent threat to the security of the U.S. or an ally, and
- 238 informed consent of Congress.
- 239
- Militarization of space.
- 240
- The Keystone XL pipeline.

- 241 • Military intervention by any state over another state and attempts to annex part of it
- 242 without the consent of its government.

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244 7) Civil Rights

245 We Support

- 246 • Equal civil rights and the protection of our laws for all residents.
- 247 • Equal pay for equal work.
- 248 • Repealing the Patriot Act.
- 249 • Automatic voter registration at age 18.
- 250 • Reinstating voting rights to felons.
- 251 • Minimum wage for prisoners

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253 We Oppose

- 254 • Discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, culture, LGBT status, income, or
- 255 disability.
- 256 • Subversion of civil rights in the name of national security.
- 257 • Warrantless government surveillance of US citizens.
- 258 • Laws that restrict eligible voter participation in elections.