

**The 2008 Platform
of the
POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

The following members played a vital part in preparing this Platform;

Leah D. Cross, Kumari Durick, Ron Frasht, Bill Fritzsche, Nate Kennedy, Mike Rounds, Sheila Ryan, Justin Stubblefield, Barb Tennigkeit, Louis F. Toelle, Dawn M. Trotter, Al Wegman, Tom Winfield, Chuck Wredt. & Dr. Mike Yowell.

We are delighted and proud that Tom Harkin is our United States Senator;

We are also proud of State Senator Mike Gronstal for being the Leader of the Iowa Senate.

We are also proud to have State Representative Paul Shomshor as the chairman of the Ways & Means Committee.

We are also proud of Mayor Tom Hanafan for the progress he has done for the city of Council Bluffs

We are honored by all the hard work and service given by all of our state and local elected Democratic officials.

As Democrats we recognize the greater than ever need for more Democratic leadership on the local, state, and national level in these troubled times.

What follows is the proposed platform, as determined by the duly elected members of the Platform Committee. It is not intended to cover every issue, but our discussions did involve every resolution passed at each precinct caucus. We have tried to restrict the formal document to those issues over which our county party can have some influence.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

That, we as Iowa Democrats;

1. Should support a CLEAN WATER ACT for the state of Iowa
2. Should urge our Legislators to give local control for the location of factory farms.
3. Add to the Iowa Constitution Bill of Rights Article 1 (Protection of the Environment).
4. To encourage the Legislature to act quickly and decisively to adopt measures designed to encourage development and redevelopment inside our cities, to limit taxpayer subsidies for new growth on farmland, and natural areas, and to encourage transportation choices and principals of sustainable development.
5. Resolve to cut demand of oil by 50% by 2020, and cut green house emissions by 70% by 2050, & double tax credits for alternative energy

6. Should urge the city and all communities which have (curb service garbage removal) to promote recycling.

ECONOMY, COMMERCE, & LABOR

We as Democrats;

1. Should urge the repeal of NAFTA and all of the Bush Trade agreements, especially (Free Trade with China).
2. Request that all American flags be manufactured in America along with all military uniforms and equipment.
3. Should amend the United States Constitution Article VIII, Corporations Sec.12 (Limit the Rights & Powers of Corporations with the respect that they themselves are not people).
4. Support a prevailing wage law for Iowa construction workers on certain government projects.
5. Support legislation that allows Iowa workers who are injured on the job to choose their own medical care.
6. Support legislation that expands the scope of bargaining for public sector employees.
7. Support state legislation amending Chapter 731 and the pertinent parts of chapter 20 of the Iowa Code to allow private and public sector workers in Iowa to negotiate "Fair Share" clauses.
8. Support passage by Congress of the Employee Free Choice Act.
9. Wish to show our support for our Brothers and Sisters from the United Steel Workers Local 3141, Council Bluffs who are locked out from their jobs since January of this year

EDUCATION

We as Democrats;

1. Should urge Congress and the President to amend the ESEA/No Child Left Behind Act to allow the use of multiple sources of evidence to assess student learning and school effectiveness, to restore a class size reduction program to give students more individualized attention, to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in our nation's public schools, and to fully fund its obligations to America's public students.
2. Oppose diverting public money from public schools to fund vouchers, tuition tax credits, or for-profit education businesses.
3. Should call on Congress to support full funding of special education.

4. Support maintaining professional salaries for educators and increasing the wages of support professionals in our public schools.
5. Support allowing the IPERS contribution rate to be determined by the system's actuary within a limit of .5% per year, creating an independent board of trustees, and funding to make the COLA for pre-1990 retirees and the favorable experience dividend for post-1990 retirees sustainable forever.
6. Should urge the panel who enforces ESEA (No child Left Behind) to include educators from different areas of the state and to include different ethnic backgrounds and income levels.

GOVERNMENT & LAW

We as Democrats;

1. Support equal treatment and legal benefits for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered citizens, including those benefits and rights that result from civil unions.
2. Support increased, mandatory federal funding for veterans health care regardless of economic or health status.
3. Urge all levels of government to pursue a humane and comprehensive solution to the illegal immigration issue.
4. Support reproductive freedom as established by Roe vs. Wade.
5. Support federal and state funding for voluntary family planning, including affordable access to contraceptives.
6. Urge the federal government to resolve the social security funding crisis.
7. Urge the federal government to repeal the Real ID Act in its present form.
8. Urge the federal government to remove the mandatory prison sentences for minor drug offenses so that judges have the discretion in sentencing, including treatment programs.
9. Support the repeal of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which allows the federal government to detain and imprison people without charges.
10. Urge the federal government to outlaw the use of torture in all forms, in accordance with international law.
11. Urge the state of Iowa to investigate and consider adoption of Oregon's Vote-by-Mail system.
12. Should oppose unfunded federal mandates.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. We support all our troops dedicated service at home and abroad.
2. We oppose the continuation of the military involvement in Iraq and urge the U.S. government to safely remove our troops as soon as possible.
3. We oppose the genocide occurring in Darfur and want the federal government to pursue a reasonable solution to the atrocities.

HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

We as Democrats;

1. Support universal health care, (Includes employers & individuals) that is affordable and provides timely care, supports community based primary & chronic care service centers.
 - a) Healthcare must be based on continuous healing relationships with new emphasis on: primary and chronic care management.
 - b) Health promotion of healthy lifestyles & healthy families, parity for mental health, substance abuse & behavior health treatment, including long-term care, foster care, & disability care.
 - c) Healthcare reform must reduce payment for administrative costs, duplicate cost for diagnostic testing, & must include affordable and competitive prescription pricing to achieve a no more than a \$4.00 co-payment per prescription.
 - d) Equitable healthcare must provide care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographical location, and socioeconomic status.
 - e) To support S-CHIP programs to cover all children's healthcare regardless of ability to pay including foster care, grandparent care, and funding to eliminate abuse and neglect.
2. Support Federal Funding for research programs dedicated to funding a cure for cancer, HIV, and other terminal diseases.