

Woodbury County Democratic Party Platform

Approved 3/13/2016

AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Farming and Food

Because we believe that our nation's food supply is precious, and is absolutely essential to our health and human flourishing, and because we believe caring for the environment is critical to the safety of that food supply,

We support legislation increasing the funding for sustainable and renewable farming methods.

We support legislation reducing the amount toxic chemicals, pesticides, and herbicides in our food supply by 2020.

We support legislation for the funding of research into the effects of harmful chemicals in our food supply.

We support legislation mandating clear, detailed, and understandable labeling of what goes into the food sold in the United States. This includes labeling clearly identifying all GMOs.

We support legislation reducing the amount of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in our food supply.

Clean Energy

Because fossil fuels damage the environment and their consumption poses threats to both the survival of humanity and national security,

We support legislation dramatically reducing the consumption of fossil fuels in this country.

We support increased dependence upon sustainable forms of energy: wind, solar, and geothermal.

We support funding for research increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of sustainable forms of energy.

We support incentives for energy companies increasing our movement towards sustainable forms of energy.

Parks

Because the DNR has had to make significant reductions in the past few years in staffing and funding our state parks,

We support appropriations and legislation that will fully fund the DNR (as per Iowa Code Section 455A.18) and restore REAP funds for the DNR.

ECONOMY, COMMERCE & LABOR

Equal Pay

Because women earn 70% of what men earn, and women of color earn 54% of what men earn, and because we believe in the equal treatment regardless of gender,

We support legislation establishing and protecting equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender, color, disability or sexual orientation.

Minimum Wage

Because the current minimum wage is not enough to support a full-time worker, much less the family of a full-time worker,

We support an increase in the minimum wage toward a wage that could be considered a living wage in the United States.

Net Neutrality

Because of the proliferation of, and our dependence upon, all forms of Internet communication and expression, and because Internet Service Providers and government are attempting to prioritize and limit access to that communication,

We support legislation requiring Internet Service Providers to provide access to all content regardless of the source and without favoring particular products or websites.

Infrastructure

Because Iowa was given a grade of C- from the ASCE (D+ for bridges and C- for roads) rating our current infrastructure, and a solid infrastructure is essential for the well-being of a society,

We support increased state and federal funding for infrastructure (roads, bridges, dams, water supply systems, electric grids etc.) in the state of Iowa.

EDUCATION

Education Funding

Because we believe education empowers people to find meaningful employment, provide for their families, and make advances in every area of our society,

We support increased and adequate funding for Iowa's public schools, area education agencies, and community colleges.

We oppose any diversion of public money designated for education to any other purpose. We oppose vouchers and tuition credits for private, for-profit education businesses.

Student Loans

Because student loan debt threatens to cripple the careers and financial status of millions of Americans, and because we believe an affordable college education should be accessible for every American,

We support a cap on all student loan interest rates at 1% above the current American interest rate FED (base rate).

We support a policy change that permits students access to bankruptcy courts after their student loans are seven years past the first due date.

We support the view that when a family earns a modest income and the family budget has no unnecessary or frivolous expenditures, and these circumstances are likely to persist, and the family finances are unbalanced, a hardship exists from which a debtor may be discharged of his student loan obligations.”

Tuition-Free College

Because of the escalating cost of a college education coupled with the increased need for a college degree in the workforce,

We support a tax on Wall Street speculation, providing tuition-free public college and universities for undergraduate degrees.

GOVERNMENT AND LAW

Campaign Finance

Because the Citizens United vs. the FEC decision by the supreme court has ushered in an era of unprecedented amounts of money being donated anonymously by corporations into political campaigns, diminishing the influence of the American people, increasing the possibility of corruption, and wasting vast resources in the hopes of corporations currying the favor of political candidates,

We support legislation that will overturn Citizens United vs. the FEC.

We support legislation prohibiting any anonymous donations to political action agencies or campaigns by profit or non-profit agencies.

We oppose any legislation granting personhood to corporations.

Term Limits

Because of the power accrued by career politicians and how that power limits the ability for fresh voices and new ideas to be examined in our political process,

We support term limits for Congress (3 for Congress, 2 for Senate) and for the Supreme Court (20 years).

Human Trafficking

Because human trafficking has no place in a country that cares for people, and because human trafficking is rampant in the world in general and in the United States in particular,

We support increased funding for the education of the public regarding human trafficking.

We support increased funding for victim-centered services for the victims of human trafficking.

We support severe penalties for those convicted of human trafficking.

We support increased enforcement targeting those purchasing and trafficking sex at all levels of the industry.

We support legislation decriminalizing the victims of human trafficking.

Immigration

Because the United States was founded by immigrants and has always incorporated immigrants into our society, and more than 11 million undocumented persons work and reside in the United States seeking citizenship,

We support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a clear path to citizenship.

Criminal Justice Reform

Because of high recidivism rates, the strain of continued incarceration on our economy and justice systems, and the disproportionate amount of minorities incarcerated,

We support legislation increasing funding for rehabilitation programs and sentence reduction.

We support legislation reducing the impact of felonies on a citizen's right to vote and on ability to obtain meaningful employment and education.

We support efforts to "ban the box" on employment applications which prevent people who have been convicted and served their sentences from being employed.

The Death Penalty

Because we believe human life is precious, many people convicted of crimes are often proven innocent in the appeal process, the people most affected are people in poverty without access to the best defense, and because the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to prevent acts of violence,

We support a federal ban on all executions, and legislation to end the death penalty in the United States and its territories.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care for All

Because of the rising costs of health care, the United States spending more per capita than any nation in the developed world, and because health care is a universal human right,

We support a single-payer Medicare-for-all system in the United States.

Mental Health

Because the stigma attached to mental health issues has led to mental illness going misunderstood and untreated at an epidemic rate, and because mental illness is a huge factor in violent crime,

We support legislation increasing the funding for education, treatment, and rehabilitation for people with mental illness.

Social Security

Because of the rise of health care costs, increasing income inequality, longer life-spans, and the need for a fully-funded Social Security program for future generations,

We support the elimination of the social security tax cap on maximum taxable wages.

Death With Dignity

Because states are authorizing the legal right and medical means for terminally ill and mentally competent patients to receive help bringing their suffering to an end, and because this help has increased the quality of end-of-life care,

We support a federal Death With Dignity Act authorizing aid in dying so that terminally ill, mentally competent Americans may ask for and receive prescription medication which they may self-administer to end their suffering should it become unbearable.

Reproductive Health

Because we believe that abortions should be accessible, safe, legal, and rare, and because women having access to education and contraception will decrease the number of unplanned pregnancies,

We support public funding for the provision of contraception for all people.

We support comprehensive sexuality education that includes medically accurate information about contraception and abstinence.

We support public funding for family planning services.

We support greater access to emergency contraception.

We support programs that curb domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Native American Health

Because of the disproportionate amounts of Native American people suffering from alcoholism and at-risk for suicide,

We support legislation increasing the funding for the treatment of alcoholism, suicide prevention, and mental health services for Native American peoples in the United States

We support all Native Americans having access to these services.

Marijuana

Because the criminal justice system is incarcerating disproportionate amounts of minorities, and many of these convictions are due to the possession and distribution of marijuana, and because marijuana is being legalized at the state level,

We support the federal legalization of marijuana for recreational and medicinal use, in accordance with other laws ensuring the safe use of the drug.

Veterans Health Care

Because Veterans have served their country and in doing so are entitled to the best health care with the easiest access to providers,

We support efforts to authorize that all veterans shall have access to the health care and mental health services they need from VA facilities and local providers of their choice at no additional cost. This includes access to local pharmacies.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Foreign Policy

Because we believe the United States should exercise its influence in constructive ways around the world as a force for positive growth and change,

We support diplomacy over armed intervention in conflicts with other countries around the world.