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**THIRD DISTRICT PLATFORM  
ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION  
APRIL 28, 2012**

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

We are justly proud of our Democratic Party, its heritage, and its accomplishments. From its inception, the Democratic Party has committed itself to establishing and maintaining the rights and worth of the individual. We believe in a pro-active government that helps to secure these rights for all of its citizens. This belief commits us to promoting and safeguarding a quality of life that recognizes basic human dignity.

We freely welcome all those who join in our concern for human dignity, social justice, and quality of life for people. We value our diversity and believe that it strengthens our country. Our history as a party and as a nation compels us to oppose discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other bias-based categorization imposed on individuals or groups.

Individual liberty is the cornerstone of American democracy. The government must protect the right to dissent. Limits must not be placed on any non-violent expression of personal beliefs or opinions.

The answer to governmental fiscal problems lies in a strong economy founded upon broadly based prosperity. We know that our success as a nation rests largely on the strength, inventiveness, and perseverance of our citizens. Market forces alone often do not serve the common good. We believe in a government that protects ALL individuals and assures equal opportunities for all.

The Democratic Party is inclusive; we welcome people of all beliefs and encourage a free and open discussion of issues. It is imperative the Democratic Party make the recruitment and election of Democratic women a top priority in all local, state and federal office elections. We treasure our democracy, in which every voter should count and every vote should be counted.

We encourage all levels of the Iowa Democratic Party to develop programs to increase participation in and accessibility to Democratic Party Caucuses. Young people are our future and we welcome them to join our party. County chapters of Young Democrats should be established and supported.

As temporary stewards of our natural resources, we demand that our governing bodies develop policies and laws protecting our environment permanently from wasteful and indiscriminate use. Clean air, healthy water, and diverse ecosystems, including our national parks, oceans, and ancient forests, are part of our children's future and must be protected.

47 The infrastructure of our communities, our state and our nation is an investment in our  
48 future. The base of our future is a strong educational system and expanded  
49 opportunities that not only provide entry-level jobs, but also recognize an employee's  
50 talents fairly and equitably.

51  
52 We support America's historic role as a leader in the search for a just peace in troubled  
53 parts of the world. We support America's leadership role in the effort to eliminate  
54 terrorism. In doing so we must respect human rights and continue to work closely with  
55 our allies to ensure world-wide support for our efforts.

## 56 57 **STATEMENT OF ISSUES**

58  
59 The number one priority of the Third District Iowa Democratic Party is defending and  
60 promoting the interests of the middle class and those who wish to be middle class and  
61 defending democracy from plutocracy.

## 62 63 **AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY**

### 64 65 **Agriculture**

66  
67 America needs a healthy and secure food supply

68  
69 We support:

- 70 1. agricultural research and practices that mitigate public, environmental, and  
71 livestock health risks through:
  - 72 a. state and local regulation of livestock operations
  - 73 b. safety testing, labeling, and regulation of genetically modified  
74 organisms and irradiated foods
- 75 2. diversification of crops and livestock including hemp
- 76 3. humane treatment of companion, wild and farm animals
- 77 4. soil and water conservation compliance for agricultural subsidy recipients
- 78 5. cost-sharing to implement conservation plans
- 79 6. USDA offices in every county
- 80 7. a Farm Bill that:
  - 81 a. conserves our natural resources
  - 82 b. reduces hunger
  - 83 c. provides a fair, sustainable income
  - 84 d. builds livable agricultural communities
  - 85 e. encourages unencumbered local food networks
- 86 8. legal protection of our finite soil resources
- 87 9. diverse biofuel stocks
- 88 10. producer farm subsidy caps
- 89 11. full Conservation Reserve Program funding
- 90 12. anti-trust enforcement to prohibit food supply monopolies
- 91 13. American ownership of farmland
- 92 14. small scale agricultural production

- 93 15. fair livestock market access  
94  
95 We oppose:  
96 16. vertical integration of livestock production  
97 17. the Ag Gag bill  
98 18. leasing CRP land for hunting  
99

## 100 **Natural Resources and the Environment**

101  
102 America needs a healthy, functioning ecosystem with clean air and water and quality  
103 soil  
104

- 105 We support:  
106 19. policies, standards, funding to reduce, retain, and treat nitrogen, phosphorus,  
107 and other pollutants to return Iowa's waterways to a healthy, swimmable and  
108 fishable condition  
109 20. immediate enforcement of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations  
110 21. right to sue over odor nuisance  
111 22. "Smart Growth" planning, sustainable development, transportation, public  
112 transit, and infrastructure investments which creates livable, walkable  
113 neighborhoods and preserves farmland and sensitive/unique natural areas, i.e.  
114 Loess Hills  
115 23. reducing, reusing and recycling plastics, electronics, and batteries  
116 24. expanding the "bottle bill"  
117 25. increased Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) funding  
118 26. assistance to adapt to climate change  
119

- 120 We oppose:  
121 27. hunting mourning doves  
122 28. use of lead ammunition, tackle, and wheel weights  
123 29. taxpayer subsidies for urban growth on farmland and natural areas  
124

## 125 **Energy**

126  
127 We are committed to conserving energy and developing safe, clean, sustain-able, and  
128 secure sources.  
129

- 130 We support:  
131 30. aggressive policies and significant financial resources to reduce greenhouse  
132 gases, achieve energy independence and job growth including:  
133 a. energy conservation  
134 b. new efficiency technologies  
135 c. development and utilization of renewable energy  
136 d. production tax credits for wind and solar energy  
137 e. residential solar and wind power  
138 31. decreasing dependence on nuclear power

- 139 32. appropriate transportation and permanent disposal of nuclear waste  
140 33. enforcement of pipeline safeguards  
141 34. strong regulation of energy commodity speculation  
142  
143 We oppose:  
144 35. the Keystone XL pipeline  
145 36. subsidies for nuclear power  
146 37. relicensing nuclear power plants  
147 38. shifting risk for proposed nuclear power plants to current ratepayers  
148 39. fracking without adequate environmental and geological protections  
149 40. exporting domestically produced Liquefied Natural Gas and oil  
150

## 151 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE, AND LABOR**

### 152 **Commerce**

- 153  
154  
155 We support:  
156 1. quality job creation  
157 2. incentives to create, retain, and return jobs to the United States  
158 3. accessible passenger and freight train service  
159 4. re-opening full-service Iowa Workforce Development offices  
160 5. funding social programs, alternative energy, and deficit reduction  
161 6. trade agreements that support sustainable farming practices  
162 7. dispute resolutions and enforcement provisions in all trade agreements  
163 8. enforcement of trade regulations  
164 9. addressing the US trade deficit fairly  
165 10. required country of origin labeling  
166 11. prosecuting executives and board members of financial institutions for  
167 fraudulent activities  
168 12. regulating financial institutions and enforcing anti-trust laws  
169 13. limits on commercial lending charges  
170 14. complete transparency to consumers of financial products and services  
171

### 172 **Labor**

- 173  
174 We support:  
175 15. the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill that would protect employees from being  
176 penalized for participating in a union, and laws to protect wage and other  
177 compensation paid to the majority of comparable employees in a given area  
178 16. employees' rights to form unions and bargain collectively, free from political  
179 retribution  
180 17. employment decisions for public employees without regard to political affiliation  
181 18. injured workers' right to choice of doctor  
182 19. expanding the scope of public sector bargaining  
183 20. the right to negotiate agreements for a fee paid by non-union employees who  
184 benefit, directly or indirectly, by union agreements and bargaining

- 185 21. enforcement of pro-labor laws  
186 22. allowing elected officials to hire local contractors that provide quality work  
187 23. collective bargaining rights for all workers  
188 24. protection of pension funds from diversion or diminishment by employers or  
189 administrators, and laws to ensure that sources of funding for insurance to  
190 protect guaranteed pension benefits cannot be misappropriated or  
191 misrepresented  
192 25. government projects, favoring Iowa workers, to improve Iowa's infrastructure  
193 and create jobs  
194 26. programs to address the nation's critical infrastructure needs, hire long-term  
195 unemployed Americans, and pay living wages, with preference on government  
196 hiring over privatization  
197 27. enhancement and enforcement of affirmative action  
198 28. reducing the inequity between executive and worker compensation  
199 29. enacting a living wage  
200 30. strengthening and enforcing laws that guarantee the right to organize without  
201 penalty  
202 31. strengthening unemployment insurance benefits  
203 32. strengthening whistle-blower protections  
204  
205 We oppose:  
206 33. any effort to weaken existing labor laws  
207

## 208 **Economy**

- 209  
210 We support:  
211 34. help for mortgages troubled by lender deception  
212 35. regulating financial speculation  
213 36. protecting Social Security and eliminating the Social Security taxable wage cap  
214 37. creating a more progressive tax structure and closing tax loopholes for the  
215 wealthy  
216  
217 We oppose:  
218 38. outsourced jobs to other countries  
219 39. distinctively lower capital gains tax rates  
220 40. efforts to cripple the U.S. Postal Service  
221

## 222 **EDUCATION**

- 223  
224 We support:  
225 1. the importance of community, parents, and public educational professionals in  
226 education problem solving and decision-making  
227 2. effective, research based training and resources for teachers to educate  
228 students  
229 3. preventive and remedial resources, including nutrition, and aid for students who  
230 need additional assistance

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4. the Anti Bully Law, stated in the Iowa Code, to ensure Iowa schools are safe places for all students, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion or disability, with respect to physical or emotional dangers or harm, predators of all types, and bullying
  5. increased financing for:
    - a. public pre-K through 12, adjusted for disparities among school districts, at least 4% annual allowable growth, and full financing of research and development to improve instruction
    - b. public community colleges
    - c. Regents Universities
    - d. Area Education Agencies
    - e. Scholarships, through the Iowa Student Aid Commission
  6. federally subsidized student loan programs with restoration of loan forgiveness programs for community services
  7. the right of students with disabilities to have access to public education through age 21
  8. teaching personal finance in the existing high school core curriculum, so every student receives instruction before graduation
  9. thorough, fact-based, age appropriate, relevant reproductive health and sex education curriculum in public schools
  10. teacher training in all four language skills — listening, speaking, reading, and writing — and continuous improvement of teaching skills
  11. research and development projects to solve the problem of illiteracy
  12. reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act based on:
    - a. upholding the federal guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all students and holding districts accountable for improved results for all students
    - b. reduced emphasis on standardized testing
    - c. accurately identifying struggling schools and students, sending resources where most needed, giving states flexibility when dealing with struggling schools, and waivers for Iowa from “No Schools Left Behind”
    - d. supporting the highest quality teaching through professional development and mentoring programs, using teacher evaluation systems designed and implemented at state and local levels, with input from educators
    - e. a statutory bill of professional rights for licensed educators
    - f. a statute indicating criteria of unfair teacher evaluation
  13. full financing for fine and applied arts, Vocational Education and Special Education as being essential
  14. directing education reform efforts to personalized instruction, decentralized decision-making and technology
  15. financing Iowa teacher salaries at or above the national average
  16. requiring all teacher preparation programs to hold national professional accreditation by 2014

- 277 We oppose:  
278 17. tying teacher pay and evaluations solely to student standardized tests  
279 18. any voucher system, tuition tax credit or charter school plan that uses tax  
280 dollars to finance private schools  
281

## 282 GOVERNMENT AND LAW

- 283  
284 We support:
- 285 1. financial assistance to low-income homebuyers, homeowners in danger of  
286 foreclosures, and homebuyers of foreclosed properties
  - 287 2. reinstatement of usury laws
  - 288 3. a fair and impartial judiciary, accountable to the Constitution and the law
  - 289 4. federal protection of marriage of all people as a human right
  - 290 5. the Geneva conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;  
291 including, open and fair trials for all people
  - 292 6. separation of religious organizations and government
  - 293 7. changing the current drug policy to a treatment model
  - 294 8. the possibility of parole for juveniles sentenced to life for homicide
  - 295 9. public funding of reproductive-support organizations
  - 296 10. restoration of civil rights upon completion of criminal sentences
  - 297 11. increased funding for Legal Aid
  - 298 12. criminal penalties for owners, managers, and employees of care facilities for  
299 intentional or grossly negligent acts in patient care
  - 300 13. the Violence Against Women Act
  - 301 14. listing of same-sex parents on vital records
  - 302 15. affirmative action
  - 303 16. a reform of the tax system and increasing income tax rates for the wealthy
  - 304 17. the establishment of a per transaction tax on high frequency trading, and the  
305 sale and purchase of credit default swaps, derivatives, stock options and  
306 futures
  - 307 18. requiring banks that unethically recruited and financed sub-prime mortgages to  
308 reduce principal by significant amounts
  - 309 19. reforming tax increment financing in Iowa for urban revitalization
  - 310 20. expansion of U.S. manufacturing
  - 311 21. a constitutional amendment declaring that corporations have only such rights as  
312 may be granted by statute
  - 313 22. campaign finance reform
  - 314 23. voting that leaves a paper trail
  - 315 24. the reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act to stabilize our economy
  - 316 25. same day voter registration
  - 317 26. waste and fraud elimination in all government agencies
  - 318 27. a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a right to privacy
  - 319 28. the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) finding a new funding  
320 source or a replacement to the favorable experience dividend, and creating an  
321 independent board to govern the trust fund
  - 322 29. ending federal anti-trust exemptions for insurance companies

- 323 30. no expansion of gambling in Iowa
- 324 31. community-based programs, not incarceration, for non-violent crimes
- 325 32. subjecting the US Congress to changes in compensation, benefits and Cost of
- 326 Living Adjustments (COLAs) at the same rate as federal employees
- 327 33. legislation making political candidates and organizations liable to slander laws
- 328 34. the right of all to practice their freedom of religion without harassment or threats
- 329 35. the rights of a woman to access all legal health care
- 330 36. the legalization of marijuana in the same manner as tobacco and alcohol
- 331 37. a fair, comprehensive and transparent immigration policy
- 332 38. a Guest Worker Program with appropriate time limits
- 333 39. the Uniting American Families Act
- 334 40. the Dream Act
- 335 41. a system of retaining judges with life time tenure
- 336

337 We oppose:

- 338 42. the death penalty
- 339 43. the use of eminent domain without community benefit or public purpose
- 340 44. including people on a registry without due process of law
- 341 45. any legislation that endangers the freedom of speech on the Internet
- 342 46. the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Patriot Act, and
- 343 detention without due process of law
- 344 47. any change in the equal-protection provisions of the Iowa Constitution
- 345 48. photo I.D. voting requirements
- 346 49. privatizing Social Security and Medicare
- 347 50. systems separate from Social Security and Medicare for all federal officials
- 348 51. providing tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas
- 349 52. insider trading by members of Congress and their staff
- 350 53. the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*
- 351 54. the Secure Communities program of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- 352 agency and deportation without legal representation
- 353 55. vigilante-military actions along the Mexico/U.S. border
- 354 56. the importation of immigrants to supplant U.S. workers
- 355

## 356 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

357

358 We support:

- 359 1. Single Payer Health Care
- 360 2. Developmental Disability Services and community living waivers for all citizens
- 361 3. all children to age 26 remaining insured on their family's health insurance
- 362 4. increased funding and protection to eliminate abuse and neglect for all citizens
- 363 5. increasing children's cancer research funding
- 364 6. statewide implementation of the "Foster Youth Social Security Act"
- 365 7. legalizing medical marijuana
- 366 8. full funding for mental health/disability services
- 367 9. establishing a statewide mental health and disability system, managed
- 368 regionally, with services delivered locally with a patient centered focus



- 369 10. full mental health parity with medical health insurance  
370 11. more and certified direct care mental health/disability professionals  
371 12. elimination of the earnings cap for deductions for social security and Medicare  
372 contributions  
373 13. augmenting services to reduce number of all homeless citizens  
374 14. a cap of 10% of individual income on health insurance premiums  
375 15. a workers right to choose a physician in workers compensation and in all  
376 disability cases  
377 16. public and private research to encourage medical advances in pre-vention and  
378 treatment of chronic diseases including but not limited to stem cell research  
379 17. programs for small businesses, families and individuals to improve and promote  
380 healthy lifestyles  
381 18. expanding health care options to rural areas  
382 19. Implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
383 20. a woman's right to make reproductive choices  
384 21. adequate inspection of Long Term Care Facilities and that surveillance cameras  
385 be allowed to insure the safety of the residents within parameters of existing  
386 federal HIPPA laws  
387 22. income and food security for all Americans including adequately funded  
388 community based social services  
389 23. increased funding of Alzheimer's research  
390 24. certification of direct patient care workers  
391 25. full health insurance for autism spectrum disorders  
392 26. the "Protect Our Kids" Act  
393 27. raising the Medicare reimbursement rate for Iowa  
394 28. eliminating the "In the Home" restriction for personal mobility device coverage  
395 29. a health care program to cover medical expenses for the unemployed and  
396 uninsured

397  
398 We oppose:

- 399 30. Medicare vouchers  
400 31. block granting of the Medicaid program

401

## 402 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

403

### 404 Peace and Security

405

406 We support:

- 407 1. promoting human rights and dignity for all, resolving global poverty, protecting  
408 clean water, and reducing hunger and disease  
409 2. elimination of all nuclear weapons  
410 3. enhancing gender equality and political empowerment of women  
411 4. preventing genocide and mass atrocities  
412 5. normalizing relations with Cuba  
413 6. protecting victims and prosecuting human traffickers for sexual exploitation and  
414 forced labor

- 415 7. taking military action only with clear national defense goals, informed  
416 Congressional consent and funding, and, whenever possible, international  
417 cooperation  
418 8. ending violence against women, including genital mutilation, honor killings, and  
419 rape  
420 9. peaceful space exploration  
421 10. closing the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation  
422

423 We oppose:

- 424 11. preemptive war unless there is an imminent threat to U.S. security  
425 12. U.S. military aid not in compliance with international law and U.S. trade and  
426 assistance laws  
427

### 428 **Developmental Assistance and Trade**

429

430 We support:

- 431 13. meeting U.N. Millennium Development goals  
432 14. initiatives to reduce pollution, manage clean water supplies, end dependence  
433 on non-renewable energy  
434 15. promoting voluntary reproductive health and family planning  
435 16. culturally sensitive, non-exploitative foreign aid and trade agreements  
436 emphasizing fair trade rather than free trade by protecting human rights,  
437 workers' rights, public health, and environmental needs – and renegotiating  
438 agreements lacking such emphasis  
439

### 440 **Middle East**

441

442 We support:

- 443 17. peaceful efforts to achieve separate and secure Israeli and Palestinian states,  
444 working with all parties to resolve the conflict and respecting the rights of all  
445 persons to self-governance, protection of property, clean water, and freedom to  
446 travel  
447 18. efforts promoting the sovereignty of the Egyptian people to create their own  
448 government through constitutional processes and transition from a military to a  
449 democratic government  
450 19. redeploying U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan  
451 20. reconstruction and refugee resettlement in Iraq and Afghanistan through  
452 international cooperation  
453 21. an international coalition to aid democratic movements seeking to replace the  
454 repressive regime in Syria, and protect human rights  
455 22. diplomatic efforts to verifiably contain Iran's nuclear program within limits that  
456 will peacefully prevent nuclear weapons development  
457

### 458 **United Nations**

459

460 We support:

- 461 23. reforming and restructuring the UN to make it a stronger, more vital  
462 organization for peace, justice and the common good for all peoples  
463 24. full dues payment  
464 25. membership in the International Court of Criminal Justice  
465 26. creation of an Arms Transfers Code of Conduct  
466 27. participation in the Human Rights Council  
467

## 468 **Treaties and Conventions**

469

470 We support:

- 471 28. ratification and/or participation in agreements, treaties, and conventions that  
472 respond to climate change, eliminate or limit chemical weapons, promote  
473 human rights, ensure justice and equality, and improve the environment and the  
474 health of all peoples  
475

## 476 **VETERANS**

477

478 We support:

- 479 1. reforming Iowa Property Tax laws as they relate to veterans and their surviving  
480 spouse by:  
481 a. increasing the amount of veterans' property tax exemption and indexing  
482 it to the rate of inflation  
483 b. eliminating the property tax on the primary residence for 100% service-  
484 connected disabled veterans  
485 c. prohibit property tax increases from the time of purchase to the time of  
486 sale for 50% or greater service-connected disabled veterans  
487 2. an income tax credit of 10% of state and federal income tax for disabled  
488 veterans with a service connected disability  
489 3. Veterans Affairs offices being open for business a minimum of 40 hours per  
490 week  
491 4. issuance by the Federal Government of a Cold War medal to all veterans who  
492 have earned the citation by serving after World War II (September 1945) and  
493 before the fall of the Soviet Union (December 1991)  
494 5. Iowa combat veterans receiving free tuition at any state institution of higher  
495 learning  
496 6. all veterans receiving a fully-funded federal G. I. (Government Issue) Bill  
497 7. issuance of a Gold Star License Plate by the Iowa Department of  
498 Transportation; the plates would be issued to requesting spouses and parents  
499 of fallen members of the US Armed Forces in a Combat Zone