

1 **COUNTY DEMOCRATS**

2  
3 We support the platform passed by the Polk County Democrats in 2016.

4  
5 We support actively recruiting, training and supporting Democratic candidates for  
6 every local, state, and national office.

7  
8 We encourage all Democrats to join non-partisan boards and commissions of the  
9 cities in Polk County and those of Polk County.

10  
11 **AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT**

12  
13 We support a 3/8 cent sales tax increase (not revenue neutral) to fund the Natural  
14 Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, and preserving the formula for  
15 fund distribution.

16  
17 We support stronger clean water and air programs.

18  
19 We oppose efforts to change the governance of the Des Moines Water Works.

20  
21 **ECONOMY, COMMERCE, LABOR**

22  
23 We support the pre-2017 public sector collective bargaining statute, Iowa Code  
24 Chapter 20, to restore all of the rights of unions that represent public employees,  
25 including having dues paid through pay checks, negotiating over benefits and  
26 seniority, having job security, and continuing recognition (not requiring  
27 recertification every year).

28  
29 We oppose the efforts by the Republican legislature and the Republican governor  
30 to enact anti-worker laws.

31  
32 We support maintaining the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires paying local  
33 prevailing wages for public work projects, and expanding the act to include all  
34 publicly funded projects.

35  
36 We support government policies to grow the middle class.

37

38 We support increasing the federal and state minimum wage.

39

40 We oppose changes to workers' compensation law that result in the reduction of  
41 eligibility and/or benefits.

42

43 We support strengthening collective bargaining rights for all workers.

44

45 We support restoring the teacher fair dismissal law.

46

47 We support the Polk County Democrats moving all accounts to locally based credit  
48 unions.

49

50 We support government funded training programs and job creation for workers  
51 displaced by automation.

52

53 We support reforming tax policy to tax companies that replace manufacturing jobs  
54 with automation.

55

## 56 **EDUCATION**

57

58 We support increased public education funding per student in Iowa annually by at  
59 least 3% or the annual CPI, whichever is higher.

60

61 We support increased funding for public education.

62

63 We support improvement in the teaching of basic skills in elementary school,  
64 including critical thinking skills, cursive writing, and spelling.

65

66 We support adequately funding Iowa's public universities and community  
67 colleges, maintaining tenure, and prohibiting a political test for hiring.

68

69 We support access to high quality early education, with early learning and literacy  
70 programs.

71

## 72 **GOVERNMENT**

73

74 We oppose efforts to preempt local laws that govern local and county minimum  
75 wages, environmental measures, and local civil rights laws.

76

77 We support instant runoff voting for all local, state, and federal elections.

78

79 We support enforcement of criminal laws against animal abusers.

80

81 We support amending the U.S. Constitution to guarantee an individual right to  
82 privacy.

83

84 We support annual inspection of puppy mills by the Iowa Department of  
85 Agriculture and making the results public.

86

87 We support the nonpartisan, independent redistricting process in Iowa.

88

89 We support amending the federal and Iowa constitutions designating that Congress  
90 and the States may regulate and set reasonable limits on the raising and spending  
91 of money by candidates and others to influence elections, and that Congress and  
92 the States shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate  
93 legislation, and may distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other  
94 artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from  
95 spending money to influence elections; nothing in this amendment shall give  
96 Congress and the States the power to abridge the freedom of the press.

97

98 We support a law requiring elected government officials to disclose conferences  
99 and trips paid for by lobbyists or other non-governmental organizations.

100

101 We oppose private prisons.

102

103 We support reasonable gun and weapon safety measures that restrict the ability of  
104 persons who should not have guns to possess them and limit the types of weapons  
105 it is lawful to possess, e.g., machine guns, semi-automatic weapons.

106

107 We oppose “Stand Your Ground” and “Guns For Tots” laws.

108

109 We oppose voter suppression measures, such as voter ID, signature requirements,  
110 and the shortening of time to obtain an absentee ballot.

111

112 We oppose the state and federal Republican legislative agenda for the 2017  
113 session.

114

115 We support the commitment of the Polk County Sheriff's Office not to use its  
116 workforce for federal immigration enforcement.

117

118 We support enacting laws to prohibit child placement agencies which receive state  
119 funding from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity when  
120 placing children.

121

122 We support enacting laws to ensure that state family leave laws are applied equally  
123 to LGBT citizens.

124

125 We oppose the practice of so-called "conversion therapy" on minors.

126

127 We support enacting a law prohibiting private health insurance from denying or  
128 limiting coverage based on sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBT plan  
129 enrollees.

130

131 We support prohibiting businesses that provide public accommodations from  
132 discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

133

134 We support separation of religion and government.

135

136 We support equal protection of the rights of Iowans of all faiths and of no faith.

137

138 We oppose special privileges for any religious group or belief system.

139

140 We support legislating based on science and evidence while maintaining religious  
141 neutrality.

142

143 We support protecting children and young adults from the tragedy of human  
144 trafficking by enacting legislation to prevent prostitution and drug use charges  
145 against those who come forward seeking protection.

146

147 We support efforts to increase consumer choice in content programming offered by  
148 cable, radio, television, video, satellite, streaming, and other electronic service  
149 providers.

150

151 We support fully funding the state judicial branch to reflect case load levels in  
152 accordance with the recommendations of the National Center for State Courts  
153 (NCSC), increasing the pay of judges and magistrates, and guaranteeing a strong,  
154 politically independent judiciary.

155

156 We oppose efforts to decrease domestic budgets.

157

## 158 **HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES**

159

160 We support federal legislation that exempts state medical cannabis programs from  
161 the federal controlled substances act and reclassifies cannabis to facilitate research.

162

163 We support legislation that empowers Iowans suffering from a terminal illness and  
164 who are mentally competent and under qualified medical care, to make a personal  
165 choice as to the time and manner of their own death.

166

167 We oppose religious exemptions from laws that protect children in the areas of  
168 education, public health, child care, neglect, and abuse.

169

170 We oppose all exemptions, other than health, from immunization requirements for  
171 children attending Pre-K and K-12 schools and child care centers.

172

173 We support ensuring all child care centers operating in Iowa are required to  
174 comply with health and safety standards by subjecting church-related child care  
175 centers to the same licensing standards as other child care centers in Iowa, such as  
176 background checks for personnel, evaluations and inspections.

177

178 We support regulation of Crisis Pregnancy Centers, including the requirement that  
179 such centers be transparent regarding the services they do and do not provide and  
180 whether or not medically licensed personnel are available on site.

181

182 We support state and federal funding to clinics providing essential family planning  
183 services, including Planned Parenthood, regardless of whether they perform legal  
184 abortions.

185

186 We support steps to ensure Iowans who are uninsured or underinsured have access  
187 to the full spectrum of reproductive health care.

188

189 We support measures to ensure medical providers with religious or moral  
190 objections to providing certain standard medical procedures or services, in the case  
191 of an emergency, will either refer the patient to another provider in the same  
192 premises willing to do so in a timely manner, or perform the procedure or service  
193 themselves, and in non-emergency situations be required to state during intake  
194 procedures what services will not be provided.

195

196 We support access to legal abortions without prerequisite requirements, such as  
197 forcing women to undergo an ultrasound, so-called informed consent, waiting  
198 periods, parental notification or consent, reporting requirements, and other tactics  
199 used to prevent or discourage abortion.

200

201 We oppose legislation that encourages law suits against abortion providers that do  
202 not claim malpractice.

203

204 We support expansion of Medicaid funding for abortion procedures to include all  
205 legal abortions.

206

207 We oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

208

209 We oppose the Republican American Health Care Act, which would give billions  
210 in tax breaks to insurance companies, drug makers and the wealthy, remove  
211 millions of Americans from Medicaid, and make health insurance unaffordable for  
212 millions of other Americans.

213

214 We support providing sufficient services for persons with disabilities including  
215 mental health plus Home and Community Based Services enabling independent  
216 community living.

217

218 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

219

220 We oppose any and all Muslim bans, barring Syrian refugees, and limiting visas  
221 and immigration based on nation of origin and/or religion.

222

223 We oppose the wall at the Mexican border, mass deportations, arresting  
224 undocumented immigrants indiscriminately, deporting DREAMERS, expedited  
225 removal without hearings, private prisons to hold immigrants, and penalizing  
226 sanctuary cities.

227

228 We support reforming the immigration laws of the United States to allow persons  
229 wishing to move to the United States to migrate to this country legally and  
230 facilitating the process of application for admission without long delays.

231

232 We support a pathway to legal status and citizenship for immigrants who have  
233 been residing in this country without legal documentation.

234

235 We support presuming a valid asylum claim unless proven otherwise, including  
236 people appearing at our borders seeking entry who have fled from any country  
237 where the U.S. War on Drugs activity occurs.

238

239 We oppose efforts to increase the military budget.

240

241 **POLK COUNTY PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

242

243 Carl Olsen, Acting Chair

244 Sheryl D. Tenikat

245 David Backstrom

246 Rhonda Fowler

247 Sally Frank

248 Susan Wickham

249 Deborah Fisch

250 Max Miller

251 Edward D. Klatte

252 Al Flyr

253 Kathleen O'Leary