

2024 Poweshiek Democratic Party Platform

Ratified by County Convention on March 23, 2024

Preamble

The principal concern of the Democratic Party remains the well-being of all the people. This concern is based upon the promise in the Declaration of Independence that all “are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

As Poweshiek Democrats:

We support responsible stewardship of the earth’s resources, including clean air, clean water, and renewable energy.

We believe in tax fairness, where everyone is taxed progressively according to income and wealth.

We support campaign finance reform as a matter of principle to reduce the undue influence of special interests and to eliminate the potential bribery of elected officials.

We believe that quality education should be made available to all.

We believe that it is past time to solve the problems of healthcare in our country.

We defend the right of workers, farmers, and merchants to organize to achieve a sustainable income and fair working conditions.

We would end discrimination based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, occupation, national origin, veteran status, age, disability, or ethnic identity.

We support the local and independent ownership of livestock and grain farms.

Agriculture, Environment and Energy

We support:

1. Locally owned, mid-size family farms raising row crops and livestock.
2. Farms that market directly to consumers.
3. A statewide moratorium on new or enlarged concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) until fewer than 100 of Iowa's waterways are impaired.
4. A revision of rules and regulations used to oversee CAFOs, used in all counties, with the aim of minimizing their negative ecological and health impacts.
5. Taxing CAFO buildings at commercial rates.
6. The immediate elimination of pollution control property tax exemptions for animal confinements, including poultry.
7. Updating all base acres and yields to reflect current data.
8. The Farm Service Agency using grain producers' costs of production in setting loan collateral terms.
9. The development of infrastructure to support the expansion of and industrial use of crops that expand the range of production beyond corn and soybeans.
10. No tilling or application of fertilizer on soybean fields after harvest unless seeded to a cover crop and having a buffer strip next to moving waters.
11. Policies promoting local and organic foods in schools and public institutions, including permanent funding of the Local Foods Initiative.
12. Financial assistance to facilitate the creation of local hubs that are cooperatively owned and operated by local food producers.
13. Tax and financial incentives for new state-inspected *local* meat processing plants, including mobile slaughtering units.
14. Reinstating and increasing funding for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
15. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with benefits targeted to soil conservation and to non-confined animal operations.
16. An increase in the capacity of our municipal water treatment plants.
17. Reinstating the IOWATER Testing Program.
18. Funding for the Land and Water Legacy Trust as established by a constitutional amendment without decreasing funding from other sources, and assessing vertically integrated corporations a per-head fee for animals placed on Iowa

farms, using the proceeds to fund the Trust.

19. Establishing an Iowa Environmental Quality Act that protects the natural environment and species within.
20. Increased soil and water conservation and improved quality of our waterways through tighter regulations and fully funding enforcement agencies.
21. Using the Conservation Stewardship Program to adequately pay for carbon sequestration on working land thereby encouraging no-till and cover crops.
22. Promoting land use ordinances that protect tillable land and eliminating subsidies for new development.
23. Seeding both sides of four miles of Poweshiek County roadside with native grasses and wildflowers every year.
24. Maintaining the Forest Reserve Program as it presently stands.
25. Continued state and federal support of the production of alternative, renewable, and sustainable clean energy sources.
26. Increased renewable energy production in Iowa to 100% by 2030.
27. Iowa Utility Board regulations of community and individual/cooperative-owned renewable energy.
28. A 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reductions to net zero emissions by 2050.
29. Policies that encourage responsible environmental practices that require industries to internalize the cost of pollution.
30. A cap on carbon emissions and progressive fines above this cap.
31. Recycling.
32. Increasing the redemption value for beverage containers including an expansion of container types.
33. Reduction of single-use plastics.
34. The Renewable Fuel Standard as written.
35. Increasing direct funding for research into biofuels other than corn-based ethanol.
36. Enacting a check-off on the state income tax to fund the Iowa Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

We oppose:

37. Incentivizing the use of animal fertilizer in the Conservation Stewardship Program.
38. Packer ownership of livestock.
39. Consolidation of land in fewer hands, even if the land is still owned by “family farms.”
40. Foreign and/or non-farm corporate operations participating in farm income support programs.
41. Hunting with lead shot.
42. Building new coal-fired or nuclear plants in Iowa.
43. Government support for large land development operations by United States citizens in other countries.
44. Fracking.
45. Carbon pipelines in Iowa.

Economy and Labor

We support:

46. Refocusing rural/agricultural economic development funds on sustainable, entrepreneurial, independent farms and small businesses.
47. Policies that encourage smart growth and redevelopment inside our communities.
48. Policies that encourage returning jobs to the United States.
49. A state and federal \$15 minimum wage, with annual increases indexed to the Consumer Price Index.
50. Workers’ rights to organize and bargain collectively.
51. Combined corporate reporting for tax purposes.
52. Vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws to prohibit further integration and concentration of food processing and retailing.
53. Adoption of the Equality Act.
54. Restoring public sector collective bargaining rights in Iowa.
55. Strengthening retirement systems for Iowa’s public-sector employees.
56. Restoring the balance between workers and businesses in Iowa’s workers’ compensation

system.

57. Allowing workers to select their own medical provider for workers' compensation injuries.
58. Allowing governments to use project labor agreements.
59. Low-cost, high-speed internet connectivity in Iowa and the preservation of the Iowa Communications Network under state control.
60. Funding to restore and expand railroad passenger service.
61. Diverting fossil fuel subsidies and defense spending to fund infrastructure repair and building affordable housing nationwide.
62. The Green New Deal.

We oppose:

63. Exploitation of undocumented workers by any employer in the United States.
64. Efforts by the federal and state governments to limit or end overtime pay.

Education

We support:

65. Timely appropriations for education at all levels sufficient to address community needs.
66. Additional tax revenues to strengthen public education at all levels, including a restoration of funding to institutions overseen by Iowa Board of Regents.
67. Laws requiring schools to identify students at risk for violence and refer them to appropriate mental health professionals for evaluation and treatment.
68. Increased public funding for programs to help at-risk children in public schools.
69. Increased funding of student loans for post-secondary education with loan interest 100 percent tax- deductible.
70. Interest rates on student loans for post-secondary education set to one percentage point above the United States Federal Funds Rate.
71. Funding meaningful professional development for teachers.
72. Maintaining and funding the local County Extension Service.
73. Increased funding to improve access to quality and affordable childcare programs for families in Iowa.

74. State funding for pre-K classes for all 3 – 4-year-olds in all school districts.
75. All children in foster care attending public schools.
76. Providing educational resources to at-risk students so they are promoted with their grade-level peers.
77. In-state college tuition for minor immigrants brought to Iowa by their parents.
78. Funding for age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education that includes accurate, affirming information about diversity in gender identity and sexual orientation.
79. Allowing students to participate in athletic teams that align with their gender identity, including access to competitions, safe bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities.
80. Implementing curriculum which teaches the full extent of American history, not just our points of pride.
81. Amending existing curriculum to reflect the important contributions of a diverse group of figures (specifically people of color, indigenous people, and international figures) to American history.
82. Freedom for teachers and students to freely discuss notions of identity (such as race or gender) in the classroom when discussing history or the present day.
83. No-cost food programs at all public schools.
84. Increased funding for summer food programs for all students.
85. Creation of and funding for school vegetable garden programs.
86. Moving away from funding the public school system with property taxes.

We oppose:

87. The use of public money to support private schools as part of a voucher system.
88. Tax credits offsetting donations to private schools.
89. Taxation of university endowments.
90. Efforts to reduce funding, staffing levels, or policymaking authority at Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs).

Government and the Law

We support:

91. Public financing of campaigns and limits on contributions to campaigns by both individuals and corporations.
92. Universal voter registration.

93. Bipartisan efforts such as the Secure Elections Act designed to prevent foreign interference in state and federal elections, including a cybersecurity program protecting electoral infrastructure in all 50 states.
94. Instant run-off elections with ranked-choice voting for party primaries.
95. Term limits at the federal level.
96. Requiring Super PACs to publicly disclose the names of individual and corporate donors and their donation amounts on a quarterly basis.
97. The cessation of a Congressional representatives' active benefits upon loss of seat in Congress and the payment of Congressional pensions beginning no earlier than age 62.
98. Any campaign funds remaining at an individual's departure from public service being directed to the general fund.
99. Automatically restoring voting rights to felons upon completion of their sentence and conclusion of parole or probation.
100. Maintaining and strengthening Iowa's independent redistricting committee.
101. A federal law establishing independent, nonpartisan state commissions tasked with drawing federal and state legislative boundaries after each census.
102. Legislation that will increase electoral participation, including vote by mail options.
103. Elimination of sex category identification on voter registration forms.
104. Taxation of all sources of income according to the same progressive rates.
105. Eliminating the federal income tax deduction from Iowa state taxes.
106. Eliminating all special targeted tax breaks to business.
107. Eliminating income tax on poverty-level income, including FICA, with credit recorded for number of years worked.
108. Removing the cap on income subject to FICA and Medicare tax and applying the tax to all earned and unearned income.
109. Requiring tax credits and tax abatements undergo annual reviews.
110. Immediately stopping all tax refund payments to corporations whose tax credits exceed their tax obligations.
111. Restoring the federal estate tax to 2016 levels.
112. Eliminating all subsidies for fossil fuels.

113. Full funding and protection of the Social Security Trust Fund.
114. Cuts in the defense budget in order to fully fund essential domestic programs.
115. The adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.
116. The expansion of civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
117. Equity-based recruitment, admission, and hiring policies that promote many forms of diversity, including with regard to race, sex, socioeconomic status, religion, veteran status, disability status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
118. Enforcement of federal hate crimes legislation to prosecute crimes that target people because of their race, religion, sex and gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, age, disability, immigration status, or ethnic identity.
119. Monetary and policy-based reparations to African Americans and Native Americans.
120. Reproductive freedom of choice, as established in *Roe vs. Wade*.
121. Federal funding for voluntary international family planning.
122. Allowing individuals in the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to remain in the United States and move quickly toward United States citizenship.
123. Repeal of the “Right to Work” law in Iowa.
124. Modernizing gun regulations, based on non-political academic research, with the goal of reducing gun violence.
125. Renewing the federal ban on assault weapons.
126. Background checks on gun sales and closing the “gun show loophole.”
127. Granting county sheriffs discretion in issuing firearm permits to individuals.
128. A fair and independent judiciary.
129. Iowa’s system of selecting judges based on merit.
130. The full funding of Iowa’s state court system and maintaining of a county court for all of the state’s counties.
131. Iowa’s continued refusal to impose the death penalty.
132. Eliminating mandatory minimum sentencing laws and allowing judges greater discretion in sentencing convicted defendants.
133. Decreasing penalties for drug-related crimes, particularly for first offenses involving a small amount of a controlled substance.

134. Removing marijuana from the *Schedule 1* drug list.
135. Legalization of recreational marijuana.
136. Increased funding for research and treatment of drug addiction, including for opioids.
137. An increase in well-funded community substance abuse treatment programs instead of imprisonment.
138. Increased funding for correctional treatment programs, including drug courts.
139. Diversion of mentally ill offenders into appropriate treatment programs and institutions instead of imprisonment.
140. Funding for the Iowa Department of Corrections to open community residential facilities for probation violators and re-entry of parolees.
141. Repealing the Patriot Act.
142. Protections of individual privacy in communications, with any abridgement of those protections subject to oversight by state, federal, and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance courts.
143. Internet freedom and net neutrality, with the Federal Communications Commission regulating internet service as a public utility.
144. Mandatory funding for veterans' health care, including enhanced specialized treatment and research for service-related illnesses, and retirement pay without a tax on disability compensation.
145. Increased services for homeless veterans.
146. A law and funding for developing policies and procedures for various types of emergencies in schools and public buildings.
147. Assessing a small fee on all transactions on all stock exchanges.
148. Public services remaining in the public domain.
149. DC statehood.
150. The "Right to Know" country of origin for all products.
151. Raising postal rates for high volume bulk business mail.
152. Measures to strengthen and protect a public United States Postal Service.
153. Committing Iowa's electors to vote for the winner of the national presidential popular vote through the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
154. State legislators or state officials paying any fines or settlements with private money rather than with taxpayer dollars.

We oppose:

155. Voter suppression efforts.
156. Any law attempting to establish “personhood” status or that declares that life begins at conception.
157. Separation of families at the United States border.
158. The Stand Your Ground Law passed by the Iowa Legislature in 2017 and any other efforts to relax Iowa’s gun laws.
159. For-profit prisons.
160. Requiring disclosure of criminal records on employment forms.
161. Attempts to reduce free speech and innovation online.
162. Tort reform that would limit a victim’s compensation.
163. Additional casinos in Iowa.
164. The use of eminent domain on behalf of private interests.
165. The use of state funds to pay legislators’ membership dues with the American Legislative Exchange Council.
166. Efforts to limit access to public spaces and educational opportunities based on gender identity.

Healthcare

We support:

167. A universal single-payer healthcare system.
168. Fighting global poverty and disease.
169. Investment in public health resources and statewide compliance with evidence-based public health recommendations.
170. Comprehensive and accessible mental healthcare, with funding to expand Iowa’s mental health workforce and mental health care facilities.
171. Creation and implementation of a children’s mental health system.
172. Comprehensive, accessible, and affordable long-term care, both in facilities and homes, for patients with disabilities and significant health issues, including support for families providing care.

173. Required insurance coverage of contraceptives prescribed by medical professionals.
174. Requiring all pharmacists to fill all prescriptions, including contraceptives.
175. Requiring medical professionals to perform all legal medical procedures, including abortions.
176. Continued legal and affordable access to safe abortion procedures as defined by international health authorities such as the World Health Organization.
177. Funding for reproductive health care clinics, where methods of contraception and testing for sexually transmitted diseases are included services.
178. Restoring funding for Planned Parenthood Clinics in Iowa.
179. Accessible gender-affirming healthcare.
180. Establishing a healthcare group in Iowa that includes all self-employed individuals.
181. The restoration of the individual mandate provision in the Affordable Care Act.
182. Allowing buy-in to the Medicare system beginning at age 55.
183. Restoring state government management of Medicaid.
184. Medicare negotiations for lower prescription drug costs.
185. The State of Iowa negotiating with manufacturers to obtain the lowest prices on prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients.
186. Elimination of all prescription drug advertising nationwide.
187. A ban on pharmaceutical companies giving personal financial benefits to healthcare professionals.
188. Full access to a health provider's professional history.
189. Increased Title 19 funding to reimburse medical professionals adequately.
190. Requiring that all foster children receive a yearly physical from a qualified public health practitioner.
191. Allowing all qualified patients to obtain fully effective medical marijuana.
192. Alternatives to placing sex offenders in care facilities.
193. Iowa's legislators obtaining their own health care coverage.

We oppose:

194. Any efforts to privatize Medicare.

195. Repeal of the ACA.

International Affairs

We support:

- 196. Efforts to de-escalate conflicts around the world and a United States foreign policy that views war only as a last resort.
- 197. International laws and agreements protecting workers' rights, human rights and environmental quality.
- 198. Aggressive action to address climate change.
- 199. Even-handedness by the United States in conflicts and international affairs.
- 200. Recognizing democratically elected officials and governments.
- 201. Greater use of NATO and the United Nations to solve international problems and crises and less unilateral military action by the United States.
- 202. Greater Congressional oversight of United States military operations, including an effort to ensure new military operations receive new scrutiny and do not rely exclusively on the 2001 Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force passed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- 203. Investigating and prosecuting war crimes.
- 204. Continued international cooperation in peaceful scientific exploration of space and sea depths.
- 205. *The elimination of secret prisons, maintained by the United States, that abuse civil and human rights.*
- 206. A re-evaluation of U.S. participation in the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 207. Closing Guantanamo Bay prison.
- 208. A negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- 209. US military and financial assistance to Ukraine.

We oppose:

- 210. Fast-track trade promotion authority.
- 211. Trade pacts that do not guarantee fairness to American workers.
- 212. Immigrant detention center quotas.

Human Services

We support:

213. More funding to the Department of Human Services for case workers tending to foster children and at-risk families.
214. Regulation by the Department of Human Services of the storage of firearms and ammunition at daycare centers.
215. Community facilities that move people in crisis out of emergency rooms.