

2014 Platform

Johnson County Democrats

(as amended by Johnson County Convention March 8 2014)

Statement of Principles

1. We believe the purpose of government is to act on behalf of the public good, to create and execute policies and laws that promote and protect everyone's human rights equally, to protect our shared environment, to promote justice, safety and security and to oversee the equitable distribution of resources, affording all citizens the opportunity to attain their highest level of social, cultural, economic, mental and physical well-being.
2. We value diversity. We are committed to the inclusion and full participation of diverse populations in our society, in the Democratic Party and in the democratic processes of government regardless of status within any protected class such as age, race, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, associational preference, ethnicity, disability, illness or language.
3. We affirm our commitment to social and economic justice. Whenever the rights of any of our citizens are threatened, the rights of all are endangered. We take seriously the obligation to uphold the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, to preserve, protect and secure basic human rights, civil rights and civil liberties.
4. We believe in a society in which fairness and community are guiding values, where every person has an equal opportunity.

5. We believe the family, whether traditional or non-traditional, should be sustained and enhanced. We share, through government, the responsibility to assist those families who cannot adequately provide for their members.
6. We believe a full and rewarding life includes access to, and the opportunity to participate in and support the arts and humanities.
7. We reaffirm the separation of church and state.
8. We support candidates running as Democrats in Johnson County who adhere to this Johnson County Democratic Platform.
9. We demand that our governing bodies develop policies and laws promoting sound energy practices, permanently protecting our environment, and addressing the problems of global warming. We cherish our land and family farms and deplore the concentration of food production in the hands of a few corporations. We recognize the fundamental right of all peoples to safe and healthy food sustainably produced.
10. We believe a healthy American economy depends on the dignity with which the American worker is treated. We affirm the right of all workers to bargain collectively and support organized labor. A sustainable economy and job growth depend on a positive climate for small business development. We support a progressive system of taxation.
11. An informed citizenry is essential for a democratic society. We are strongly committed to free public education and providing accessible, affordable, and lifelong quality education to all at all educational levels.
12. We are committed to honest and open government. The complexities of crime and violence demonstrate the need for multifaceted solutions involving legislation, education, community action, and personal responsibility.
13. We believe all people have a right to accessible, affordable, quality health care and the benefits of continued medical research.
14. We affirm the ideal of a world in which all peoples live peacefully with tolerance and good will toward others. United States foreign and domestic policy decisions should promote that ideal.

Statement of Issues

Agriculture and Environment

Agriculture:

We support:

1. Environmentally responsible agriculture:
 - Organic farming
 - Crop diversification.
2. Funding local soil conservation districts.
3. Transparent, democratic trade negotiations.
4. Financing local sources for international food assistance.
5. Revitalizing local food systems.
6. Banning neonicotinoid pesticides.
7. Gradual phase-out of CAFOs.
8. Legalizing hemp farming.
9. Reducing subsidies for large farms/unengaged landowners.

We Oppose:

10. Artificial hormone and prophylactic antibiotic use in farm animals.
11. Farm consolidation.
12. Commodity dumping as US food aid.
13. TPP .
14. Mass aerial application of agricultural pesticides.
15. Non-sustainable drawdowns of aquifers.

Energy

We support:

16. Implementation of intensified nation-wide efficiency and energy conservation programs.
17. Expanded mass transit.
18. Immediate enforcement/continuous tightening of CAFE standards.
19. R&D and installation of carbon neutral energy alternatives.
20. Investment in distributed energy, smart grid development.
21. Revenue-neutral carbon taxation.
22. Increased R&D into nuclear waste storage.
23. Increased and ongoing subsidization of wind and solar energy.
24. Full nuclear plant review, deficiency mitigation, and obsolete plant closure.
25. Passenger rail from Chicago, IL to Omaha, NE.
26. Vigorous enforcement of environmental protection programs.
27. Right to know content of fracking chemicals.
28. The principle of environmental justice.
29. Strong efforts to eliminate threats to the climate and develop resilient and adaptive technology.

We oppose:

30. Subsidizing nuclear, oil, and natural gas industries.
31. New nuclear or coal-burning power plants, fracking sites.
32. Offsite storage of nuclear waste.
33. Silica sand mining for fracking.
34. Keystone XL Pipeline.

Environment

We support:

35. Restoration of the commons.
36. Prohibition of activities that degrade the commons: air, water, soil, public lands.
37. Funding enforcement/monitoring of all state and national pollution standards.
38. Integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use.
39. Endangered Species Act.

40. Expanding bottle redemption to include all plastic, glass and metal beverage containers, increase redemption to \$0.10.
41. EPA as a cabinet position.
42. Integrated watershed management including buffer zones and water retention basins.
43. Full funding of Resource Enhancement and Protection program.
44. Local regulation of lawn chemicals.
45. Air and water monitoring near fracking operations.
46. Abolition of nuclear weapons.
47. A time-restriction for grandfathering implementation of pollution standards for existing power plants.
48. Including cost to the environment in all economic cost/benefit calculations.

We oppose:

49. Fracking's exemption from US Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.
50. Single-use plastic bags.
51. Clean Air Act exemptions.
52. MTR mining.
53. Clear-cutting on public lands.
54. Publicly subsidized logging and mining.
55. Oil and gas extraction in sensitive areas.
56. Light pollution.
57. Legal hunting of mourning doves and European collared-doves.
58. Lead shot.

Zoning and Building

We support:

59. LEED design and construction standards for all publicly financed projects.
60. County level zoning.
61. Land-use planning to restrict sprawl, promote sustainable communities, retain farmland and protect natural spaces.
62. Local control of CAFO location, maintenance, and operations.

- 63. Radon testing.
- 64. Greening our cities.

Food Supply

We support:

- 65. The fundamental right to safe and healthy food.
- 66. Anti-trust regulation prohibiting concentrated control of seed supply, food production, processing, and retailing.
- 67. Banning meat-packer ownership of livestock feeding operations.
- 68. Independent, transparent, credible evaluation of GMOs' environmental and health effects before approving use or consumption.
- 69. Accurately labeling all foods, including GMO and cloned animal ingredients.

We oppose:

- 70. Fresh food irradiation.

Acronyms:

- CAFE - Corporate Average Fuel Economy
- CAFO - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- GMOs - Genetically Modified Organisms
- LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
- MTR - Mountaintop Removal
- TPP - Trans-Pacific Partnership

Economy, Labor and Commerce

Economic Development

We support:

- 71. Encouraging local enterprise through small business loans and grants.
- 72. Government-run job and job-training programs.

We oppose:

- 73. Weakening environmental laws in order to promote development.
- 74. Inappropriate use of TIFs.

Trade Regulation

We support:

- 75. Fair Trade.
- 76. Congressional re-authorization of all international trade agreements at regular intervals.
- 77. Environmental and labor standards in all trade agreements.

Taxation

We support:

- 78. Increasing the IRS exemption for dependents.
- 79. Taxing investment earnings as income earnings.
- 80. Need-based property tax credits for qualified lower-income veterans, elderly, and disabled people.
- 81. Windfall profit taxes on fossil fuel companies.
- 82. Tax incentives for renewable energy industries.

We oppose:

- 83. Tax incentives for offshore banking and manufacturing.
- 84. Tax incentives that encourage outsourcing of jobs.
- 85. Federal subsidies for off-shore oil drilling.

Job Security and Workers' Rights

We support:

- 86. The right of all workers to form unions.
- 87. Collective bargaining.
- 88. EFCA.

89. Requiring employer recognition of unions formed through a majority sign-up process.
90. The right of all workers to strike; maintaining benefits and protections.
91. "Fair Share."
92. Employee protection during and following plant/business closure or bankruptcy.
93. Part-time and contingent employees receiving proportional benefits.
94. Laws discouraging "temps" replacing permanent employees.
95. Eliminating employee/independent contractor misclassification.
96. Expanded job security with more flexibility for all parents/guardians.
97. Whistleblower protection for all employees.
98. ENDA.
99. Equal pay for equal work.
100. Improving workplace safety.

We oppose:

101. Right-To-Work laws.
102. A Right-to-Work Constitutional amendment.
103. Businesses limiting overtime pay.
104. Mandatory overtime.
105. Employment-at-will.
106. Privatizing public sector jobs.
107. Prison labor displacing union labor.
108. Wage theft.
109. Pension theft.
110. Mandatory genetic screening, polygraph tests, and drug tests for employment.
111. Using credit reports and bank records as criteria for employment.

Business/Commercial/Banking Regulations

We support:

112. Tightening regulations for "Too-Big-To-Fail" banks.
113. Reducing the disparity between corporate executive compensation and workers' wages.

114. Requiring mortgage servicing companies to mediate with borrowers prior to foreclosure.
115. Regulations promoting transparency in accounting methods.
116. Strengthening the NLRA, FLSA, and child labor laws.
117. Full NLRB and DOL funding.
118. PLAs on public works construction.
119. Requiring satisfactory contractor safety records for bid submission on government contracts.
120. Restoring full OSHA and NIOSH funding and staffing, and increasing employer/union participation.
121. Ending predatory lending practices.
122. Legalizing the formation of Benefit Corporations in Iowa.
123. Fair Use Doctrine.
124. Restoring "public domain" in copyright law.
125. Net Neutrality.
126. U.S. Mail delivery 6 days/week.
127. Rural U.S. Post Offices.

We oppose:

128. Internet gambling.
129. A return to the gold standard.

Living Wage

We support:

130. The prevailing wage in all employment.
131. Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10/hour; indexed to the federal cost-of-living.

We oppose:

132. Wages based on piecework.

Pension/Insurance

We support:

133. Incentives for long-term and retirement savings.

134. Timely distribution of pensions.
135. Unemployment benefits for those involved in labor disputes.
136. Expanding unemployment benefit eligibility.
137. Non-discriminatory parental leave benefits.
138. The right to choose one's medical evaluator for job injuries.
139. Keeping IPERS solvent, as a defined benefit program.
140. Including IPERS-member-elected positions on the IPERS investment board.

We oppose:

141. Congresses' pre-funding mandate for USPS pensions.

Acronyms:

- DOL - Department of Labor
- EFCA - Employee Free Choice Act
- ENDA- Employment Non-Discrimination Act
- FLSA - Fair Labor Standard Act
- IPERS - Iowa Public Employee's Retirement System
- IRS - Internal Revenue Service
- IWD - Iowa Workforce Development
- NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- NLRA - National Labor Relations Act
- NLRB - National Labor Relations Board
- OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- PLA - Project Labor Agreement
- TIF - Tax Increment Financing
- USPS - United States Postal Service
- WPA - Works Progress Administration

EDUCATION

Access to Public Education

We support:

- 142. Equal access to all educational services and resources that maximize learning potential for all students.

Funding

We support:

- 143. Increasing the salaries of K-12 educators.
- 144. K-12 class size reduction programs.
- 145. Providing living wages and benefit parity to educational support personnel.
- 146. Increasing the allowable growth rate for the controlled budgets of Iowa public schools annually.
- 147. Enforced penalties for non-compliance with current budgetary reporting laws.
- 148. Sufficient funding of the AEA.
- 149. Funding for early childhood education programs for birth to five-year-old children.
- 150. Funding for one year of Pre-K for all children the year prior to entering kindergarten.
- 151. Sufficient funding for programs which address the unique learning needs of special education, TAG and ELL students.
- 152. Sufficient funding for regent universities and community colleges.
- 153. Increasing access to loan forgiveness programs for people in high need service areas who work in Iowa.
- 154. Increased affordability of higher education.
- 155. Education support programs for U.S. Veterans.
- 156. Open access to publicly funded STEM research.
- 157. Sufficient funding for public libraries, radio, and television.

We oppose:

158. Diverting public education money from public schools.

Accountability

We support:

159. Teacher evaluation systems designed and implemented at the state and local level with the input of educators.

160. State and school district accountability for improving performance of all students.

161. IDOE-sponsored evaluation of the Iowa Core Curriculum by experts from the constituency.

162. State-provided resources for school districts to improve academic achievement in low performing schools.

We oppose:

163. Standardized tests as the primary measure of performance and driving force for curriculum, instruction, funding allocation, and teacher evaluation.

Education Curricula

We support:

164. Expanded standards for physical fitness, fine arts, social studies and world languages.

165. Sufficient funding to allow school districts to increase the length or number of school days.

166. State standards with local control of curricula.

167. Comprehensive, evidence-based health and sex education presented by qualified personnel.

168. Integrating voluntary community service in the high school curriculum.

169. Professional development of all educators and administrators.

170. Improving access to vocational education in secondary schools.

We oppose:

171. The teaching of faith-based assertions such as "intelligent design" and/or creationism as science in publicly funded education programs.

Optimal Learning Environment

We support:

- 172. Multicultural, gender fair education.
- 173. Equitable access for all students to support staff, including nurses, counselors, and library/media specialists.
- 174. Coordinated family service centers in local schools supported by state and local agencies and governments.
- 175. Fresh foods, locally produced food, organically produced food and farm-to-school programs.
- 176. Healthier foods in school vending machines.
- 177. Prevention of and intervention in bullying in all its forms.
- 178. Behavior programs that encourage intrinsic motivation in students rather than external rewards and punishments.
- 179. Age-appropriate conflict resolution training.

Acronyms:

- AEA - Area Education Agencies.
- ELL- English Language Learners.
- IDOE - Iowa Department of Education.
- TAG-Talented and Gifted.
- STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Government and Law Campaigns and Elections

We Support:

- 180. Limits on, and public disclosure of, campaign contributions.

- 181. Publicly financed elections.
- 182. Optical scan balloting.
- 183. Statistically valid routine hand audits.
- 184. Amending the US Constitution to state corporations are not persons.
- 185. Using Iowa as a model for demographic determination of congressional districts.
- 186. The use of approval voting in elections to allow for voter's true intent.

We oppose:

- 187. Gerrymandering.

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

We Support:

- 188. Full enforcement of CRA and ADA.
- 189. Universal habeas corpus.
- 190. Repeal of Patriot Act.
- 191. Equal adoption rights regardless of sexual orientation.

We Oppose:

- 192. Mandatory religious phraseology in swearing in of public officials.
- 193. Warrantless searches and electronic surveillance.
- 194. "Enemy detainee" status.
- 195. Excessive collection and retention of personal data by government or private business.
- 196. Government surveillance drones.

Taxes and Social Security

We Support:

- 197. Addressing the inequality between the 1% and 99%.
- 198. Progressive income taxation.
- 199. Expanded college tuition and student loan interest tax credits.
- 200. Closing all corporate tax loopholes.
- 201. Repealing Bush tax cuts.

- 202. Regulation of E-Cigarettes.
- 203. Taxpayer Empowerment Agenda.
- 204. COLA for EITC.
- 205. Limitation and regulation of TIF.
- 206. Raise SS Benefits minimum to 1K tied to COL for sustainable living standards.
- 207. Maximum SS Benefit of \$48k/Year.
- 208. Repayment with interest by US Treasury of all SS monies used to fund other projects/programs.
- 209. Higher floor, no caps for SS taxes/checks.

We Oppose:

- 210. Simpson-Bowles proposals for SS and Medicare.
- 211. Privatization of SS.
- 212. Unemployment, worker compensation and SS benefits classified as income.
- 213. Any cuts to SS including raising retirement age, reducing benefits, removing COLA.
- 214. Including SS in Unified Federal Budget.

Government Services

We Support:

- 215. Capping military expenditures at 40% of discretionary spending of the national budget including all expenses.
- 216. Increased funding for social services, dependent care and food stamps.

We Oppose:

- 217. Privatizing government functions including public safety, corrections, and national defense.

Criminal Justice

We Support:

- 218. Equal sentencing for all forms of cocaine.

- 219. Legalization of cannabis.
- 220. Automatic restoration of voting rights to felons.
- 221. Human rights and open hearings for all immigrants.
- 222. HCPA.
- 223. Community-based alternatives to incarceration of nonviolent offenders.
- 224. Prisoners' human rights.
- 225. Binding plea bargains.
- 226. Revising the Iowa statute designation of sex offenders for residential restrictions.

We Oppose:

- 227. Capital punishment.
- 228. Mandatory sentencing.
- 229. Racial profiling.
- 230. Indefinite detention authority.

Internet and Telecommunications

We Support:

- 231. Greater online privacy rights.
- 232. First Amendment protection for all electronic media.
- 233. Publicly owned broadband networks.
- 234. Affordable access to broadband and broadcast media.

We Oppose:

- 235. SOPA, PIPA and any attempts to censor the internet.

Consumer Protection

We Support:

- 236. Reenactment of the GSA.
- 237. Regulation and taxation of derivatives market.
- 238. Prosecuting corporate crime.

- 239. Foreclosure safety net.
- 240. Patent and copyright reform.

We Oppose:

- 241. Exempting corporations from oversight.
- 242. Patents on plant and animal organisms.

Gun Legislation

We Support:

- 243. Licensing, safety training, national background checks and registration for all firearms.

We Oppose:

- 244. Possession, purchase or use of firearms by abusers under a protection order.

Marriage

We Support:

- 245. RFMA and all future bills seeking to repeal DOMA.
- 246. Marriage equality.
- 247. UAFA.

We Oppose:

- 248. DOMA.
- 249. Maternal bias in custody decisions.
- 250. Discrimination against GLBTQ on parenting rights.
- 251. A Constitutional Convention for the purpose of limiting marriage equality.

Military and Veterans

We Support:

- 252. Prompt disability and pension payments.
- 253. Sufficient pay, training, equipment and benefits to sustain voluntary armed forces.
- 254. Full funding of veterans health, physical and mental, vision and dental care, and prescriptions at all VA Medical centers.

- 255. Hiring additional care givers at VA Medical and Outreach Centers.
- 256. More VA Outreach Centers.
- 257. More funding for National Guard Units.
- 258. More funding for GI Bill.
- 259. Thorough investigation of soldier harassment, including sexual.
- 260. Veteran eligibility for more than \$10,000 life insurance.

We Oppose:

- 261. GLBTQ discrimination.
- 262. Religious coercion in the military.

Participation in Government

We support:

- 263. Fair juror compensation.
- 264. Government transparency.
- 265. The use of filibuster at the end of debate, not the beginning.
- 266. Lower IDP viability thresholds to 5%.
- 267. Voting by mail available for all US citizens.

We Oppose:

- 268. Voter ID Laws.
- 269. The injection of religion into political discourse.
- 270. Non-talking filibuster.

Immigration

We Support:

- 271. Immigration rights for foreign nationals legally married to a US citizen under the citizen's state law.
- 272. DREAM Act.
- 273. Judicial review of visa denials and removal orders.
- 274. Increased priority for family reunification.
- 275. Path to citizenship.
- 276. Immigration reform.

277. Moratorium on detentions and deportations.

We Oppose:

278. Limits on admissions for humanitarian refugees.

279. Three and ten year bars to US re-entry.

280. Mass raids and related enforcement policies and practices.

Gambling

We Oppose:

281. Greyhound racing.

Transportation

We Support:

282. Subsidized passenger and freight train services.

283. Safe, reliable and maintained roadways for all users.

284. Transportation safety education and awareness.

285. Encouragement of bicycling.

286. Complete streets.

287. Increased funding for separated trails.

288. Improved funding and availability of public transit.

289. High speed rail.

290. Strengthening the FAA and full support of NATCA and air traffic control staff, facilities and equipment.

291. Requiring all moped, motorcycle and motor scooter riders to wear helmets.

292. Increased funding for transportation Infrastructure.

293. Intra-Iowa and interstate rail transport.

We Oppose:

294. Infrastructure privatization.

Acronyms:

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

COL - Cost of Living

COLA - Cost of Living Adjustment
CRA - Civil Rights Act
DOMA - Defense of Marriage Act
DREAM - Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors
EITC - Earned Income Tax Credit
FAA - Federal Aviation Administration
GI - Government Issue
GLBTQ - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer/Questioning people
GSA - Glass Steagall Act
HCPA - Hate Crimes Prevention Act
ID - Identification
IDP-Iowa Democratic Party
NATCA - National Air Traffic Controllers Association
PIPA- Protect IP Act (Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act)
RFMA - Respect for Marriage Act
SOPA - Stop Online Piracy Act
SS - Social Security
TIF - Tax Incentive Financing
UAFA - Uniting American Families Act
US - United States
VA - Veterans Affairs
VAWA - Violence Against Women Act

Health and Human Services

Universal Healthcare

We support:

295. Mental health, brain disorders, chemical dependency parity.
296. Comprehensive, evidence-based, affordable, universal, national, single-payer healthcare, including:
 - a. Reproductive health services including family planning, contraceptive/fertility services, emergency contraceptives;

- b. Mental health services;
- c. Dental, hearing, vision care;
- d. Acute/long-term care, community-based services access;
- e. Wellness/prevention efforts;
- f. Chemical dependency services;
- g. Complementary/alternative medicine/services.

Mental Health

We support:

- 297. Funding increase for care of, and nondiscriminatory treatment of, neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, brain disorders.
- 298. State-funded, long-term mental health facilities.
- 299. Creating wellness/recovery centers.
- 300. Substance abuse/mental illness jail diversion programs.
- 301. Fully funding CMHS across Iowa.
- 302. Increasing suicide awareness/prevention programs.

Disability and Elderly Services

We support:

- 303. Family/community support services, including transportation to/from services.
- 304. Wage parity.
- 305. Increasing program flexibility/funding to permit home living choices and accommodation maintenance.
- 306. Mandatory substantive caregiver-training.
- 307. Strengthening/expanding ADA, including yearly accessibility audits.
- 308. Service/therapy animals training/expense funding.
- 309. Vocational Rehabilitation funding increase.
- 310. AAA.

Reproductive Rights

We support:

- 311. Preserving the original Roe-v-Wade.

312. Comprehensive universal access to all aspects of family planning, including abortion services.

313. Legal/accessible abortion/emergency contraceptives without parental consent.

314. CPM licensures.

315. Developmentally-appropriate, medically-accurate sex education.

316. Safeguarding doctors, clinics, clients from harassment/violence.

We oppose:

317. Legislating restrictions beyond Roe-v-Wade.

318. Banning medically necessary abortions.

319. Personhood for fetuses.

320. Forced sterilization.

321. Genital mutilation.

322. Iowa's ban on use of telemedicine in abortion procedures.

Medical Research

We support:

323. Increasing funding for NIH/NSF.

324. Stem-cell research, including embryonic.

325. More study of toxin exposure illnesses.

Patient Rights and Consumer Protection

We support:

326. Patients/health professionals controlling care, medication, end-of-life decisions.

327. Healthcare without religious/personal bias.

328. Independent direct caregivers.

329. Legal/accessible MMJ.

330. Evidence-based education for medical providers regarding MMJ and derivatives, e.g. cannabidiol.

331. Legalizing physician assisted death with dignity.

332. Effective FDA drug-approval.

- 333. Regulated prescription drug importation.
- 334. Vitamins/supplements labeling for side-effects/drug interactions.
- 335. Safe staffing standards in healthcare facilities.
- 336. Increasing nursing homes/independent living facilities inspections.
- 337. Development/funding of mandatory training programs for direct caregivers.
- 338. Requiring national criminal background checks/bonding of all healthcare staff.
- 339. Limiting work hours for interns, residents, fellows.
- 340. Student loan-forgiveness for health professionals in high-need geographic/specialty areas.

We oppose:

- 341. Healthcare discrimination based on citizenship.
- 342. Privatization of public social services.

Child Services

We support:

- 343. Child health/safety laws applying equally, regardless of religious affiliation of school, childcare center, or parent.
- 344. Mandatory NCAR and national criminal background checks.
- 345. Affordable, regulated daycare.
- 346. Subsidized childcare reimbursement increase.
- 347. Before/after school programs funding increase.
- 348. Impartial enforcement of child support payment/collection for both parents.
- 349. Supporting former foster children until 21.
- 350. Kinshipcare/fostercare parity.
- 351. WIC funding increase.

Abused Persons

We support:

- 352. Funding victims' services.
- 353. Programs to prevent sexual violence, abuse/neglect.

- 354. Investigating all abuse reports.
- 355. Full VAWA funding.

Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps

We support:

- 356. Expanding eligibility.
- 357. Increasing funding for assistance.
- 358. Division of spousal resources before determining Medicaid eligibility.
- 359. Removing geographic inequities and increasing provider reimbursement.
- 360. Hospice care availability.
- 361. Negotiated prescription drug prices and supplier competitive bid system, while maintaining quality standards.

Assistance for Food, Housing, and Homelessness

We support:

- 362. Safe, decent, affordable housing for all.
- 363. Sufficient non-discretionary funding for food assistance programs.
- 364. Expanding Housing Trust Fund.
- 365. Mixed-income zoning.
- 366. Expanding Section 8 and 42 federal housing programs.
- 367. Funding Domestic Violence Shelters.
- 368. Increasing Homeless Shelter block grants.
- 369. Family-friendly shelters.
- 370. "Wet" and "Dry" shelters.
- 371. Job/life skills training.
- 372. Transition programs from shelters into care, treatment, and permanent housing programs, including funding.

Acronyms:

AAA – Area Agencies on Aging

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act
CMHS – Community Mental Health Services
CPM – Certified Public Midwife
DHS – Department of Human Services
FDA – Food & Drug Administration
MMJ – Medical Marijuana
NCAR – National Child Abuse Registries
NIH – National Institute for Health
NSF – National Science Foundation
SS – Social Security
VAWA – Violence Against Women Act
WIC – Women, Infants and Children

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United Nations

We support:

- 373. Adherence to and implementation of IBHR and all subsequent human rights instruments.
- 374. Active US participation in the UN, full payment of dues.
- 375. Multilateral peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.
- 376. Full participation in HRC.
- 377. Participation in and payment of dues to UNESCO without conditions.

International Law, Treaties and Agreements

We support:

- 378. Adherence to all international law.
- 379. Treaties, conventions: CEDAW, UNCRC, CTBT, BWC, RSICCJ, CWC, UNFCCC, and APMBC, ATT, CRPD.
- 380. UNSCR 1325, 1888, and 242.

- 381. Adherence to Geneva and Vienna Conventions.
- 382. Cessation of child sex trade, human and organ trafficking.

We oppose:

- 383. US-sponsored coups and military juntas.

Developmental Assistance

We support:

- 384. UN Millennium Development Goals.
- 385. Fair and free trade initiatives.
- 386. Assistance to reproductive health care and family planning organization based on best available medical science without religiously-based or politically motivated pre-conditions.
- 387. Funding for prevention and treatment of pandemic and endemic diseases.
- 388. Economic development tied to workers' rights and environmental protection.
- 389. Foreign aid policies which promote human rights.

National Security

We support:

- 390. Peaceful resolution of conflicts, US engagement in cooperative diplomacy, and multilateral solutions to international problems.
- 391. Combating root causes of conflict and terrorism: injustice, economic exploitation, and denial of human rights.
- 392. Maintaining our security alliances with NATO, SEATO, and others.
- 393. Stricter enforcement of FARA.
- 394. Dismantling current WMD stockpiles.
- 395. Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp.
- 396. UN sanctions on WMD development.
- 397. Treating terrorism as a police instead of a military matter.

398. Improving critical infrastructure cybersecurity.

We oppose:

399. Torture and extraordinary rendition.

400. The use of violence, suicide bombing, human shields, and collective punishment whether perpetrated by state or non-state actors.

401. Exploiting terrorism to justify wars and continuous conflict.

402. Military training and financial support for repressive regimes.

403. Overreliance on private contractors by US military.

404. USA PATRIOT Act.

405. Use of weaponized drones without a state of war or precise rules of engagement.

Israel/Palestine Conflict

We support:

406. The Obama administration's effort to reach a two state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

407. The establishment and recognition of a Palestinian State.

408. Israel's right to live within secure borders.

409. The health and welfare of the Israeli and the Palestinian people.

410. The Right of Return or just compensation for displaced Palestinians.

We oppose:

411. Israel's settlement activity on territory occupied in the Six-Day War of 1967.

412. Moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem prior to a final resolution.

413. The Separation Barrier for precluding Palestinians freedom of movement.

Afghanistan

We support:

414. Transition of the US mission to a supportive role.

415. Beneficial public Infrastructure development by US and international partners.

Iran

We support:

416. Active diplomatic engagement with Iran.

We oppose:

417. Military actions against Iran.

Syria

We support:

418. Humanitarian efforts.

We oppose:

419. US military intervention in Syria.

Africa

We support:

420. Robust and rapid world efforts to end poverty, famine, and genocide.

421. Continued HIV/AIDS research, education, treatment, and prevention.

422. Severe sanctions against groups using rape as a weapon of war.

423. African agricultural and natural resources remaining under the control of the Africans.

Central and South America and the Caribbean

We support:

424. OAS.

425. Normalizing relations with Cuba.

426. Closing WHISC.

We oppose:

427. Clear cutting of the Amazon rain forest.

Europe

We support:

428. Coordinated efforts to overcome the global economic crisis and prevent future crises.

We oppose:

429. Russian imperialism.

Asia

We support:

430. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

431. Peaceful resolutions of the status of disputed islands in the Pacific.

432. A free Tibet.

Acronyms:

AGRA Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

APMBC Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Land Mine Treaty)

ATT Arms Trade Treaty

BWC Biological Weapons Convention/1925 Geneva Protocol

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CTBT Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

CWC Chemical Weapons Convention

FARA Foreign Agent Registration Act of 1938

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HRC Human Rights Council

IBHR International Bill of Human Rights

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NDAA National Defense Authorization Act

OAS Organization of American States

RSICCJ Rome Statute of the International Court of Criminal Justice

SEATO South East Asia Treaty Organization

START Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol)

UNSCR 242 UN Security Council Resolution (1967)---establishes principles for negotiations for Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

UNSCR 1325 UN Security Council Resolution (2000)--- calls for equal and full participation of women in conflict-resolution, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

UNSCR 1888 UN Security Council Resolution (2006)--- mandates UN peacekeeping missions to protect women and children from sexual violence during armed conflict

USA PATRIOT: Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism

WHISC Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, a.k.a., School of the Americas

WMD Weapons of Mass Destruction