

2016 Platform

Johnson County Democrats

(As approved by County Convention March 12, 2016)

Platform Committee Members (Subcommittee officers in bold):

Dennis Roseman, Robin Roseman, Co-Chairs

Newman Abuissa, Charles Alexander, Tony Andrys, Jim Aurthur, Joy Beadleston, Holly Berkowitz, Brian Brandsmeier, **Vicki Claussen**, Katie Cummins, Anthony Currin, Stacy Davids, **Deborah Dee**, Kevin Dougherty, Linda Fisher, Sean Flaherty, Seif Gaber, Annie Goslin, **Abby Haywood**, Tobin Hoover, Maher Josephson, **Nicolas Kilburg**, Nicholas Kruse, **Ellen Lauricella**, Perry Lenz, **Jason Lewis, Erin Madsen**, Theo Manahan, **Allyson McKeone**, Tehya Miles, Pat Robertson, **Bryce Rodgers**, Keli Shropshire, **Lisa Spellman**, Gustave Stewart, Jeremy Vogel, **Louise Young**.

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

Environment and Agriculture

Environment:

We support:

1. A state constitutional amendment for environmental protection.
2. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a cabinet position.
3. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for new commercial construction.
4. Vigorous enforcement of environmental protection programs/pollution standards.
5. Monarch/pollinator habitat preservation.
6. Restoration of air, water, soil, public lands, Public Trust Law.
7. Integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use.
8. Endangered Species Act (ESA).
9. Dime bottle redemption including all beverage containers.
10. Integrated watershed management including buffer zones and water retention basins.
11. Fully funding Resource Enhancement and Protect (REAP) and National Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (NRORTF).
12. Local regulation of lawn chemicals.
13. Time restrictions for grandfathering pollution standards for existing power plants.
14. Including environmental and health cost in economic cost/benefit calculations.
15. Loess Hills as National Preserve.

We oppose:

16. Single-use plastic bags.
17. Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) exemptions.
18. Mountaintop Removal mining (MTR).

19. Clear-cutting on public lands.
20. Publicly subsidized logging, mining.
21. Fossil fuel extraction.
22. Light, noise pollution.
23. Hunting mourning doves and Eurasian-collared doves.
24. Lead shot.
25. Contamination and non-sustainable drawdown of aquifers.

Energy and Climate Change

We support:

26. Keeping global heating under 1.5°C.
27. Intensified nation-wide energy conservation/efficiency programs.
28. Net zero carbon /Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
29. Increased R&D, installation and subsidizing of carbon-neutral/renewable energy alternatives including wind/solar energy.
30. Revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividends.
31. Eliminating threats to the climate, developing resilient/adaptive technology.
32. Retraining fossil-fuel workers.
33. 80% renewable Energy by 2030, 100% by 2050.
34. Immediate enforcement/continuous tightening of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.
35. Increased R&D into nuclear waste storage.
36. Full nuclear plant review, deficiency mitigation, and obsolete plant closure.
37. Environmental justice.
38. Carbon tax to fund planting trees.
39. Converting impermeable to absorbent green watersheds.

We oppose:

40. Subsidizing nuclear, oil, and natural gas industries.
41. New nuclear or fossil fuel power plants.
42. Fracking.
43. Offsite storage of nuclear waste.

- 44. Keystone XL, Bakken, all tar-sands/oil pipelines.
- 45. Utility company fees on solar panel installation.

Agriculture

We support:

- 46. Organic farming.
- 47. Crop diversification.
- 48. Funding local soil conservation districts.
- 49. Financing local sources for international food assistance.
- 50. Revitalizing local food systems.
- 51. Phase-out and moratorium on new construction of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)s.
- 52. Legalizing hemp farming.
- 53. Reducing subsidies for large farms/unengaged landowners.
- 54. Limiting hydrogen sulfide and ammonia emissions.
- 55. Increased Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) funding to protect our water quality.

We Oppose:

- 56. Artificial hormone and prophylactic antibiotic use in farm animals.
- 57. Farm consolidation.
- 58. Commodity dumping as US food aid.
- 59. Neonicotinoid pesticides.
- 60. Mass aerial application of pesticides.

Zoning and Building

We support:

- 61. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) design and construction standards for all publicly financed projects.
- 62. County-level zoning.

- 63. Land-use planning to restrict sprawl, promote sustainable communities, retain farmland, and protect natural spaces.
- 64. Local control of CAFO location, maintenance, and operations.

We oppose:

- 65. Use of eminent domain by privately owned companies.

Food Supply

We support:

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

We oppose:

- 71. Fresh food irradiation.
- 72. Agri-business influencing nutrition recommendations.

Economy, Labor and Commerce

Economic Development and Entrepreneurship

We support:

- 73. Growing the middle class.
- 74. Recognizing nature's value as the foundation of prosperity.

- 75. Economic participation for every American.
- 76. Small business loans and grants for local enterprises.
- 77. Community-focused job and job-training programs.
- 78. Local sourcing for public works.

We oppose:

- 79. Weakening environmental and consumer protection laws.

International and Domestic Trade

We support:

- 80. Fair Trade.
- 81. Environmental and human rights standards in all trade agreements.

We oppose:

- 82. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and trade agreements that cancel local, state, and national jurisdictions.
- 83. Wage exploitation of foreign or domestic workers.
- 84. Outsourcing jobs to other countries.

Wealth and Fair Taxation

We support:

- 85. Progressively taxing capital.
- 86. Property tax credits for lower-income veterans, elderly, and disabled people.
- 87. Increasing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dependents' exemption.
- 88. Treating investment earnings as income.
- 89. Tax credits for renewable energy.
- 90. Tax credits for absorptive photosynthetic watersheds.

We oppose:

- 91. Concentrated wealth's attack on democracy.
- 92. Deficit scare-mongering.
- 93. Tax deferral and credits for foreign subsidiary profits.
- 94. Tax inversion.

Job Security and Workers' Rights

We support:

95. Equal pay for equal work.
96. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).
97. A paid leave and expanded benefits amendment to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
98. Proportional benefits for part-time and contingent employees.
99. Expanded job security and flexibility for all parents/guardians.
100. Paid parental leave.
101. Improving occupational safety.
102. The right to choose one's medical evaluator for job injuries.
103. Collective bargaining.
104. The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).
105. Statutory recognition of unions formed through majority sign-up.
106. The right of all workers to unionize and to strike.
107. "Fair Share."
108. Protection, health and unemployment benefits for those involved in labor disputes.
109. Employee protection during and following plant/business closure or bankruptcy.
110. Whistleblower protection for all subordinates.

We oppose:

111. Wage theft.
112. Pension theft.
113. Privatizing public sector jobs.
114. Mandatory overtime.
115. Overtime pay limits.
116. Employment-at-will.
117. Replacing permanent employees with "temps" or independent contractors.
118. Employee/independent contractor misclassification.
119. Right-To-Work laws and Constitutional amendments.
120. Exploitation of prisoner and former prisoner labor.
121. Displacement of union labor by prison labor.

- 122. Surrender of credit information, bank records, genetic material, polygraph or drug tests as pre-conditions for employment.
- 123. Unpaid internships.

Business, Commerce and Intellectual Property

We support:

- 124. Net Neutrality.
- 125. Fair Use Doctrine.
- 126. Right to repair.
- 127. Restoring “public domain” in copyright law.
- 128. Legalizing the formation of Benefit Corporations in Iowa.
- 129. Strengthening the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and child labor laws.
- 130. Full funding and staffing for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and Department of Labor (DOL).
- 131. Increasing NIOSH participation for employer, union and Center for Workers’ Justice (CWJ).
- 132. Requiring satisfactory contractor safety records for bid submission on government contracts.
- 133. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on public works construction.
- 134. Global regulations of intellectual property.

We oppose:

- 135. Profligate executive compensation.
- 136. Internet gambling.
- 137. Digital Restrictions Management (DRM).
- 138. Two-tiered internet access for consumers.

Banking and Finance

We support:

- 139. Affordable community lending.

- 140. Relaxed lending standards for small banks.
- 141. Statutory accounting transparency standards.
- 142. Statutory pre-foreclosure mediation between borrowers and mortgage servicers.
- 143. Breaking up “Too-Big-To-Fail” Banks.
- 144. Lifetime bans on former regulators working for institutions they have policed.
- 145. Student loan interest rate match London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

We oppose:

- 146. Predatory lending.

Sustainable Livelihood

We support:

- 147. A \$15.00/hour minimum wage; indexed to the federal cost-of-living.
- 148. The prevailing wage in all employment.
- 149. Student debt forgiveness for 4 year college graduates.
- 150. Credit incentives for Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs).
- 151. Basic income.

We oppose:

- 152. Piecework.
- 153. Policies that impoverish any American.

Pension and Insurance

We support:

- 154. Timely pension distributions.
- 155. Long-term and retirement savings incentives.
- 156. Expanding unemployment benefit eligibility.
- 157. Including the Iowa Public Employee’s Retirement System (IPERS)-member-elected positions on the IPERS investment board.

We oppose:

- 158. The United States Postal Service’s (USPS) pensions’ pre-funding mandate.

Education

Access to Public Education

We support:

- 159. Equal access to all education services and resources that maximize learning potential for all students.

Funding

We Support:

- 160. Ensuring that class sizes are conducive for optimal learning.
- 161. Increasing the salaries of public school teachers.
- 162. Providing living wages and benefit parity to educational support personnel.
- 163. Ensuring an allowable growth rate of no less than 3% annually.
- 164. Enforcing penalties for non-compliance with current budgetary reporting laws.
- 165. Increased student loan forgiveness.
- 166. Sufficient funding of the Area Education Agencies (AEA), competency training for school staff, universal preschool in all school districts, students in special education, Talented and Gifted (TAG), and English Language Learners (ELL) programs, and regent universities and community colleges.
- 167. Two years of tuition-free education at community colleges.
- 168. Reduced tuition rates at state public colleges and universities.
- 169. Interest free Perkins and Stanford loans.
- 170. Education support programs for U.S. Veterans.
- 171. Open access to publicly funded Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research.
- 172. Strong policy support for teacher unions.
- 173. Gardens, greenhouses for schools.

We Oppose:

- 174. Diverting public education money from public education.
- 175. All efforts to privatize public education.

Accountability

We Support:

- 176. Teacher evaluation systems designed and implemented at the state and local level with the educator input.
- 177. State and school district accountability for improving performance of all students based on multiple assessment tools.
- 178. Using the Common Core as a descriptive tool instead of a legal mandate.
- 179. State-provided resources for districts to improve achievement in low performing schools.

We Oppose:

- 180. Standardized tests as the primary measure of performance, curriculum, instruction, funding allocation, and teacher evaluation.
- 181. Funding for regents institutions based on enrolment criteria.
- 182. Manipulating the party balance of the board of regents by changing appointees' registration to independent.

Education Curricula

We Support:

- 183. Expanded standards for physical fitness, fine arts, social studies and languages.
- 184. Mandatory teaching social studies including Native American, black, Latino, women's history.
- 185. Giving districts permission/funding to expand the school year.
- 186. Local control of state standards application.
- 187. Comprehensive evidence-based health and sex education that include Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) education presented by qualified personnel.
- 188. Integrating voluntary community service in the high school curriculum.
- 189. Increased opportunities to vocational education including apprenticeship programs and college credits.
- 190. Increased citizenship education.
- 191. Transition support from STEM to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).
- 192. Training in cultural competency for teachers and administrators.

We Oppose:

193. Teaching of faith-based content such as creationism in public schools.

Optimal Learning Environment

We Support:

194. Global, multicultural, and gender fair education.

195. Ensuring all students access to a nutritional lunch.

196. Equitable access for all students to support staff, including nurses, counselors, library/media specialists, and coordinated family services.

197. Providing meals including fresh, locally produced, and organically grown food.

198. Healthier foods in school vending machines.

199. Behavior programs focusing on restorative discipline instead of punitive discipline.

200. Trauma-informed care in education supporting students with adverse childhood experiences.

201. Bullying/harassment education and resources for LGBTQ youth.

202. Prevention and intervention in bullying in all its forms including religious.

203. Age-appropriate conflict resolution training.

204. Mitigating toxins in schools.

205. Funding for weekend food backpack programs.

We oppose:

206. Zero-tolerance discipline.

207. Racial disparity in school discipline.

Government and Law

Campaigns and Elections

We Support:

208. Limiting, public disclosure of campaign contributions.

209. Publicly-financed elections.

- 210. Optical scan balloting.
- 211. Statistically valid routine hand audits.
- 212. Amending the US Constitution to eliminate corporate personhood.
- 213. Iowa model for demographic determination of congressional districts.
- 214. Approval voting in elections to allow for voters' true intent.
- 215. Automatic voter registration.

We oppose:

- 216. Gerrymandering.
- 217. Citizens United.
- 218. Delaying hearings on judicial nominees.

Participation in Government

We support:

- 219. Fair juror compensation.
- 220. Government transparency.
- 221. The use of filibuster at end of debate, not beginning.
- 222. Lowering Iowa Democratic Party (IDP) viability thresholds to 5%.
- 223. Voting by mail, automatic registration for all.
- 224. Increased funding for legal services and public defenders.
- 225. Statehood for District of Columbia (DC).
- 226. Statehood for Puerto Rico.
- 227. Voting rights for felons, including caucusing.
- 228. Making Election Day a Federal holiday.

We Oppose:

- 229. Voter ID laws.
- 230. Injection of religion into political discourse.
- 231. Non-talking filibusters.

Government Structure

We Support:

- 232. A fair, independent judiciary.
- 233. Iowa's judicial merit selection system.
- 234. Expanding accessibility to caucus participation.
- 235. Addressing the need for rural public services.
- 236. Fair representation of rural areas in county government.

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

We Support:

- 237. Enforcement of Civil Rights Act (CRA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 238. Universal habeas corpus.
- 239. The Surveillance State Repeal Act (SSRA).
- 240. Equal Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) rights, including parenting and adoption.
- 241. Expanding gender options on government forms.
- 242. Revising eminent domain laws to prevent use for private gain.
- 243. Restoration of Voting Rights Act (VRA).

We Oppose:

- 244. Retaliation/discrimination for political views.
- 245. Ag-gag laws.
- 246. Mandatory religious phraseology in swearing in public officials.
- 247. Warrantless searches and electronic and drone surveillance.
- 248. "Enemy detainee" status.
- 249. Excessive collection/retention of personal/surveillance data by government or private business.

Racial Justice

We Support:

- 250. De-escalation policies, bias training for law enforcement.
- 251. Community policing.
- 252. Reforming criminal justice training for greater equity.
- 253. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of police related deaths.
- 254. Slavery reparations to African-American descendants.
- 255. A citizen's review board identifying/developing solutions ending profiling.

We Oppose:

- 256. Death Penalty.
- 257. Prison privatization.
- 258. Racial profiling.
- 259. Mass incarceration.

Taxes and Social Security

We Support:

- 260. Addressing the inequality between the 1% and 99%.
- 261. Progressive income taxation.
- 262. Expanding college tuition and student loan interest tax credits.
- 263. Closing corporate tax loopholes.
- 264. Taxpayer Empowerment Agenda.
- 265. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- 266. Limiting and regulating Tax Incentive Financing (TIF).
- 267. Raising Social Security (SS) Benefits minimums, tied to Cost of Living (COL) for sustainable living standards.
- 268. Maximum SS Benefits at four times annual minimum.
- 269. Repayment with interest by US Treasury of all SS monies used to fund other projects/programs.
- 270. A higher floor, no caps for SS taxes.

We Oppose:

- 271. Privatizing SS.
- 272. Classifying unemployment, worker compensation, or SS benefits as income.
- 273. Cutting SS, including raising retirement age, reducing benefits, or removing COLA.
- 274. Including SS in Unified Federal Budget.

Government Services

We Support:

- 275. Capping military expenditures at 40% of federal discretionary spending.
- 276. Increased social services, dependent care, and food stamps funding.
- 277. Expanding postal banking services.

We Oppose:

- 278. Privatizing government functions, services, and property.
- 279. No-bid government contracts.

Criminal Justice

We Support:

- 280. Specialty courts and community-based alternatives to incarceration.
- 281. Cannabis legalization.
- 282. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA).
- 283. Prisoners' human rights.
- 284. Binding plea bargains.
- 285. Revising residential restrictions for sex offenders.
- 286. Sentencing reform.
- 287. Body cameras for law enforcement.

We Oppose:

- 288. Capital punishment.
- 289. Mandatory sentencing.
- 290. Indefinite detention.
- 291. Solitary confinement.

- 292. Detaining/incarcerating juveniles with adults.
- 293. Civil forfeiture.
- 294. Police militarization.

Internet and Telecommunications

We Support:

- 295. Online privacy rights.
- 296. First Amendment protection for all electronic media.
- 297. Publicly-owned broadband networks.
- 298. Affordable access to broadband and broadcast media.
- 299. Net Neutrality.

We Oppose:

- 300. Censoring the internet.
- 301. National Security Agency (NSA) bulk data collection.
- 302. Online predatory sexual practices.
- 303. Coercing telecommunications companies to release private data.

Consumer Protection

We Support:

- 304. Reenacting Glass-Steagall.
- 305. Regulating and taxing derivatives market.
- 306. Prosecuting corporate crime.
- 307. Foreclosure safety net.

Patent and copyright reform.

We Oppose:

- 308. Patents on plant and animal organisms/genes.
- 309. Puppy mills.
- 310. Illegal or abusive treatment of animals.

Gun Legislation

We Support:

- 311. Firearm licensing, mandatory safety training, national background checks, registration and waiting period.
- 312. Eliminating gun law loopholes.
- 313. Banning assault weapons and extended magazines.

We Oppose:

- 314. Firearm possession or purchase by abusers under a protection order.
- 315. Stand your ground laws.

Marriage

We Support:

- 316. Marriage/parenting equality.

We Oppose:

- 317. Maternal bias in custody decisions.
- 318. A Constitutional Convention to limit marriage equality.

Military and Veterans

We Support:

- 319. Prompt disability and pension payments.
- 320. Sufficient pay, training, equipment, and benefits to sustain the armed forces.
- 321. Fully funding veterans' healthcare at VA medical centers.

- 322. Hiring additional caregivers at VA medical and Outreach Centers.
- 323. Additional Veterans Affairs (VA) Outreach Centers.
- 324. Additional funding for National Guard units.
- 325. More funding for Government Issue (GI) Bill.
- 326. Impartial investigations of sexual misconduct, including harassment.
- 327. Veteran eligibility for more than \$10,000 life insurance.
- 328. Auditing military spending.
- 329. One-year mandatory military/civil service.
- 330. Conscientious objector status.

We Oppose:

- 331. LGBTQ discrimination.
- 332. Religious coercion in the military.

Immigration

We Support:

- 333. Human rights/open hearings for all immigrants.
- 334. Immigration rights for foreign nationals legally married to US citizens.
- 335. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.
- 336. Judicial review of visa denials, removal orders.
- 337. Increased priority for family reunification.
- 338. Path to citizenship.
- 339. Immigration reform, including amnesty.
- 340. Moratorium on detentions and deportations.

We Oppose:

- 341. Limiting admissions for humanitarian refugees.
- 342. Three- and ten-year bars to re-entry.
- 343. Mass raids, related enforcement practices.

- 344. The immigrant detention quota.
- 345. Barring immigration based on religion.
- 346. Border wall between US and Mexico.

Transportation

We Support:

- 347. Safe, reliable, and maintained roadways.
- 348. Transportation safety education and awareness.
- 349. Funding for bicycle-friendly communities, separated trails.
- 350. Complete Streets.
- 351. Improved public transit funding and availability.
- 352. High-speed rail/hyperloop.
- 353. Strengthening the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- 354. Full support of National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) and air traffic control staff, facilities, and equipment.
- 355. Helmet laws for mopeds, motorcycles, and motor scooters.
- 356. Increasing spending for transportation infrastructure, subsidized train services.
- 357. Intra-Iowa and interstate rail transport.
- 358. Making driver's licenses available to undocumented immigrants.
- 359. Mandatory ADA compliance in public transportation and walkways.
- 360. Driverless autos.

We Oppose:

- 361. Infrastructure, FAA privatization.
- 362. Unmanned cameras as traffic control.

Health and Human Services

Universal Healthcare

We Support:

- 363. Mental health, brain injuries/disorders, chemical dependency parity.
- 364. Comprehensive, evidence-based, universal, single-payer healthcare, including:
 - a. Comprehensive reproductive health services;
 - b. Mental health, chemical dependency, Holistic medicine services;
 - c. Dental, hearing, vision care;
 - d. Acute/long-term care, community-based services access;
 - e. Wellness/prevention efforts.

We Oppose:

- 365. Any compromise to single-payer.

Mental Health

We Support:

- 366. Funding increase for neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative brain disorders.
- 367. Adding more state-funded, long-term mental health facilities.
- 368. Creating wellness/recovery centers.
- 369. Substance abuse/mental illness jail diversion programs.
- 370. Fully funding state-wide Community Mental Health Services (CMHS).
- 371. Increasing suicide awareness/prevention programs.
- 372. Mental health training/awareness for 911 response.

Disability and Elderly Services:

We Support:

- 373. Family/community support services, including transportation to/from services.
- 374. Wage parity.

- 375. Program flexibility/funding to permit home living choices and accommodation maintenance.
- 376. Service/therapy animals training/expense funding.
- 377. Vocational Rehabilitation funding increase.
- 378. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

Reproductive Rights

We Support:

- 379. Preserving Roe-v-Wade.
- 380. Comprehensive universal access to family planning, including Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) screening and abortion services.
- 381. Legal/accessible abortion/emergency contraceptives without parental consent.
- 382. Safeguarding doctors, clinics, and clients from harassment/violence.
- 383. Federal funding for Planned Parenthood (PP).

We Oppose:

- 384. Any legislative barriers to abortions.
- 385. Personhood for fetuses.
- 386. Coercive/misleading counseling prior to abortion services.

Medical Research

We Support:

- 387. Increasing funding for National Institute for Health/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NIH/CDC).
- 388. Stem-cell research, including embryonic.
- 389. Economic valuation of prevention strategy.

Patient Rights and Consumer Protection

We Support:

- 390. Patients/health professionals controlling care, medication, end-of-life decisions.
- 391. Independent direct caregivers.
- 392. Legally accessible Medical Marijuana.
- 393. Evidence-based education for medical providers regarding Medical Marijuana (MMJ) and derivatives, e.g. cannabidiol.
- 394. Legalizing physician assisted death with dignity.
- 395. Effective Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug-approval.
- 396. Regulated prescription drug importation.
- 397. Vitamins/supplements labeling for side-effects/drug interactions.
- 398. Safe staffing standards in healthcare facilities.
- 399. Increasing nursing homes/independent living facilities inspections.
- 400. Development/funding of mandatory training programs for direct caregivers.
- 401. Limiting work hours for interns, residents, fellows.
- 402. Student loan-forgiveness for health professionals in high-need geographic/specialty areas.

We Oppose:

- 403. Health care discrimination.
- 404. Privatization of public social / healthcare services including Medicare and Medicaid.

Child Services

We Support:

- 405. Child health/safety laws applying equally.
- 406. Affordable, regulated daycare.
- 407. Subsidized child care reimbursement increase.

- 408. Before/after school programs funding increase.
- 409. Enforcement of child support payment/collection for both parents.
- 410. Supporting foster children until 25.
- 411. Kinship care/foster care parity including child support.
- 412. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding increase.
- 413. Placement of children at-risk in best environment for the child.
- 414. Health professionals providing gun safety information.

We oppose:

- 415. Gay conversion therapy.

Abused Persons

We Support:

- 416. Funding victims' services.
- 417. Programs to end sexual violence, abuse/neglect.
- 418. Investigating all abuse reports.
- 419. Full Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.

Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps

We Support:

- 420. Expanding eligibility.
- 421. Increasing funding for assistance.
- 422. Removing geographic inequities and increasing provider reimbursement.
- 423. Hospice care availability.
- 424. Expanding Medicare part B enrollment to year-round.
- 425. Federal funding for Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

Assistance for Food, Housing, and Homelessness

We Support:

- 426. Negotiated prescription drug prices, supplier competitive bid system, maintaining quality standards.
- 427. Safe, decent, affordable housing for all.
- 428. Increase non-discretionary funding for food assistance programs.
- 429. Expanding Housing Trust Fund, Section 8 and 42 federal housing programs.
- 430. Mixed-income zoning.
- 431. Increasing Homeless Shelter block grants.
- 432. Family-friendly pet-friendly shelters.
- 433. “Wet” and “Dry” shelters.
- 434. Job/life skills training.
- 435. Transition and permanent housing programs.
- 436. Domestic Violence Shelters.
- 437. Fair and lower prices of prescription medications.

We oppose:

- 438. Predatory fees by landlords against the disabled and those on fixed income.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United Nations

We support:

- 439. Implementation of International Bill of Human Rights (IBHR) and subsequent human rights instruments.
- 440. US participation in the UN and its agencies, full dues payment, without preconditions.
- 441. Full participation in Human Rights Council (HRC).

International Law, Treaties and Agreements

We support:

- 442. Adherence to all international law.
- 443. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- 444. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- 445. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- 446. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).
- 447. Rome Statute of the International Court of Criminal Justice (RSICCJ).
- 448. Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
- 449. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 450. Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).
- 451. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
- 452. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- 453. Paris Climate Agreement (PCA).
- 454. UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325*, 1888*, and 242*.
- 455. Adherence to Geneva and Vienna Conventions.
- 456. Cessation of child sex trade, human and organ trafficking.
- 457. Severe sanctions for using rape as a weapon of war.

We oppose:

- 458. US-sponsored coups and military juntas.

Developmental Assistance

We support:

- 459. United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDG).
- 460. Fair trade initiatives connecting worker rights and environmental protection.
- 461. Reproductive health and family planning organizations' assistance based solely on best available science.
- 462. Prevention and treatment of pandemic and endemic diseases funding, including Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and World Health Organization (WHO) critically named diseases.
- 463. Foreign aid policies promoting human rights.

National Security

We support:

- 464. Cooperative US diplomacy.
- 465. Cultural understanding programs
- 466. Human rights education.
- 467. Peaceful multilateral solutions to international problems including poverty, famine, genocide and conflict.
- 468. International collaboration for human-rights guided political and economic development over armed conflict; redress with current and former combatants through political and economic development.
- 469. Maintaining security alliances (North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), others).
- 470. Stricter enforcement of Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA).
- 471. Dismantling Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) stockpiles.
- 472. Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp.
- 473. UN sanctions on WMD development.
- 474. Consistent programs to improve and maintain critical infrastructure cybersecurity.
- 475. Regular independent Pentagon audits.

We oppose:

- 476. Torture and extraordinary rendition.
- 477. Violence, suicide bombing, human shields, collective punishment perpetrated by state or non-state actors in support of US economic interests.
- 478. Military training and financial support for repressive regimes.
- 479. US military overreliance on private contractors.
- 480. USA Patriot Act (UPA).
- 481. Assassinations and weaponized drones without a state of war.
- 482. 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

Israel/Palestine Conflict

We support:

- 483. US effort to reach a 2-state solution to the Israel/Palestinian conflict.

- 484. Israel's and Palestine's right to live within secure borders.
- 485. Health and welfare of the Israeli and the Palestinian people.
- 486. The Right of Return or just compensation for displaced Palestinians.
- 487. US pressure to end Israel's settlement activity on territory occupied in the Six-Day War, including sanctions on products/investments from settlements.

We oppose:

- 488. US Embassy moving from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before final resolution.
- 489. The Separation Barrier precluding Palestinian freedom of movement.

Afghanistan

We support:

- 490. US mission transition to supportive role.
- 491. International multilateral humanitarian efforts.

Iran

We support:

- 492. Diplomatic engagement with Iran.
- 493. Iran Nuclear Agreement.

We oppose:

- 494. Military actions against Iran.

Syria/Iraq

We support:

- 495. Peaceful conflict resolution.
- 496. International multilateral humanitarian effort.
- 497. Accepting 100,000 refugees annually until settlement.

We oppose:

- 498. US military Syrian intervention.

Africa

We support:

- 499. African agricultural and natural resources controlled by Africans.
- 500. Funding economic development.

We Oppose:

- 501. Exploitive practices by American companies.

Central and South America and the Caribbean

We support:

- 502. Organization of American States (OAS).
- 503. Closing Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).
- 504. Investigation of any U.S. government's (overt or covert) involvement in the 2009 coup in Honduras and subsequent oppression and killing of activists.

We oppose:

- 505. Amazon rain forest clearcutting.

Europe

We oppose:

- 506. Russian aggression toward former Soviet states.

Asia

We support:

- 507. Peaceful status resolution of disputed Pacific islands.
- 508. A free Tibet.

*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.