

Clayton County Democratic Platform 2022

Agriculture

1. **Because:** Farmers, producers, and their neighbors deserve clear, unambiguous laws and regulations that consider differences in geography, geology, water sources, etc. as well as the protection of air, water, health, quality of life, and economic interests; and the current Iowa Master-Matrix, used by County Boards of Supervisors, to review applications for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) does not take into consideration many changes in agricultural practices since it was enacted in 2002,

Resolved: The Iowa Department of Natural Resources should suspend issuance of CAFO construction permits until this legislation is updated to industry practices, and reflect environmental concerns and until administrative rules regarding the updated Matrix can be adopted.

2. **Because:** Current laws can already provide increased protection with regard to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), but are not adequately enforced,

Resolved: To provide funding and personnel to enforce current state animal feeding operations regulations.

3. **Because:** The federal government does not have a rule for the humane handling of poultry slaughter, which allows birds to be strangled during equipment failures,

Resolved: We support a new rule through the USDA to require the humane handling of poultry.

4. **Because:** Current federal aid allocations disproportionately benefit large farming operations, often to the detriment of small farmers,

Resolved: The US Department of Agriculture should conduct a non-partisan review of Farm Service Agency funding requirements and disbursement of agricultural aid.

Economy

5. **Because:** Whether served by investor owned monopoly utilities, municipal utilities or rural electric cooperatives, Iowa's energy ratepayers must have the right to access, contribute to, and benefit from a clean energy economy,

Resolved: All Iowans must have equitable access to the resources necessary to make their homes energy efficient and healthy by codifying Iowa's rate payers' bill of rights.

6. **Because:** Iowa's population is rapidly aging and our workforce is in need of new workers and residents to improve Iowa's economy,

Resolved: State and local governments, as well as public and private entities, should form a task force to encourage people to settle in Iowa as well as keep young people in the state.

Education

7. **Because:** A strong democracy depends on educated voters, and public education is the backbone of our democracy, and

Because: Private schools are exempt from following many state laws that guarantee equal access to education,

Resolved: Public education money should be reserved for public schools and not be used for non-public schools.

8. **Because:** A strong education system is necessary for the success of future generations, including special needs individuals,

Resolved: We support an increase in funding for education, and special education, at all levels.

9. **Because:** Only 40% of jobs require a college degree, a technical education will provide training and skills necessary most jobs,

Resolved: To provide funding and focus on technical education in high school and beyond.

10. **Because:** Business and private donations currently fund most research at universities and colleges and therefore allows private and corporate interests to influence the direction of said research,

Resolved: To provide increased public funding for university and college research.

11. **Because:** Schools should be a safe environment for students and staff,

Resolved: Guns should not be allowed in school buildings or on school campuses in Iowa, except those carried by certified law officers.

Environment

12. **Because:** To survive and thrive, Iowans consume energy. Because of rate-regulated utility monopolies, Iowans do not choose their source of power; further, as clean electrification becomes the norm, measures must be in place to protect energy ratepayers from unjust energy burdens; and as climate change increasingly stresses our communities, we must ensure all Iowans have equitable access to the resources necessary for healthy living;

Resolved: Iowa's energy ratepayers must have energy democracy. Iowans must have the right to access, contribute to, and benefit from a clean energy transition.

13. **Because:** The overwhelming scientific consensus shows that carbon dioxide generated by human activities has led to global warming and climate change that threatens the health of planet Earth,

Resolved: The Clayton County Democratic Party therefore urges individuals, businesses, agriculture, industries and all levels of government to immediately set a top priority on reducing the use of carbon-producing energy, on developing alternative energy sources, and on developing ways to counter current changes to the climate.

14. **Because:** Iowa has over 700 rivers and streams, and among the worst surface water quality in the country, and

Because: Our local waterways in the Driftless Region of the state, including Bloody Run Creek, are under constant threat;

Resolved: To fund, improve and maintain legislation that guarantees clean water, and to support environmental protections of our fragile natural water resources.

15. **Because:** Fossil fuel transport companies are only required to reserve \$2000 per mile for disaster cleanup, and

Because: recent clean-ups have cost closer to \$50,000 per mile;

Resolved: Companies transporting fossil fuels (pipelines, trains, barges, etc.) should be required to reserve the funds necessary for full clean up of potential disasters.

Government

16. **Because:** Our biennial caucus system has become unwieldy and outdated, as demonstrated repeatedly over the last few years with the app failures on Caucus Night 2020, and then with the forced move to online conventions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Because: Our current system depends on complicated procedures that require vast amounts of volunteer labor regardless of the final rate of attendance; and

Because: The delegate selection plan is written for each caucus;

Resolved: we encourage the State Convention to review caucus procedures and pass an amendment to streamline the process, to remove specific caucus procedure language from the constitution, and to designate the delegate selection plan as the authority to give flexibility to the state party to change procedure plans without having to go through constitutional changes at convention.

17. **Because:** Incumbents receive a huge advantage by being able to solicit funds immediately after being elected,

Resolved: The solicitation of funds should be forbidden until October 15 of the year before an election.

18. **Because:** The current justice system is biased against and disproportionately affects poor, minority, and disenfranchised individuals,

Resolved: Sentencing reform must continue happen at the state and national levels to make a more just system, including the elimination of mandatory sentences.

19. **Because:** Our forefathers envisioned a citizen's legislature and not life-time appointments,

Resolved: Federal elected officials should be term limited as outlined in a Constitutional amendment.

20. **Because:** The Supreme Courts' Citizens United decision allowed unlimited dark money into politics,

Resolved: Congress should enact campaign finance reform legislation.

21. **Because:** We need to repair economic disparities and even the playing field for start-ups and businesses such as small farmers,

Resolved: We need to keep and strengthen the inheritance tax.

22. **Because:** Anti-government groups continue to grow in size and power, and work to intimidate voters and elected officials,

Resolved: we reject the use of anti-government groups such as sovereign citizens, militias, or white supremacists to enforce election rules or monitor polling locations.

23. **Because:** the citizens of the District of Columbia do not have the rights afforded other citizens,

Resolved: That we endorse and encourage citizens and their members of Congress to support Statehood and full democracy for the District of Columbia that will guarantee to the residents full Congressional voting representation, budget autonomy, and all of the rights that the people of the 50 United States enjoy, and,

Resolved: we ask all members of the Iowa House and Iowa Senate to pass a resolution supporting D.C. statehood.

24. **Because:** US territories, such as Puerto Rico, Guam and the US Virgin Islands lack full federal representation,

Resolved: Congress shall allow these territories the right to self determination.

25. **Because:** Sexual harassment, and other forms of harassment, are no longer accepted at places of government and work, and therefore committing such behaviors leaves elected officials and civil servants subject to financial consequences for their actions,

Resolved: The legislature should pass and the governor sign legislation that forbids the use of public or campaign funds for the settlement of harassment claims, or for the legal defense against such claims if the accused is found guilty in a court of law.

26. **Because:** Cannabis, as demonstrated in numerous states where it has been legalized, does not need to be restricted or prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act.

Resolved: To legalize, tax, and regulate cannabis.

27. **Because:** In order to maintain the public trust, we hold a higher standard of behavior from elected and appointed officials

Resolved: Any person who has been criminally charged with participating in an insurrection, armed or otherwise, against any federal, state, or local governmental entity shall be forbidden from running for or holding elected office.

Health Care & Human Services

28. **Because:** A woman and her health care provider are the ones best able to make health care decisions,

Resolved: Laws should be maintained and strengthened that preserve a woman's right to make decisions about their own bodies and health; and

Resolved: Congress should pass a law enshrining a women's right to choose as afforded by the Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade; and

Resolved: to fight any laws that restrict these rights, including a six week ban on abortions.

29. **Because:** The increase in school shootings, school violence and suicides in the student population in recent years, coupled with the decreased access to mental health care, leaves many vulnerable students without proper mental health support,

Resolved: To fund and implement screenings for mental health issues for students at public schools.

30. **Because:** Iowa's mental health system has been dismantled in recent years by the state government, and local and county law enforcement officers have been forced into the role of mental health care providers, and Iowa is ranked last for the number of public psychiatric beds available per capita,

Resolved: To increase funding for mental health care in Iowa, for acute and long term care in rural and urban areas and increase staffing and education for staff in all mental health facilities to care for persons of all ages and degrees of mental illness in their local areas.

International Affairs

31. **Because:** Democracy has been under constant assault, and therefore we must support democracies around the world;

Resolved: we stand with the people of Ukraine, and encourage our government to continue to support their fight against invasion from Russia.

Labor

32. **Because:** The rights of employees to organize have been severely eroded over the last 30 years,

Resolved: We support the right employees to join unions and collectively bargain.