



Dubuque County  
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

# 2026 Dubuque County Democratic (DCD) Party Platform

## The Dubuque County Democratic Party Mission

We believe that the American dream of peace, security, and opportunity is achieved through securing human rights, economic equality, and environmental justice for all people. Therefore, we advocate the adoption of the practices summarized below.

### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

We believe in certifiable agricultural practices that are economically sustainable and protect people, land, water, and air resources now and for future generations. To this end, we advocate the following:

1. Promote small farms, farm jobs, and eco-friendly farm management, preserving natural resources for future generations.
2. Expand Iowa crop diversity and local markets.
3. [Humane treatment of all animals](#) and stewardship of resources required for and impacted by the livestock industry.
4. Revise [master matrix](#) to better protect water, air, and soil quality.
5. Reduce tiling and move to retention & absorption. Support implementation of the [Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#).

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

We believe that protecting our environment will counter the destructive effects of climate change, greatly expand employment opportunities, and improve our quality of life. To this end, we advocate for:

1. Adoption of a [state constitutional amendment](#) that protects the people's right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment.
2. Greater investment of resources in environmentally sustainable industries, reducing harmful emissions and waste while creating jobs in sustainable energy industries.
3. Educating Iowans on climate change, enabling them to become knowledgeable and action-oriented stewards of our environment.
4. Community action to raise public awareness, implement sustainable practices, and protect the environment.
5. Funding of [Iowa Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund](#) to promote natural waterways for flood control and to protect our aquifers from environmental threats.
6. Preserving our cultural and historical sites (including indigenous input) while enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities.
7. Immediate and aggressive action to slow and reverse climate change, including continuing support for the [Paris Climate Agreement](#).
8. Funding expansion of mass transit resources by renewing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
9. Regulation of data center development and operation to protect water and energy consumption.
10. Fund water quality testing.

## EDUCATION

We believe in providing sufficient funding to ensure that all students learn in an environment that is safe, accessible, comprehensive, and affordable. Doing so leads to improved student outcomes and creates a lifelong love of learning. To this end, we advocate for the following:

1. The Iowa Legislature and Governor facilitate timely and adequate funding for:
  - a. Universal public preschool.
  - b. Public schools that offer career and technical education, including implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics ([STEAM](#)).
  - c. The attraction and retention of a diverse workforce of educators, support professionals, and licensed professional medical and brain health workers.
  - d. Affordable community colleges/universities and/or tuition-free public post-secondary education.
  - e. Unemployment and medical benefits for eligible Education Support Professionals ([ESPs](#)).
  - f. Area Education Associations ([AEAs](#)).
  - g. The Summer Food Service Program ([SFSPs](#)).
  - h. Adequate educator pay, salary, and benefits.
2. The use of education funds only for public education, barring the use of public funds for vouchers, tuition tax credits, and private for-profit education businesses.
3. The use of an accurate, diverse, equitable, and inclusive educator-developed curriculum that represents the community.
4. Restoring full rights of Iowa public employees in collective bargaining for wages, terms, and conditions of employment.
5. Protecting Iowa Public Employee Retirement System ([IPERS](#)).
6. Total federal funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)).
7. Develop common sense student loan reform to increase access to affordable higher education.
8. Support the development of age-appropriate K-12 conflict resolution training.

## GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND IMMIGRATION

We believe that our elected leaders must improve social justice and domestic tranquility by promoting ethical, legal treatment for all and providing equal rights under the law through the following:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform that includes promotes these policies:
  - a. Extend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program until the Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors ([DREAM](#)) Act.
  - b. Promote timely application processing, issue work permits, and create an expedited [roadmap to citizenship](#).
  - c. Include long-term protection for asylum seekers/refugees from conflict zones.
  - d. Fast-track T and U Visas for survivors of human trafficking.
  - e. Prevent family separation, support family reunification, and increase special protections for minors.
  - f. Decrease reliance on physical barriers and force in border security by utilizing technology and timely legal processes.
  - g. Oppose efforts to make state and local law enforcement responsible for enforcing federal immigration [laws](#).
  - h. Provide a path for individuals, regardless of immigration status, to purchase vehicle insurance and obtain a [driver's license](#) in Iowa.
  - i. Provide additional services for integrating immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.
  - j. Remove restrictions on visas that make it difficult for immigrants to work and attend school at the same time.
  - k. Support establishment of international relationships fostering human rights as outlined in International Affairs.
  - l. Acknowledge importance of immigration in reinvigorating our labor force.
2. Uphold the Second Amendment rights while reinforcing common sense safety measures that include:
  - a. Universal background checks, mandatory registration of all gun purchases, and maintaining a “weapon-free zone.”
  - b. Authorize sheriffs to deny permits to persons who are adjudicated mentally ill, on the “no-fly” list, or convicted of domestic violence.
  - c. Ban kits or parts that would convert semi-automatic weapons to fully automatic weapons.

3. Reformation of law enforcement agencies at all levels through demilitarization, emphasizing respecting due process and improving community policing.
4. Adequate funding for judicial systems.
5. Publicly (not privately) owned and operated correctional systems that rehabilitate and assist offenders to become contributors to a civil and just society.
6. Protection from coercive non-disclosure agreements of persons alleging sexual harassment.
7. Equality of all opportunities and elimination of discriminatory practices - not limited to pay, housing, education, employment, and commerce.
8. Support decriminalization, legalization, and expungement of cannabis drug convictions at the national and state levels for adults, and release inmates held solely for nonviolent cannabis crimes.
9. Develop and expand services based on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
10. Maintain integrity of elections by:
  - a. Securing elections against foreign and domestic interference and protecting voter rights by way of the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#) of 2021.
  - b. Overturning [Citizens United](#) and enacting comprehensive campaign finance reform.
  - c. Enacting impartial redistricting laws to prevent [gerrymandering](#).
  - d. Adopting a constitutional amendment to protect voter rights.
  - e. Adopting [ranked choice voting](#).
11. Disengage with the punitive nature of criminal sentencing.
12. Elevate [Bureau of Conflict Resolution](#) to cabinet-level status to more effectively resolve world conflicts.
13. Institute appropriate term limits at all levels and branches of government.
14. Enforcement of Constitutional checks & balances and that the Legislative and Judicial Branches exercise their Constitutional authority. Democrats call on Congress to pass legislation banning all elected and appointed state and federal officials and their families from stock trading.
15. Enforce the [Emoluments Clause](#).

16. Establish environmentally sensitive and economically usable mass transit to, within, and across the State of Iowa. This future-oriented system would include:
  - a. Restoration of the [State of Iowa Rail Plan](#)
  - b. The State of Iowa should join the [Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail \(MIPR\) Compact](#).
  - c. Improve bus, rail, and air connectivity for rural public transportation.
  - d. Improve automotive and truck transportation surfaces.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

We believe that a healthy society acknowledges and supports the need for self-determination and dignity of all people in achieving mental and physical wellness. To this end, we are advocating for:

1. Single-payer healthcare system that is accessible and affordable to all Iowans, includes vision, hearing, behavioral, and brain health treatment, and allows the government to negotiate prescription drug costs.
2. Right to self-determination for healthcare decisions.
3. Protection of the individual's right to personal, accessible, and affordable reproductive healthcare decisions.
4. Accessibility and affordability of gender-affirming healthcare options.
5. Recruitment and retention of a diverse and well-paid healthcare workforce.
6. Protection of medical care providers to ensure all medical care needs are met.
7. Fully funding brain healthcare and services that utilize researched best practice models.
8. [Medical use of cannabis](#) for children and adults as prescribed and regulated appropriately
9. Recognition and treatment of addiction as a healthcare issue.
10. Increase funding for medical research at public institutions apart from the influence of drug manufacturers, patent holders, or entities exploiting patent loopholes.
11. Fully fund social programs, food assistance programs, and affordable quality housing for low-income and the elderly, and the [Iowa Department of Aging](#) through public, not-for-profit organizations.

12. Ensure fiscal viability of the Social Security Program.
13. Financial support for public health agencies to provide preventative health screening and public health education.
14. Fully funding and utilizing state inspectors and ombudsman positions to follow state and federal safety guidelines for safety of Iowa nursing home residents.
15. Programs aiding in the transition from [institutional restrictive living](#).
16. Codification of [The Declaration of Human Rights](#).
17. Educating and enforcing measures to end human trafficking and increasing efforts to support the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We are committed to worldwide peace and sustainable prosperity by supporting international laws and treaties that heavily emphasize diplomacy, human rights, and peaceful conflict resolution. To this end, we advocate to:

1. Provide U.S. leadership in diplomatic conflict resolution and support of [human rights](#) for all people, including the right of self-governance and self-determination.
2. Ensure economic and participatory support for [The United Nations](#), World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), and for The North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)).
3. Achieve international agreements to end proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, landmines, chemical weapons, cluster bombs, and cyber warfare.
4. Adhere to [Geneva Convention](#) agreements with respect to prisoner treatment and prosecution of violators.
5. Ensure physical and economic protection of non-combatant civilians and children in war.
6. Develop assistance for emerging countries through the [International Monetary Fund](#) and [World Food Programme](#) to promote long-lasting growth, an improvement in trade, and an increase in economic opportunity.
7. After decades of violence, the [Israeli and Palestinian peoples](#) deserve to live safely and freely within secure borders.

- a. Commitment to a sovereign Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967, lines based on United Nation Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which have been annually reaffirmed by the UN and is the international consensus. Opposition to ongoing military suppression of occupied Palestinian Territories (which include the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip). A just resolution between Palestine and Israel should be based on United Nation General Assembly Resolution 194 for the return of Palestinian Refugees of 1948, after an end-of-conflict treaty between the Palestinian and Israeli states, followed by normalization between Israel and the Arab states.

8. Support Ukraine's sovereignty and defense.

## LABOR

We believe all workers deserve the right to fair pay, equitable working environments, and safe working conditions by advocating for:

1. Rights of workers to form unions, engage in [collective bargaining](#), and choose the terms and requirements of union membership.
2. Repeal of [Right to Work](#) laws that allow nonunion members to receive benefits and protections of unions without paying union dues.
3. Right of every person to earn a livable wage by raising the minimum wage to \$18/hour and indexed to inflation, as well as paid family and sick leave.
4. Making all forms of wage theft illegal and creating penalties to support enforcement.
5. Opposing Child Labor laws that conflict with the National Labor Relations Act and Department of Labor Regulations.
6. Institution of Project Labor Agreements; PLAs organize complex construction projects and ensure their efficient and timely completion.
7. Strengthening and protecting public employees' pension fund ([IPERS](#)).
8. Right of every person to receive equal pay for equal work and ending sub-minimum wage for individuals with disabilities.
9. Holding businesses accountable for adhering to ethical standards set by regulatory and oversight agencies.

10. Workers' rights to ethical corporate practices and safe working conditions.
11. Eliminating outsourcing labor beyond the U.S. borders
12. Allowing workers to select their preferred medical provider for worker compensation injuries.

## ECONOMY AND TAXES

We believe in a just economy that benefits all workers, vulnerable populations, and businesses, advocating for:

1. Growing the U.S. economy through [jobs related to clean and sustainable energy](#).
2. Investing in infrastructure repair, safety, long-term planning, and climate-change adaptations.
3. Expanding [broadband internet access](#) in all locations and secure [net neutrality](#).
4. Increasing Earned Income Tax Credit.
5. Supporting and enforcing legislation that requires the wealthy and corporations to pay their proportionate share to reduce the tax burden on the middle- and lower-class population and close tax loopholes.
6. Protection of historic preservation tax credits and TIFs (Tax Increment Financing).
7. Negotiating trade agreements that are transparent and environmentally responsible and that safeguard:
  - a. Rights and best interests of the American public.
  - b. U.S. jobs.
  - c. Well-being of populations in countries where the U.S. imports goods and materials.
8. Supporting tens of thousands of projects locally and around the nation based on [ARPA](#).
9. We oppose tariffs that are unconstitutionally levied or without prior congressional approval.
10. Creation of a [21st Century Glass-Steagall Act](#).
11. Regulating purchasing of housing by private equity firms in order to promote more equitable and affordable housing.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

We appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans, reservists, and active duty service members and their families and pledge our full support in the following ways:

1. Improve funding for the [Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and [Iowa Veterans Trust Fund](#).
2. Subsidize counties for timely access and delivery of veterans' services.
3. Maintain state income tax exemptions for military retirement or disability pay of personnel with Iowa as their primary residence.
4. Continue [Military Service Ownership Assistance](#).
5. Continue funding for the [Injured Veterans Grant Program](#).
6. Increase funding for [Iowa Veterans Home](#).
7. Actively recruit veterans for civilian employment.
8. Improve physical and mental health treatment for veterans.
9. Expand Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ([USERRA](#)).
10. Protect jobs for veterans with disabilities incurred while on active duty.
11. Ensure reduction of long wait times, increased clarity of eligibility requirements, and establishment of accountability for privatized veterans health care providers.
12. Secure coverage for veteran, military family, and civilian victims of [Agent Orange](#) and [burn pit](#)-related health issues (including second and third generations).
13. Support and increase measures centered on ending homelessness among our veterans.
14. Maintain county [Veterans Services Office \(VSO\)](#) funding.
15. Restore the evaluation standard for the [Disability Ratings Rule](#).