



# Platform

## Nebraska Democratic Party

June 19, 2016

### Table of Contents

#### Foundation Statement

- I. Economic Development 1
  - A. Labor 10
  - B. Trade and Commerce 36
  
- II. Education (Public) 49
  - A. Education Funding 55
  - B. Accountability 58
  - C. Multicultural Education 59
  - D. Technology and Digital Citizenship 60
  - E. Academic Freedom 63
  - F. Financial Aid for Students 66
  - G. Safety in the Schools 67
  - H. Human Growth & Development Education 69
  - I. Adolescent Parent Education 70
  - J. Post-Secondary Education 71
  - K. Partnerships in Education 75
  
- III. Government 77
  - A. Civil Rights 95
  - B. Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement 115
  - B. Foreign Policy 126
  - C. Immigration 145
  - D. National Service 168
  - E. Technology 179
  - F. Veterans Services 184
  
- IV. Human Services 197
  - A. Disabilities 205
  - B. Health Care 212
  
- V. Natural Resources 230
  - A. Agriculture 236
  - B. Energy 251
  - C. Environment 279

\*The 2016-2018 platform line numbering does not represent the priority of the topics presented. For the most part, the platform is presented by major and sub topics in alphabetical order (Public Education being an exception).

## **Foundation Statement**

***“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”***

**The Nebraska Democratic Party has a profound optimism founded on our tradition of respect for individual rights and responsibilities. We believe in the inspiration of the American Dream, including a humane way of life for all people, and the power of our ideals.**

**We believe the role of government is to support, promote, protect and advance a society founded on individual and collective rights with full recognition of human dignity and equitable treatment regardless of one’s diversity of abilities, origin, gender, orientation, beliefs and status including the rights of:**

- **Freedom of speech, religion, privacy and assembly;**
- **Full and equal access to public services, courts, education, medical care, transportation and communication;**
- **Full and equal participation in commerce and government.**

**We also believe that with rights come responsibilities including:**

- **Service to our country and the world through police, military, religious, and civic organizations;**
- **Stewardship of natural resources, human resources, and national heritage;**
- **Participation in government through ballot, political office, paying taxes, sharing our ideas, and respecting the institutions of government.**

**We believe the following values and qualities are necessary to fulfill the role of self-governance:**

- **Community, working together for the common good;**
- **Civility, promoting good will, respect and cooperation;**
- **Honesty and transparency to encourage confidence in governance;**
- **Open mindedness for new ideas and beliefs from diverse sources;**

- Respect for knowledge, science, the environment and exploration;
- Respect for diversity.

***What distinguishes the Nebraska Democratic Party is the diversity of its members and their unity of purpose, its confidence in the ability of people to transcend human failings of fear and prejudice, and the belief that government can be made to serve the people with wisdom and compassion. To that end we weigh all our proposals and positions, devote our energies, and dedicate our service.***

## **I. Economic Development**

### **We Support:**

1. An active role by the State of Nebraska to fulfill its responsibility to provide a business climate which encourages economic growth.
2. Measures by state officials to promote and encourage quality job creation, entrepreneurship training and national and international marketing of the state's goods and services.
3. Policies and incentives to encourage economic renewal and development in rural and urban depressed areas.
4. Education and training for the state's workforce as a necessary prerequisite to economic development.
5. Carefully targeted financial incentives which encourage private business and stimulate economic development.
6. Provisions which promote employment opportunities without regard for gender, race, religion, orientation, disability or age.
7. Measures by state and local officials to promote an environment in which working parents can reach their employment potential without compromising the security of their family.
8. Aggressive programs to restore and rebuild the state's and the nation's infrastructure to include transportation, power and telecommunications as an essential foundation for economic development by the private sector.
9. The highest quality of primary, secondary and postsecondary education as essential to Nebraska's economic development.

## **A. Labor**

### **We Support:**

- 10.** The right of working people in the public and private sectors to form unions and collectively bargain with their employers.
- 11.** Policies and practices that support employment opportunities for veterans, young people, particularly minority teenagers, and older people and also discourage employment discrimination against these same groups.
- 12.** Ensuring Nebraska unemployment benefits are comparable with other states.
- 13.** Ensuring a worker injured on the job maintains the highest percentage of their pre-injury compensation.
- 14.** The right of Injured workers to choose their own doctors in cases covered by workers compensation.
- 15.** Strict enforcement of all state and federal safety standards in the public and private sectors.
- 16.** The Railroad Retirement System.
- 17.** Compensation of all workers at fair value without regard to hours worked or employment status.
- 18.** Benefits, including health insurance for seasonal workers that are similarly available for full-time workers at the same place of employment.
- 19.** Benefits, including health insurance for permanent part-time be available at a minimum on a prorated basis.
- 20.** Efforts to raise and maintain the minimum wage, at a “living wage” rate, indexed to the Cost of Living Index such that full-time workers should not be forced to rely on public assistance.
- 21.** Efforts to eliminate exclusions of tipped wage and commission workers from U.S. and State minimum wage eligible employees.
- 22.** Designating April 28<sup>th</sup> as a Memorial day recognizing workers who have been injured or died on the job during the prior year.

23. Strict enforcement of current laws prohibiting the hiring of foreign nationals illegally in this country and sanctions against employers who recruit, hire or exploit such workers.
24. Legislation banning replacement of striking workers, a practice detrimental to good-faith negotiations in the collective-bargaining process.
25. "Fair Share" legislation requiring all workers benefiting from collective bargaining agreements to pay their fair share of the costs incurred in the negotiation and administration of these agreements.

## **We Oppose:**

26. An anti-union agenda which has jeopardized the health, safety and dignity of public and private wage earners across the nation.
27. The business practice of "double-breasting" – creation of a parallel non-union company to replace work done in an original, union company.
28. Corporate mergers and takeovers that improve short-term profits and stock prices at the cost of reduced wages and benefits or the loss of jobs.
29. Any changes in the statutory provisions of the Commission of Industrial Relations.
30. Any attempts to weaken the Davis-Bacon Act (1931) requiring payment of local prevailing wages on public works projects.
31. Any attempts to modify the Hobbs Act to enable federal prosecutors to threaten felony indictments of strikers without similar provisions for employers and their agents.
32. Any proposal to abolish the Railroad Retirement Board.
33. Tax incentives to encourage business to locate, expand and remain in the state that do not require assurances, including penalties from private enterprise that they will fulfill their obligations to locate, expand and remain in the state.
34. Expansion and abuse of the use of independent contractors where traditional employees are available to fill those positions.
35. Expansion and abuse of the use of H-1B visas where qualified domestic employees are available to fill those positions.

## **B. Trade and Commerce**

### **We Support:**

36. Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act or enactment of similar law separating commercial and investment banking.
37. The proposal to levy a very small tax on stock transactions on exchanges as a deterrent to automated trading.
38. Fair and equitable trade policy that opens markets for Made-in-America products and services to the ninety-five percent of the world's consumers who live outside the United States.
39. Trade agreements that stipulate enforceable provisions removing protectionist taxes on Made-in-America exports.
40. Trade agreements with aggressive rules protecting human rights and the environment, world-wide.
41. Incentives to reward U. S. companies that bring jobs back to the U. S.
42. An expanded and sustained investment in infrastructure as an essential foundation to a stable environment for commerce of all kinds.
43. A concerted effort to upgrade and promote statewide broadband infrastructure capable of supporting robust business, educational, and individual requirements.
44. Incentives that encourage sustainable growth of small businesses.
45. A uniform criteria defining a "small business" that would exclude large corporations from accessing benefits intended for actual small businesses.

### **We Oppose:**

46. Any effort to weaken or repeal the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010.
47. Offshore tax shelters and other incentives available to corporations or individuals who move jobs overseas.
48. Trade agreements that cost American jobs, lower wages, or that would lower consumer and environmental protections.

## **II. Public Education**

### **We Support:**

- 49. Public school options for all students.
- 50. Accessible and high-quality Early Childhood Education as a fundamental right for all children starting at birth.
- 51. Excellence in education for all students from birth through grade 16 regardless of family income.
- 52. Equal education access for all students regardless of Immigration status.
- 53. The Constitutional right to elect Education Policy makers at the state and local level.
- 54. A commitment to local control of community education policy.

### **A. Education funding**

- 55. Fully funded public education from Early Childhood through grade 16.
- 56. A broad-based tax system for the support of public education.
- 57. Balanced funding for public education from local, state, and national levels of government.

### **B. Accountability**

- 58. A comprehensive program of accountability and assessment that:
  - (a) Sets standards for accomplishment;
  - (b) Monitors the progress of students by appropriate testing and assessment;
  - (c) Tailors the curriculum to ensure that standards are met;
  - (d) Provides the opportunity to learn skills preparing students for direct entry to the work force;
  - (e) Ensures a highly qualified instructor in every classroom and a highly qualified administrator in every school.

## **C. Multicultural Education**

**59.** Multicultural education programs that teach students:

- (a)** To confront discrimination based on racism, sexism, ageism or cultural bigotry;
- (b)** To create a society free of discrimination based upon religious belief, disability, origin, orientation, or gender identity or economic status;
- (c)** The principles of multicultural education that promote close working relationships among the school, home and community.

## **D. Technology and Digital Citizenship**

**60.** Pre-K -16 access to quality internet service.

**61.** Technological competence and computer literacy for all students.

**62.** Teaching all students to be respectful users of technology and social media.

## **E. Academic Freedom**

**63.** The right of teachers and students to explore and discuss divergent views.

**64.** The right of teachers to select materials and teaching techniques to implement the approved curriculum.

**65.** The right of families to have their children given alternative assignments for controversial topics.

## **F. Financial Aid for Students**

**66.** State and federal funding for:

- (a)** Nutrition programs for all students enrolled in Early Childhood through grade 16;
- (b)** Student-centered programs for all special needs students;
- (c)** Affirmative action programs to guarantee equal access to all aspects of education for all students regardless of income, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, orientation or gender identity;



- (d) Financial aid programs to help qualified students pursue all post-secondary education pathways.

## **G. Safety in the Schools**

- 67. The right of each student to attend school free from violence, coercion, harassment, and bullying.
- 68. The establishment of a safe, orderly school environment that supports quality learning for all students.

## **H. Human Growth & Development Education**

- 69. A comprehensive age-appropriate and medically accurate family life and sex education curriculum that includes instruction about:
  - (a) Abstinence;
  - (b) Sexually transmitted diseases;
  - (c) Sexually responsible behavior;
  - (d) Contraception and pregnancy;
  - (e) Sexual orientation and gender identification;
  - (f) Consent.

## **I. Adolescent Parent Education**

- 70. Programs for adolescent parents that include:
  - (a) Pre- and post-natal education;
  - (b) Early childhood development education.

## **J. Post-Secondary Education**

- 71. Adequate exposure to diverse career pathways.
- 72. Encouraging all students to continue their education.
- 73. Recruitment of appropriately prepared students and highly qualified faculty.
- 74. Adequate state funding for Nebraska's public post-secondary institutions, including;

- (a) Trade schools and apprenticeships;
- (b) Community colleges;
- (c) State colleges;
- (d) Universities.

## **K. Partnerships in Education**

75. Developing collaborative partnerships for improving public education for all students among:

- (a) Schools;
- (b) Businesses;
- (c) Unions;
- (d) Community members;
- (e) Parents;
- (f) Educators;

### **We Oppose:**

76. Use of Public tax monies for:

- (a) Tuition tax credits.
- (b) Vouchers;
- (c) Charter school development.

## **III. GOVERNMENT**

### **We Support:**

77. The principles and the importance of the constitutionally guaranteed separation of church and state.

78. Government that is open, responsive and accountable to the will of citizens.

79. Nebraska's laws requiring open meetings and access to public records.

80. Joint activities and consolidation of governmental units and programs where those actions promote effective and efficient delivery of government services.

81. Adequate salaries for members of the Nebraska Legislature to ensure that the talent and services of Nebraskans from all walks of life are available to serve the state.
82. Efforts to protect the integrity and the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare systems to include new approaches to accurately measure inflation as evidenced by senior citizens' and other beneficiaries' spending patterns and to applaud the effectiveness of these programs in reducing and nearly eliminating widespread poverty among the elderly and other beneficiaries.
83. Full funding of first responders, public safety officers, public works personnel and support personnel as a minimum path to public safety.
84. Tribal sovereignty of the Native American nations as accorded by treaties with the U. S. Government and recognition of the value of the distinct cultural, political, economic and social aspects of Native Americans.
85. Federal and state diligence to meet treaty obligations to Native Americans and to preserve their heritage.
86. Vigorous enforcement of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.
87. Fair and equitable taxation to support government operations and efficient, effective management of government functions to support public policy and serve the public needs.
88. Limits to the length and cost of presidential campaigns.
89. Election Day "on-site" voter registration and other actions to assist and encourage widespread voter participation.
90. A verified audit trail in the voting process to enable accurate recounts and elevated confidence in election results.
91. Reinstatement of the right to vote to ex-felons when their sentence is completed.

## **We Oppose:**

92. Citizens United ruling by the U. S. Supreme Court.
93. Any barriers to the free exercise of the right to vote.
94. A national ID card.

## **A. Civil Rights**

### **We Support:**

- 95.** A just and equitable society.
- 96.** Recognizing every individual as an equal member of society.
- 97.** Protecting the rights and civil liberties of all marginalized individuals.
- 98.** Laws and policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to include:
  - (a)** Marriage equality and relationship recognition with appropriate access to documentation;
  - (b)** Employment protection without religious exemptions;
  - (c)** Healthcare access;
  - (d)** Parenting opportunities such as adoption and foster care without religious exemptions for providers;
  - (e)** Public accommodations such as restrooms;
  - (f)** Equal access to housing;
  - (g)** Widely disseminated written school safety policies prohibiting harassment related to sexual orientation or gender identity / expression.
  - (h)** Legal and policy based protections from bullying and harassment in the public sphere.
  - (i)** Equal access to public services and assistance.
- 99.** Every American citizen's right to vote, with automatic Voter registration at the age of 18.
- 100.** An environment where all voices are allowed to be heard in an atmosphere of common respect.
- 101.** Enrichment of our culture through recognition and acceptance of individual differences and beliefs.
- 102.** Diversity of representation in all aspects of public and political life.
- 103.** Programs to encourage full participation for those who have been historically disadvantaged.
- 104.** Extending the right of Habeas Corpus to detainees in U.S. Custody.

- 105. The right of individuals to make reproductive choices in accordance with their personal, philosophical, and religious beliefs.
- 106. Respecting the rights of Native Americans and honoring all treaty obligations.
- 107. The rights of the elderly and individuals with disabilities to fully participate in society.
- 108. Multi-lingual assistance for people of immigrant and Native American communities.

### **We Oppose:**

- 109. The denigration of any ethnic/cultural group through the use of symbols, mascots, icons or behaviors offensive to those groups.
- 110. Extremist philosophies and actions that promote violence, bigotry, or intolerance.
- 111. Any legislation or policy that restricts the right of any citizen to vote.
- 112. Any legislation or policy that discriminates on the basis of orientation or gender identity.
- 113. Age or religious exemptions permitting reparative therapy techniques targeted at the LGBTQIA+ community.
- 114. Any exemption, religious or otherwise, which permits a health care or behavioral health care provider to refuse care or referral on the basis of orientation or gender identity / expression.

## **B. Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement**

### **We Support:**

- 115. Reforming the criminal justice system to add institutional checks and balances to prevent the conviction of innocent individuals – as happened to the Beatrice 6.

- 116. Life imprisonment as an alternative to capital punishment.
- 117. Responsible funding and management policy to effectively carry out federal programs executed at the state level and state initiated programs carried out at the local level.
- 118. Aggressive programs to rehabilitate prisoners in the state and local correctional facilities and a willingness to incorporate programs to reduce recidivism.
- 119. Policies to reintegrate ex-felons as contributing members of society which would include granting rights and privileges of citizenship.
- 120. Responsible firearm ownership by individuals and responsible public policy.
- 121. The adoption of a Federal ban on assault weapons, high capacity magazines, and armor piercing rounds.
- 122. Alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders

## **We Oppose:**

- 123. The current “concealed carry” law in Nebraska.
- 124. The militarization of local police forces through the purchase of post-war or surplus military equipment.
- 125. Formal or informal police policy that permits the unacceptable treatment of or disdain toward individuals.

## **C. Foreign Policy**

### **We Support:**

- 126. The balanced use of diplomacy and economic power and, when necessary, the judicious use of military power to defend U. S. interests.
- 127. Equal opportunities for LGBTQIA+ military members and their families.
- 128. The rule of law on the international level.

129. Basic human rights in every nation without regard to economic or political philosophy.
130. The responsibility of U.S. as a superpower to be a leader in international relations.
131. Working through the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly to foster peace and enforce international law and treaties.
132. The aggressive use of United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations to address and solve regional and global issues.
133. International actions to eliminate terrorism.
134. U. S. commitment to long-term economic and humanitarian aid to address hunger, disease, poverty and illiteracy.
135. Economic assistance to developing nations that is sustainable and leads to self-sufficiency.
136. Continued efforts toward responsible nuclear disarmament.
137. Continuing support and adherence to the principles and standards of the Geneva Conventions.

### **We Oppose:**

138. Maintaining a military posture anticipating a two-war scenario.
139. Nuclear proliferation.
140. Militarization of Space.
141. Genocide, apartheid and ethnic cleansing.
142. The use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon.
143. The destruction of religious and cultural icons.
144. Enhanced interrogation of prisoners or enemy combatants in violation of the Geneva Convention and current military regulations.

## **D. Immigration**

### **We Support:**

- 145.** Fair, effective, humane, comprehensive immigration reform with a clear path to citizenship.
- 146.** Legislation promoting expedited and affordable citizenship programs.
- 147.** Legislation to allow all immigrants to achieve the American Dream.
- 148.** Recognizing same-sex marriage for immigration purposes.
- 149.** Policies that strengthen and respect family unity.
- 150.** Increased and expedited processing of applications for family reunification and naturalization.
- 151.** Employment labor rights for immigrant workers.
- 152.** Humane border policy.
- 153.** Driver licenses and automobile insurance coverage.
- 154.** Acquisition of professional and vocational licenses.
- 155.** Access to healthcare and insurance for all.
- 156.** Efforts to promote available government services to immigrant communities.
- 157.** Outreach efforts promoting engagement and participation in the political process among naturalized citizens for voter education, registration, and access to voting.
- 158.** Efforts to provide equal access to housing to all immigrants.
- 159.** Cooperation of local law enforcement with immigrant communities in the interest of public safety for all.
- 160.** DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), DACA+ (Expanded DACA Programs) and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) until comprehensive immigration reform can be achieved.
- 161.** Multi-lingual assistance for people of immigrant communities.



## **We Oppose:**

- 162.** Scapegoating, racial profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and discrimination.
- 163.** Arbitrary limits on Humanitarian refugees' admissions.
- 164.** Mass raids related to enforcement policies/practices targeting people based on their immigration status.
- 165.** Deportation policies which tear families apart.
- 166.** Targeting of immigrants with violence, threats, intimidation, or harassment.
- 167.** The use of local law enforcement agencies for enforcement of federal immigration law.

## **E. National Service**

### **We Support:**

- 168.** The principle that all citizens and residents are called to serve their country.
- 169.** The full measure of respect for those who serve in the military, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Vista, Teacher Corps, and similar service.
- 170.** Compensation for military service that is comparable to similar civilian work and responsibilities.
- 171.** Equal opportunities for women in military assignments, duties and promotion.
- 172.** Equal opportunities for LGBTQIA+ military members.
- 173.** Provisions for support of active duty family members and family members of Guard and Reserve service personnel called to active duty.
- 174.** All measures to ensure that troops in harm's way are properly staffed, equipped, and supplied to perform their duties safely and effectively.
- 175.** Timely payment of death benefits for widows, widowers and dependents of fallen soldiers.

- 176. Reforms to make military retirement benefits more flexible.
- 177. The right of all veterans to timely high quality health care, including mental health care funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **We Oppose:**

- 178. Excessive overseas deployments of active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members.

## **F. Technology**

### **We Support:**

- 179. Efforts to ensure that all Nebraskans have access to affordable telecommunications services regardless of where they live.
- 180. Fairness, affordability, access, and privacy as the four basic principles for state and federal governance of communications.
- 181. Partnerships between municipalities and other public entities with private concerns to develop community wideband networks.
- 182. The development of a statewide broadband internet infrastructure.
- 183. Net neutrality

## **G. Veterans' Services**

### **We Support:**

- 184. The work of the Nebraska State Department of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans all benefits to which they are entitled, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Assistance to veterans to file and monitor medical and other claims;
  - (b) Assistance to veterans to live independent and productive lives.
- 185. Fully funding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and all regional VA hospitals and clinics, to include authorizing the VA to pay market rates for hard-to-fill / high vacancy specialties.

186. Independent oversight of the VA to ensure top quality services for veterans.
187. Aggressive VA programs to provide timely and convenient access to VA hospital services or private care, regardless of gender.
188. Full cooperation by VA health care providers in referring veterans for the prescription of lawful medical marijuana when appropriate for patient care.
189. Health care and mental health care for qualifying National Guard and Reserve members and dependents.
190. Dedicated housing communities or housing vouchers for homeless veterans.
191. Qualifying current and past members of the National Guard and Reserve for benefits of the GI Bill.
192. Tax relief, in whole or part, on military retirement benefits, in line with all states bordering Nebraska.
193. Job protections for Nebraska Guard and Reserve personnel.

### **We Oppose:**

194. Linking cuts in disability payments with the earned income of disabled veterans.
195. Cuts to current GI Bill educational benefits for any veteran.
196. Privatization of VA Hospitals and clinics.

## **IV. Human Services**

### **We Support:**

197. The family, in all of its forms, as the core unit of society.
198. Efforts by all levels of government to provide all Nebraskans with:
  - (a) Safe, decent, affordable housing;
  - (b) Adequate nutrition;
  - (c) Protection from violence, neglect and abuse;
  - (d) Job training;
  - (e) Comprehensive and holistic health care.

- 199.** Public assistance as a helping hand which facilitates people's advancement out of poverty.
- 200.** Government's responsibility to identify and foster meaningful jobs with a living wage.
- 201.** Innovative approaches to provide accessible, quality childcare:
- (a)** Maternity/paternity leave policies and legislation;
  - (b)** Expanded school hours;
  - (c)** Expanded family medical leave legislation;
  - (d)** Tax credits for child care;
  - (e)** Wages for childcare workers commensurate with that responsibility.
- 202.** Policies and practices that provide individuals in the custody of the state with:
- (a)** Safe living conditions;
  - (b)** Protection from harm;
  - (c)** Training, behavioral and mental health services;
  - (d)** Comprehensive and holistic health care;
  - (e)** Discharge planning and placement in integrated settings.

## **We Oppose:**

- 203.** Deportation or detention which separates parents and children.
- 204.** The abuse and neglect of individuals in the custody of the state.

## **A. Disabilities**

### **We Support:**

- 205.** Full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 206.** Governmental incentives and assistance to businesses and organizations while they strive to provide equal access to people with disabilities.
- 207.** Full implementation of federal and state statutes establishing the right of children with disabilities to free and appropriate public education.
- 208.** Measures to ensure fair and equitable employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

## **We Oppose:**

- 209.** Policies and practices that isolate, exclude or otherwise segregate those with disabilities from their community and society, including any policies or practices that prevent persons with intellectual disabilities from choosing to engage in work or other meaningful activities in settings among their peers.
- 210.** Social or systemic barriers that limit the full participation of people with disabilities in activities in their community and in society.
- 211.** Institutionalization, stigma, involuntary treatment, etc., which infringes on the civil rights of people with disabilities.

## **B. Health Care**

### **We Support:**

- 212.** Universal healthcare as a basic human right.
- 213.** Medicaid expansion in Nebraska.
- 214.** The provisions of the Affordable Care Act and other measures to reduce the number of uninsured Nebraskans and other Americans.
- 215.** Federal and state funded immunizations for children.
- 216.** Increased funding for drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse research, education, prevention and access to rehabilitation.
- 217.** Legal access to prescription drugs from foreign suppliers by consumers.
- 218.** The basic right of Nebraskans to choose health care to meet their needs.
- 219.** Affordable access to sexual health services and an individual's right to choose appropriate services.
- 220.** Congressional passage of a meaningful and binding Patient's Bill of Rights.
- 221.** Requiring drug companies to publicly report information that affects drug pricing.
- 222.** The portability of worker's health insurance coverage.

- 223. Stem cell research and therapy as an integral part of critical care to tens of millions of Americans with serious illnesses.
- 224. Insurance coverage and treatment of behavioral health issues to include eating disorders on a par with other health care issues.
- 225. Efforts to destigmatize behavioral health issues by government at all levels.
- 226. Suicide prevention efforts in schools, workplaces and communities at large.

### **We oppose:**

- 227. Efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a suitable replacement providing equal benefits.
- 228. Efforts to reduce state level regulation of health insurance coverage.
- 229. The restriction of government's bargaining power in purchasing Medicare drugs.

## **V. Natural Resources**

### **We Support:**

- 230. Public and private measures for effective husbandry of natural resources including minerals, forests, water, fertile land and other materials that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain or have aesthetic value.
- 231. Efforts to exploit renewable resources for economic use and gain offsetting the irreplaceable loss of non-renewables.
- 232. Study and policy that increases understanding of the vulnerabilities and threats to the Ogallala Aquifer and ensures sustainability of Nebraska's most valuable natural resource.
- 233. A national fossil fuel carbon tax to fund research, development, and deployment of renewable energy.

### **We Oppose:**

- 234. Efforts to weaken protections for National Parks, Monuments, lands sacred to Native Americans, and lands publically held for mutual use and enjoyment.

**235.** Efforts to weaken the Federal Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, or the Clean Air Act.

## **A. Agriculture**

### **We Support:**

**236.** A robust system of traditional family farmers and ranchers.

**237.** The quality and vitality of rural communities.

**238.** The creation of a comprehensive national food, fuel and fiber policy, which protects the long-term productivity of natural resources and the quality and abundance of our food supply.

**239.** An end to monopoly control of agricultural markets in production, processing, and trade:

**(a)** Assurance of a fair return for farmers;

**(b)** Expansion of world trade under conditions which promote fair tariff and subsidy practices.

**240.** The restoration of fair market pricing in the marketplace to meet the cost of production, plus a fair return for labor and investment.

**241.** Adequate development of U.S. export markets.

**242.** Strong and effective antitrust policy and laws.

**243.** Effective enforcement of antitrust laws.

**244.** Publicly sponsored agricultural research including:

**(a)** Responsible biotechnological research to enable the reduction of the use of farm chemicals and other expensive production aids;

**(b)** The discovery and promotion of profitable ways to utilize crops, such as ethanol, soy, and biodiesel fuels;

**(c)** The discovery and promotion of new and experimental crops as they become feasible.

**245.** Adequate crop insurance.

246. Good land use planning that protects prime agricultural land through zoning regulations in all 93 counties.
247. The continuation and enhancement of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to meet multiple national goals for environmental, emergency, energy, wildlife, and other multiple uses.
248. The enhancement of farm and loan programs for the benefit and to encourage beginning farmers.
249. Enhancement of farm and loan programs to promote organic and sustainable farming.

### **We Oppose:**

250. The use of crop insurance as a replacement for fair market prices and an adequate price support program.

## **B. Energy**

### **We Support:**

251. An energy policy that considers long term consequences of actions.
252. Policies and incentives that promote the use of sustainable and environmentally sound energy such as:
  - (a) Biomass energy;
  - (b) Wind energy;
  - (c) Solar energy;
  - (d) Hydroelectric energy.
253. Policies that create an efficient system to deliver affordable and “clean” energy.
254. Development of renewable energy resources as a priority.
255. Raising Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.
256. Tax credits to produce and purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles.
257. Conservation of existing resources while improving energy efficiency.



- 258. Expanded use of efficient mass-transit and transportation.
- 259. Public ownership of energy utilities.
- 260. Smart growth instead of suburban sprawl.
- 261. Energy efficient appliances and lighting.
- 262. Energy efficient building designs.
- 263. Revenue neutral carbon fees.
- 264. Net metering of electricity.
- 265. Safe transport/storage of nuclear waste and petroleum wastewater.
- 266. Decreasing dependence on fossil fuel and nuclear fission power.
- 267. A national comprehensive energy security and climate protection law.
- 268. Restricting greenhouse gas emissions.
- 269. The right of individuals to generate their own energy.
- 270. Expansion of solar energy production in disadvantaged communities and multi-unit developments.
- 271. Research grants to promote green energy research and development.
- 272. Research grants to promote conservation and sustainability of natural resources.
- 273. The availability of the same or comparable incentives for public utilities as are currently authorized for private investors to construct alternative energy facilities.

### **We Oppose:**

- 274. Fossil fuel/nuclear fission power subsidies.
- 275. New construction of power plants relying on fossil fuels.
- 276. Fracking, fracking injection wastewater wells, and storage of fracking wastewater in the state of Nebraska.

- 277. Deepwater and arctic oil drilling.
- 278. Further development of fossil fuel.

## **C. Environment**

### **We Support:**

- 279. The preservation of our forests, plains, prairies, lakes, rivers, and streams in their natural state for our own enjoyment and recreation and that of future generations.
- 280. The use of Nebraska's renewable energy resources as a way to mitigate rising emissions while creating economic development opportunities across the state.
- 281. The protection of all water sources from contamination and the guarantee of sufficient water for the basic human needs for drinking and sanitation while ensuring management of water to sustain ecosystems, fisheries, recreation and endangered species.
- 282. Adequate funding for the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserves Program, the Conservation Security Program and for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP).
- 283. Maintaining healthy rivers in Nebraska, balancing multiple users of rivers: agriculture, municipalities, wildlife, recreation and industry.
- 284. Strict enforcement of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act/Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (CERCLA/SARA), the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- 285. Policies to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution.
- 286. A moratorium on new fracking and other forms of oil/gas wells.
- 287. Planting trees of appropriate species for reforestation, energy conservation, erosion control and a sustainable forestry industry.

- 288. Access to clean water by all citizens.
- 289. The use of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology.
- 290. Publically owned clean water.
- 291. Integrated watershed management, including buffer zones, retention basins, aquifers and wetlands.
- 292. The creation of greenbelts near urban areas and encourage community planning principles of smart growth.

## **We Oppose**

- 293. New fossil fuel infrastructure projects.
- 294. The use of neonicotinoid pesticides.