

# THE FLOYD COUNTY 2018 DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

## BUILDING A STRONGER FLOYD COUNTY

Preamble:

The Floyd County Democratic Party (FCDP) believes in what Hoosiers can accomplish with a good education, a good-paying job, and stronger communities. We believe in working to ensure a high quality of life for all Hoosiers, building a government that is responsive and progressive in its approach to the challenges we face today.

**We are committed to governance marked by sound policies that are reasonable and fair, recruiting for diversity in government, increasing citizen participation by removing barriers to voting, and fighting the erosion of essential government services.**

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

- Supporting a sound tax policy that is fiscally responsible in order to support the best possible educational structure and community investments.
- Committing ourselves to enacting a transparent and balanced county budget.
- Supporting progressive tax policies that reduce taxation on middle class and low income families.
- Ensuring appropriate spending to influence our economic growth and development.

### **Ethical Standards**

- Encouraging civil and factual communication with the public.
- Providing transparency and accountability within our local government.
- Committing ourselves to the highest ethical standards in our service.
- Opposing the use of government positions for personal gain or turning essential governmental services into private business ventures.
- Establishing a bipartisan Floyd County Ethics Committee, in response to ethical misconduct, in order to review complaints and ensure public accountability in the future.

### **Citizen Participation**

- Working to make voting easier and removing physical and/or bureaucratic impediments while supporting proven enhancements such as mail-in ballots and universal registration.
- Reaching out in the community to increase voter participation.
- Seeking to reduce the influence of money on our political system.

**We believe in basic fairness that gives every Hoosier an equal chance to succeed through quality public education, access to quality healthcare, equal pay for equal work, increasing the minimum wage, fighting discrimination, and supporting the right of workers to organize.**

**Public Education**

- Expanding early childhood education so that all children have an equal start.
- Working to increase the number of high school graduates in our state and supporting ongoing adult education both for GED and vocational training.
- Supporting the adequate funding of schools and the rehabilitation of school buildings in order to provide a modern state-of-the-art learning environment and to increase property values.
- Keeping schools under local control.
- Increasing the number of college graduates and addressing the burdensome debt load on our college students.
- Financing extra-curricular youth programs to support social-emotional development and educational and economic opportunities.
- Adequately compensating certified educators and other support staff.
- Reducing the emphasis and importance of standardized testing as a means for measuring academic achievement in favor of individualized assessments.

**Economic Well-Being**

- Supporting the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain for salaries, benefits, and workplace safety including county government employees.
- Enacting local responsible bidder ordinances at the municipal and county level ensuring that contractors are competing on a level playing field.
- Advocating for full employment at a living wage, working to increase and index the minimum wage in Indiana, and working to ensure equal pay for equal work.
- Affirming that the economy grows when all workers have sufficient income to buy goods and services that support local businesses.

**Health Care**

- Advocating for Universal Healthcare.
- Preserving the doctor/patient relationship by acknowledging personal choice and privacy options in medical decisions.
- Resisting all attempts to return the old system of insurance denials due to pre-existing conditions, lifetime limits, and higher premiums for women.
- Expanding the access to full reproductive health care for women including maternal and post-natal care, and access to medically-accurate counseling for women.
- Reducing Indiana's high rate of infant mortality by increasing awareness with comprehensive resources.

- Supporting all initiatives to reduce addiction abuse by supporting access to treatment, preventative health measures such as harm reduction methods, and the decriminalization of addiction.
- Enhancing and staffing the Veteran's Service Office and the Veteran's Court program to guarantee that veterans have access to the physical and mental health benefits, education, and job opportunities promised to them.

### **Commitment to Diversity & Equality**

- Believing that a government should look like the people it represents.
- Continuing to actively recruit women and minorities to enter public service.
- Including LGBT non-discrimination protections in State law and local ordinances.
- Fighting for equal pay between men and women in the workplace.

## **We believe in building a first-class infrastructure that will make Floyd County's economy work.**

### **Business Growth and Community Development**

- Building the infrastructure necessary to support the needs of the business community: a robust work force, adequate transportation, a strong communications and utility network, and thriving commerce centers.
- Expanding broadband services throughout Floyd County including underserved suburban and rural areas.
- Creating a community environment that includes parks and recreation, high-quality schools, and strong arts programs that attract new businesses and new residents.
- Committing resources to community beautification and historic preservation as well as the reuse of abandoned buildings to revitalize underused and blighted areas.
- Supporting small, local businesses and entrepreneurship programs.

### **Environment**

- Ensuring policies that allow all neighborhoods equal access to clean air, water and soil.
- Protecting the Solid Waste program from elimination and to initiate a local composting program.
- Upgrading government infrastructure to improve environmental efficiency of buildings, vehicles and green spaces.
- Increasing use of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption.
- Supporting funds for assisting low-income residents to become more environmentally efficient.
- Supporting and encouraging county-wide curbside recycling.

### **Law and Public Safety**

- Opposing private, for-profit prisons in Indiana, and ensuring that our local jail facility meets basic safety and health standards.
- Continuing our support of efforts by the courts to decriminalize mental illness and provide access to treatment (Veteran's Court and Forensic Sentencing Program).
- Working with community organizations to support addicts, identify ways to increase access to treatment with proven outcomes, and reduce Indiana's incarceration rate.
- Addressing the violence against young women in Indiana where 11% of women under age 18 experience rape, sexual violence, and /or dating violence.
- Expanding shelter services for people wanting to leave extreme and dangerous situations of domestic violence.
- Treating addiction as a medical problem instead of using our jails as rehabilitation centers.
- Expanding shelter and support services for victims of human trafficking in Floyd County.

As Floyd County Democrats our commitment is to build a government recognized by its fairness and equality, opportunity, and transparency. We will be caring in our concern about the longer-term life of our community and state, making responsible decisions for both today and tomorrow. We understand that this will only happen when we also commit ourselves to be collegial and respectful in our working relationships, recognizing the need to listen to others and being willing to compromise when necessary. In addition to this platform, we also support both the State and National platforms of our Party as they address the broader issues beyond the scope of this document.

**Approved by the Floyd Co. Democratic Party Executive Board on: 6.25.18.**  
**Approved by the Floyd Co. Democratic Party 2018 Candidates on: 6.26.18.**  
**Approved by the Floyd Co. Democratic Central Committee on: 7.2.2018.**