

**Bylaw Amendment A. To: Article I, Section 1**

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Submitted by: Carl Olsen

*Amend the Bylaws of the Iowa Democratic Party by striking Article I, Section 1, and by inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:*

**Section 1. The Platform and the Statement of Principles**

**A.** Each convention shall adopt a platform consisting of a Statement of Issues. The Platform Committee may set its own rules for development of its report, including but not limited to rules governing debate, amendment, and adoption of platform planks. The Statement of Issues in the Platform Committee report shall consist of no more than 3000 words.

**B.** The Rules Committee shall set time deadlines and make rules governing convention debate, amendment, and adoption of platform planks as necessary for the efficient and fair consideration of the platform.

**C.** The Platform Committee of the State Convention shall, prior to the convening of the State Convention, hold a public hearing to allow Democrats the opportunity to comment on the draft platform.

**D.** The State Convention shall adopt a Statement of Principles. The Statement of Principles shall be a statement of abiding Democratic values and principles. The State Central Committee shall approve and forward a proposed Statement of Principles to the Chair of the Iowa Democratic Party no later than 21 days prior to the State Convention. The draft Statement of Principles shall be considered for debate, amendment, and adoption at the State Convention. The Statement of Principles adopted by the State Convention shall be the Statement of Principles for the Iowa Democratic Party.

**Rationale:** This Bylaw amendment was recommended by both the Polk County Convention and the Third District Convention in Resolutions passed at each earlier this year. The amendment relieves platform committees of the duty of drafting a Statement of Principles at all levels of the Iowa Democratic Party. Platform Committees are exceedingly busy. Drafting the Statement of Issues portion of the Platform in some county, all district, and the State platform committees takes many hours. Platform Committees have struggled to find time to complete work on a Statement of Principles. In addition, Platform Committees are constrained by current language to begin their drafts with immediate past Statement of Principles and to make few changes. This limitation on creativity has disappointed many platform committee member at all levels.

This amendment maintains a process for creating a single, state-wide Statement of Principles for the Iowa Democratic Party. It will be drafted by the State Central Committee and submitted to the State Convention for debate, amendment, and adoption. We currently have the capacity for adopting 104 different Statements of Principles (99 counties, 4 districts, and the state). Adopting this amendment will result in a single Statement of Principles for the Iowa Democratic Party and will give our platform committees more time to focus on the Statement of Issues.