

Debbie Hillman
DLHillman@sbcglobal.net
www.FoodFarmsDemocracy.net
Evanston, Illinois

Illinois Food-and-Farm Platform for 2018 Elections Regenerating our Democracy, our Habitats, Ourselves

— A Reckoning of 67 years —

For Illinois candidates, voters, and journalists who want to

- Promote specific, practical policies for the benefit of Illinois farmers, mothers, and eaters
- Work with officials, voters, and media in other states on removing national obstacles to feeding ourselves
- Be identified as a “food-and-farm” candidate, voter, or journalist

FEDERAL

1. REGENERATING OURSELVES AND OUR HABITATS

a. Living income

— **Farmer price floors** (parity pricing) and/or farmer-owned reserves: Work with food-and-farm coalitions to reinstate.

Resource: National Family Farm Coalition

— **Minimum wage for all food chain workers** (production-consumption-waste) Resource: OneFairWage.com

b. Single payer health care (Medicaid for All). Include preventative & alternative body care therapies

c. Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN): Fully fund. Resource: [U.S. farmer suicides](http://U.S.farmer-suicides)

d. A “Leopold Center” in every state: Create center for “food, agriculture, and sustainability” committed to collaborative research in the biophysical sciences and social sciences equally and integrated with the arts. Create and maintain strong public connections with people and communities all over each state.

Resources: a Leopold vision; Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture, & Sustainability (INFAS)

e. Broadband and net neutrality for all.

f. Women, Peace, & Security Act: Pass domestic version of this 2017 act. Train and fund women in neighborhood peace-keeping (distinct from law enforcement). Resource: Moccasin Makers & War Breakers

2. REGENERATING OUR DEMOCRACY

a. U.S. FOOD & FARM SYSTEMS: Visioning for Sustainable and Democratic Production

Adopt a unified vision. Resource: USDA Listening Session 2017 - Coalition Statement to Chief Scientist

b. PUBLIC MONEY: Restore U.S. money creation to a public authority through the NEED Act of 2012

National Emergency Employment Defense Act HR 2990

Resource: Intl. Movement for Monetary Reform

— Federal Reserve: Nationalize

— U.S. Money: Define and create

— Citizen dividend: Immediate funds for every citizen (approx. \$10,000 each)

— Infrastructure projects. Create \$2.2+ trillion in new U.S. Money for regenerative infrastructure: civil engineering, food-and-farm, public education, student debt, civic engagement, etc. At least 25% to be allocated at the state and local levels.

— Fractional reserve lending: Outlaw

c. U.S. CONSTITUTION and IROQUOIS CONSTITUTION (Great Law of Peace)

National book club (or other national program) to study the U.S. Constitution in comparison to the original model, the Iroquois Constitution, especially in relation to specific structures of the Iroquois League:

Bicameral self-governance for 500+ years: women’s councils + men’s councils

— 100% inclusion: all adults

— Setting the agenda: women’s councils

— Appointment and removal of chiefs: women’s councils

— Initiate war: women’s councils

— Living document (ease of amendment): 5-year sunset clause + additional amending process

Economic structures, including absence of “bullyboy” economics* and absence of “unfunded sovereignty”*

— Distribution hubs: clan mothers

— Production: Farming - women; forestry, hunting - men

Social structures: Full personal liberty for all

— Legal identity, record-keeping: clan mothers

**Iroquoian Women: The Gantowisas,* by Barbara Alice Mann
Basic Call to Consciousness, ed. by Akwesasne Notes

STATE OF ILLINOIS

[Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Plan](#) (2009)

Implement the three Goals for 2020 with special attention to the strategies listed.

Goals for 2020

- 1. INSTITUTIONAL PROCUREMENT.** Coordinate state institution food procurement policies to increase purchase of Illinois local farm and food products at state-funded cafeteria to 20% of total purchases.
- 2. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Support and expand programs that recruit, train, and provide technical assistance to 20,000 Illinois residents (5,000 farmers, 12,500 farm laborers, and 2,500 infrastructure entrepreneurs) to produce, process, and distribute Illinois local food and farm products.
- 3. CONSUMER PURCHASE.** Increase the purchase of Illinois local food products by Illinois consumers to 10% of total food dollar expenditures.

Strategies for 2018-2020

- a. Farm-to-school:** Add 3-part model to core Illinois curriculum (early childhood, K-12)
 - Healthy, local foods served in schools and available to parents who pack lunches
 - School garden or farm: living skills, hands-on skills
 - School curriculum includes or is modeled on the food-and-farm system
- b. Soil building and restoration**

Collect and return all food scraps and yard waste to Illinois soils via composting.
Resource: [Economic Impact and Market Study](#) (2016), Seven Generations Ahead
- c. Fair Food-and-Farm Income**
 - Valued workforce (production, consumption, waste mgmt.): Develop Illinois [Good Food Purchasing](#) label
 - Minimum wage for all restaurant workers: Start Illinois campaign Resource: [OneFairWage.com](#)
 - Migrant and seasonal workers: Eliminate wage theft Resource: [FLAPIllinois.org](#)
- d. Promote productions of oats** and other small grains (barley, wheat, triticale, heirloom corn, etc.)
Resources: Illinois Stewardship Alliance; Grand Prairie Grain Guild
- e. Expand cottage food laws to include:**
 - Production (hoop houses, growing in front yard, parkways, backyard farms), garden stand
 - Non-food products: ornamental plants, soil amendments, forestry, renewable energy, etc.
- f. Agri-tourism: Exchange visits across Illinois**

Organize and promote statewide community and leadership exchanges to foster understanding of food-and-farm assets, cultures, and technologies in different parts of the state (north-south, rural-urban-suburban, etc.), including non-food products (nurseries, forestry, soil amendments, wind farms, beauty, etc.)
- g. Moratorium on CAFOs** (confined animal feeding operations)
 - Restore livestock to the diversified farm option Resource: [John Ikerd FAQs on CAFOs](#)
 - Restore approval rights to communities Resource: Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)
- h. Create an Illinois state bank for Illinois public money** (similar to Bank of North Dakota)
Resources: Public Banking Institute; [Saving Illinois: Getting More Bang for the State's Bucks](#)
- i. Civics education: Invest in practical and applied civics** for all ages, with particular emphasis on:
 - Food-and-farm councils
 - Participatory budgeting Resources: [Count Me In](#) (filmed in Chicago); Participatory Budgeting Project
 - Restorative justice, peacekeeping
 - Political economy (public money), mechanics of money, democratization of money, history of money
Resources: [NewAbolitionism.org](#); Monetary History Calendar
 - Legislative pipelines: How do bills get proposed, move through legislature, etc.?
 - Open meetings: Retrain municipalities in advantages of more democracy, not a minimum