

## 2018 Gubernatorial Questionnaire

### Andy McGuire

*Please limit your response to each question to 200 words or less.*

Clean Water: Iowa has a clean water crisis, and runoff from factory farms is a major cause. Do you support a moratorium on new or expanding factory farms until there are fewer than 100 polluted waterways, and local control of factory farms?

1. I support a moratorium that is tied to a mandatory NRS goal which will exponentially increase our chances of cleaning our polluted waterways. It is clear that voluntary regulation does not work. No industry has ever successfully regulated itself with voluntary goals. As Governor I will make the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) a mandatory goal, rather than voluntary along with other strategies to work toward managing Phosphorus and Nitrate run-off from fields into our waterways. Iowa's impaired waterways report simply cannot continue to increase. We must put teeth into our regulations while at the same time recognizing that our farming practices need to address our environmental concerns. I am confident we can continue our rich practice of production while protecting our waterways and soil. It means we need to look into different technologies, mandatory practices and an eye toward the future of our land.

Immigration: Last year, the Iowa Legislature proposed legislation that would pit our law enforcement agencies against our immigrant and refugee friends and neighbors. Will you ensure that no law enforcement agency in Iowa will be deputized under Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

2. Yes, I support protecting all of our communities including our law enforcement officers by ensuring that no law enforcement agency is deputized under Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). First, our law enforcement community is already working under scarce

resources due to underfunding by the Republican controlled Legislature and approved by the Reynolds administration. To require this agency to perform duties assigned to a federal body in addition to their other duties and sometimes in competition with their primary duties of protecting and serving their community is wrong. In addition, I do not support an immigration policy which harms law abiding citizens and splits family members apart. This growing xenophobia to immigrants is dangerous and antithetical to what our country was founded on – and simply not the Iowa way. I do not support this legislation.

Raising the wage: Living wages are good for workers, our families, our business and our communities. Do you support a statewide living wage of at least \$15/hour for all Iowa workers?

3. I continue to support raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 per hour statewide. My position has been clear and has not wavered. Too many hardworking Iowans have been forced to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet. At a time when corporate executives are making record profits, there should be no issue raising the minimum wage statewide. Most importantly, I believe that earning a fair and honest paycheck at a living wage should be everyone's right. I will always be on the side of Iowa's working families.

Healthcare: Everyone has the right to quality healthcare but Iowans are receiving worse healthcare than ever. As governor, will you implement a state-level program that guarantees universal, high-quality healthcare to all Iowans

4. Health care is a right not a privilege. That is the position I begin with. We simply cannot go back to the old system where people were denied health insurance because of a preexisting condition or because they were unable to afford insurance due to sky high premiums. Making sure that all Iowans have health insurance is just one piece of ensuring comprehensive and affordable healthcare – we must also do more to drive down the costs of delivering services to patients. While much of the debate for the past decade has been around stabilizing health insurance markets, we have done little to address the actual costs of healthcare. So, whether you call it state-level Medicare for All, or universal healthcare, or health insurance for all, it is for the same purpose. I am uniquely qualified to find a solution to this issue because I have experience as both a medical provider and in the health care industry. I know it is not simple, but I begin with the premise that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Climate: Climate change is happening before our eyes and is becoming even more urgent by the day. What is your plan to transition Iowa to 100% clean energy that benefits all Iowans?

5. I am a scientist, so climate change is a real and immediate problem and concern. To say otherwise is foolish and untrue. And, just like any good scientist, I know helping to solve the issue will take a team of solutions, a team of change and a team of government action. It is not just one issue, but a lethal combination of factors. However, like many plans, it begins at home. My plan as Governor is to begin with each department with small and large scale plans that all help the environment in small and large ways. We have a good start with Iowa's wind farms. The most important sector in conservation is electricity so renewable energy is a target. Moving Iowa's state, city and county operations to renewable energy and incentivizing citizens is a start. I know that the main barriers to any climate plan are political rather than technological. Other key roadblocks include political inaction, outdated energy infrastructure and financial constraints. Working hard to prioritize and move forward in large and small ways is key.

Money in Politics: Our pay-to-play system of financing elections means that corporate special interests can buy off elected officials. Will you push for a small dollar donor/public financing system to get big money out of politics?

6. I would be happy to remove big money from politics. For too long democrats have been outspent by Koch Brother and ALEC style bottomless spending that simply cannot be matched. At the end of the cycle, there is an expected return on this investment and Iowans see legislation such as the anti-worker collective bargaining bill which is a disaster for our state. Removing this pay-to-play political system would level the playing field and allow voters a fair view of what is at stake.

Racial Justice: Recent history shows that Iowa's new Stand Your Ground bill will be used to target communities of color. Will you work to repeal the Stand Your Ground law in Iowa?

7. I do not support the new Stand Your Ground legislation and would immediately work to repeal it. What we know from research is that there is a lot of racial and ethnic bias in the judgment of threats and the Stand Your Ground law simply legalizes this inherent bias and allows a subjective criterion to be used for self-defense. I believe it is a racist law and as Governor I would work to repeal it.

Higher Education: Communities across Iowa, the US, and the world face increasingly oppressive levels of student debt as tuition rates are pushed ever higher. Will you support legislation to make Iowa's public colleges and universities tuition free for all students?

8. Because of mismanagement of the state's budget by the Branstad-Reynolds administration, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern

Iowa received budget cuts of \$18 million. Additionally \$3 million was cut from our community colleges. These devastating budget cuts to our Regents Universities and our community colleges exponentially impact Iowa's families and our economy. Rising tuition costs mean fewer families are able to send their kids to school, and those who attend, end up with high student loan debt. In addition, the rising community college tuition has an adverse effect on enrollment at a time when employers need a specialized workforce, and Iowa's businesses are raising the alarm about the lack of skilled workers to hire in our communities. We need a Governor who will prioritize our state's economic stabilizer – Iowa's education system. I understand the cause and effect cycle of not making it a priority, and I will strongly support Iowa's great universities and community colleges through free-tuition for those students who cannot otherwise afford to attend.

Budget: Governors Branstad and Reynolds have created a state revenue crisis with their corporate handouts, including the 2013 commercial property tax deal that they passed with the support of legislative Democrats. Do you pledge to roll back this corporate tax break and close other corporate tax loopholes?

9. Governors Branstad and Reynolds have so mismanaged our state's budget we now have a \$330 million deficit we will likely need a special legislative session to solve. This session will cost tax payers more money to fix a problem they caused. In addition, the recent sexual harassment lawsuit filed against Senate Republicans added an additional \$2.3 million to Iowa taxpayers which Governor Reynolds has agreed to pay. Not one Republican has called for peeling back corporate tax breaks or any giveaways they have provided over the years. As Governor I would immediately shut-down this free loading by the large out-of-state corporations who offer no benefit to Iowans and roll back the tax breaks and giveaways. I would manage the budget with the same fiduciary responsibility that all Iowa taxpayers deserve from their leaders.

Agriculture: Just as workers need a livable minimum wage, farmers need a livable minimum price. As governor, what would you do to ensure that farmers get a fair price for their crops?

10) Agriculture is an important part of the Iowa economy. Currently, many Iowa farmers are facing a depressed farm economy. As Governor, I would be an advocate for policies at the state and federal levels that would ensure that farmers, especially family farmers, get a fair price for their crops. This includes focusing on a wide variety of issues that affect the income of Iowa farmers, including climate change, trade opportunities, and renewable fuel.