



2018 Gubernatorial Questionnaire

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

1. **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?**

Iowa has some of the dirtiest water in the nation with at least 754 impaired waterways. This is unacceptable, and I'm committed to putting our planet, our soil, and water above profits. As a first step, I support a moratorium on new or expanding factory farms until there are fewer than 100 polluted waterways. I also support local control of factory farms. Additionally, I'm committed to working with Des Moines Water Works and the Iowa legislature to ensure that we pass policies that require corporate ag businesses to use their billions in profits to clean up the water crisis they've created - everyday Iowans shouldn't foot the bill for the water crisis that Iowans are facing. In the same tune, we need to strengthen the mandatory rules and regulations that crack down on factory farms and protect our water, which means DNR needs to enforce the rules on the books. And finally, we need to support small and family farmers by leveling the playing field for them; one way to do this would be by ending tax exemptions and other props for the factory farm industry.

2. **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?**

Iowa should be welcoming to everyone who wants to make a life in our state. We have to ensure that new Iowans are welcomed without fear of racial or ethnic profiling by state law enforcement. Iowa law enforcement officials should not enforce federal law when it comes to federal immigration - I do not believe these activities are in the legal jurisdiction of state and local law enforcement. As Governor of Iowa, I will do everything in my power to ensure that our state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies are not deputized under ICE. When anybody in our community is under attack, it's bad for all of us. Workers who live in constant fear of deportation are also at extreme risk of exploitation by companies and businesses which drive down the standard of living for all Iowans across our state. Some additional policies that I'm interested in exploring are make racial profiling illegal in Iowa Code; allowing drivers' licenses for all Iowans regardless of immigration status; and passing

the IOWA Act allowing students who graduate from Iowa high schools to qualify for in-state tuition rates regardless of immigration status.

3. **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?**

*Yes, one of the main priorities of our campaign is to address income inequality in our state. One of the first and most important steps to addressing that is to raise the minimum wage to \$15 hour for all workers as soon as possible. Iowans can't afford centrist policies and politics that make workers wait for a raise - workers need a raise and they need a raise now. The minimum wage hasn't kept up with inflation. It's been 8 years since minimum wage workers got a raise. And the reality is that the value of the minimum wage has fallen drastically over the years. In 1968, the federal minimum wage was \$1.60 an hour—that translates into more than \$11 today. The truth is working people are sliding backwards. It's time for a **bold, progressive policy** to stand up for underpaid workers, I'm committed to prioritizing a statewide \$15 minimum wage for all workers in the state of Iowa.*

4. **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?**

Our campaign's main priority is to address the needs of working people, and we know that the current healthcare system isn't working for working Iowans. As Governor of Iowa, I will listen to our citizens, organize people around our state, and lead the Iowa legislature and other officials to develop a universal healthcare plan for Iowa.

Here are some of the components that we have to include in a high-quality universal healthcare program:

- ***An option for universal public insurance that allows every single Iowan to get decent coverage.***
- ***A guarantee that pre-existing conditions are covered.***
- ***Good prescription drug coverage that uses our state's bargaining power to force pharmaceutical companies to make drug prices more reasonable.***
- ***Coverage for mental health and addiction treatment to address the growing crisis we face with the opioid epidemic.***

I want to help lead the way to a universal healthcare plan that works for every Iowan. We will dramatically change hundreds of thousands of lives in this state if we do it and we'll help change this country for the better, too.

5. **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?

I plan to lead the transition towards a 100% clean energy economy, but we have to go beyond that and ensure that all Iowans benefit from public investments in our energy system. For example, we need to consult with community organizations and experts in the clean energy field to ensure that Iowa takes the correct path to reach a 100% clean energy economy and ensure that the jobs created in this transition are union jobs with community benefit agreements where fair hiring processes are in place. We should use our transition to a clean energy economy as an opportunity to build and strengthen our economy. We should focus on ensuring that our new developments train workers with new, relevant skills allowing Iowans to benefit from the new industries in the state. Some ways to do that is to consult with each community where new investments will happen, partner with unions and workers' associations, and ensure that any tax-incentives are tied to good-paying, long-term job opportunities for Iowans versus out-of-state labor.

6. **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?

Yes, we need to pass legislation in Iowa that puts public funds toward financing elections. I will work with community organizations and experts to determine what the appropriate budget would be, however, as an initial step, I would look more into the proposed legislation Voter-Owned Iowa Clean Elections (VOICE), which creates a system for public financing. Additionally, in order to make sure all Iowans have a voice in our elections, I would support universal voter registration. Overall, there are many steps necessary in order to clean up our elections and ensure that everybody gets a fair shot at participating in a true democracy, and I am committed to keeping those values at the forefront of my leadership as Governor.

7. **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?

Yes, as Governor of Iowa I would prioritize the immediate repeal the Stand Your Ground law. This law disproportionately affects communities of color, and essentially, allows people to be legally murdered. It is unacceptable and wrong. As I mentioned before, I would also work to make racial profiling illegal in Iowa Code. Additionally, I would continue to meet with constituents and community groups with deep ties to our black, brown, and immigrant communities to ensure that we were addressing all forms of infrastructural racism at the state level, and thereby, setting the culture for counties and municipalities to follow.

8. **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?

Students are trapped in hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, and the cost of education should not prevent anybody from accessing higher education. As Governor I will first work to make community college tuition free, and to cap tuition in public universities. It's also important to help current students who are facing huge amounts of debt by creating ways

to refinance and restructure current student loan debt to be sure that students have a fair shot at a future after graduation. To go further, I believe in funding the future of our communities by working to make higher education free of cost for people going into careers that directly strengthen and serve our communities, such as nursing, teaching, social work, etc.

9. **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?

*I am a union leader and organizer at heart, I know that it takes a tough fight to reverse corporate handouts that many democrats have supported and corporate cronies have bought through our current political system. But we know that many of these “tax-incentive” programs are only burdening union members, students, and rural Iowans. I’m will fight to reverse corporate handouts that aren’t benefiting the majority of Iowans. Current tax breaks create a loophole for big corporations to earn money our State without paying their fair share, while they benefit from our communities, soil, water, and people. **This money should be used to fund mental health facilities, education, and a statewide universal healthcare system.** In particular, I’d look into the following policies: combined corporate reporting and ending tax breaks and exemptions for factory farm polluters; consider a “fair share fee” on corporations with more than 250 employees that pay below \$15 an hour, with the revenue collected going to healthcare, education, and other programs; re-examine the 2013 commercial property tax deal to create a policy that benefits working people and people who face barriers to land/home ownership.*

10. **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?

I’m committed to continue to meet with small farmers in our state to better understand the barriers they face. Currently I understand that this issue is mandated by federal policy, but as the Governor of Iowa, I would be a loud voice in our state and with elected officials up and down the ticket about the need to set a minimum crop price. Much like the minimum wage discussion, farmers deserve a livable crop price - as Governor I will support setting a fair price for crops and support small farmers by strongly advocating for any local policies that support this sort of policy. I’m also very interested in understanding the current systems of vertical integration and what I can do as Governor to provide relief and support to small farmers who are caught up in this web. I look forward to working with rural Iowans and farmers who are facing these serious economic burdens, as Governor I see it as my duty to ensure these voices are heard and action is taken.