



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 a growing water crisis that threatens our ability to provide safe drinking water as well as reduces recreational use and quality wildlife habitat in our waterways across Iowa. In the last legislative session, I supported funding the public land and water trust to help provide much needed resources to clean up our waterways as voters overwhelmingly asked the legislature to do in 2010. I also voted against Republican efforts in the legislature to rip away local control for communities to make their own decisions on what type of commercial development was acceptable for their community. I opposed legislation that made it harder for rural residents to bring a nuisance lawsuit against the bad actors that pollute our state. As governor, I would support reinstating real local control that will allow local residents the ability to have the voice they deserve in the siting of any large facilities.

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?**

As a Senator, I voted against the federalizing of our local law enforcement, and as Governor I would work to undo Republican attempts to force our local law enforcement to carry out the immigration policies of the Trump administration. Local police forces need to be able to focus on the real tasks they have to carry out in keeping our communities safe--and not be distracted from that important work by becoming unfunded federal immigration policy enforcement officers.

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?**

As Governor, I would fight for a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, indexed to inflation, to keep up with our growing economy. Rather than lagging behind five of our six

neighboring states, Iowa must become a leader on developing a stronger workforce and creating a livable wage. I am in favor of achieving a \$15 minimum wage by 2024. During the last legislative session, I fought for an immediate increase of the minimum wage to \$10.75 by 2019 that would have prevented Iowans in five leading counties, who actually stood up for their lowest wage earners, from seeing their local minimum wage increases preempted and thousands of workers actually suffer wage cuts in our state.

During the last legislative session, Republicans actually lowered the minimum wage for thousands of Iowans by revoking local control in our counties. I have and will continue to fight for a livable wage, indexed to inflation, as the minimum wage to end these annual fights to raise the minimum wage that end up with too many workers falling too far behind year in and year out. Iowans work hard for their paychecks. They should be protected from both bad employers and predatory financial services. I will continue to fight to end wage theft in our state and work to reform the predatory practices of Iowa's payday loan industry.

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?**

As governor, I would reinstate a state-run managed Medicaid system that would ensure our most vulnerable families have the safety net and support they need. The Branstad-Reynolds administration has failed Iowans and providers alike by handing over the care of 1 in 6 Iowans to three wall street insurance companies, who now must be bailed out with taxpayer money to make a profit.

It will take a federal and state partnership to provide universal health care for all Iowans. As governor, I would advocate for universal health care efforts at the federal level and work to ensure the state is doing everything in its power to provide affordable health care to all Iowans.

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?

Iowa is already a global leader in wind energy production and wind component manufacturing. We need to continue to build on this success. As a Senator, I have sponsored legislation to ensure Iowa makes continued progress in the deployment of more solar energy systems on homes, farms, businesses and public sector buildings. Solar jobs have been created in every Iowa county. We must continue to expand on this success.

Our state can continue to be a leader in renewable fuels and energy production while also creating good-paying, skilled jobs for our state. By committing to regular goals of expanding Iowa's clean energy grid we can move to a clean energy future free from a dependence on fossil fuels.

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?

Iowa's campaign finance and public disclosure laws have long been outdated. As governor, I would lead the fight to get money out of politics. Some of the immediate steps we must take are the following:

1. Regular quarterly filings for all political campaigns
2. Donation limits for individuals and political action committees
3. More detailed financial disclosure from candidates and elected officials

Each of these immediate steps would provide more accountability and transparency to our system so that voters could be informed of who is contributing to individual campaigns. By creating limits similar to the federal limits, we would lay the groundwork for more grassroots campaigns. Lastly, as governor, I would advocate for a constitutional amendment to end Citizens United and get dark money out of our politics.

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?

As a senator, I voted against this legislation and worked with law enforcement to help show the serious impact this legislation would have in our communities, including hosting a press conference at the statehouse with a Republican mayor and two chiefs of police from my senate district. For a long time, Iowa has had balanced gun safety rules to protect gun owners and citizens. This recent legislation puts law-abiding Iowans and gun owners at risk. A new defense has been created for the use of deadly force that would make it impossible for a causality of gun violence to refute.

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?

Iowa's entire education system has been placed at risk by the Reynolds administration. Public, private and community colleges are now being forced to compete against one another for funding and students--and also compete against our public schools for funding at a time when Republicans are pushing voucher-like

programs for private and home-schooling that further threaten our public pre-K through 12th grade system. We must work to fully fund our education system so that no matter the path a student chooses, they have the opportunity to choose a debt-free option for higher education based on their level of economic need.

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?

Since the last legislative session and during my campaign for governor, I have worked to highlight the financial mess Republicans and Governor Reynolds have created. We must work quickly to undo this mess by rolling back many of the corporate tax giveaways that are strangling our budget. The commercial property tax break was too much too fast. It has drained money away from our education priorities. We must get back to budgeting that prioritizes the things we value most as Iowans.

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?

We have seen multiple pieces of legislation that will only worsen the challenges Iowans are facing on family farms and in rural communities. Investing in our rural economy must become a priority, especially as so many families face threats in the form of reduced health insurance benefits, stagnant wages, and changes to IPERS. So many rural family farms and family businesses count on public employment in our schools, courthouses, and other areas to help get through the lean times and make ends meet. We must do better to protect our workforce and strengthen rural economies.

We must also be investing in rural infrastructure so our small towns can maintain their quality of life and prepare to meet the challenges of a changing economy.

Finally, when it comes to agriculture itself, our family farmers need to know that our state is committed to sustainable agricultural practices that will help make sure we have the topsoil to support the next generation of family farms in our state. We also can take important steps to reform abusive licensing practices that create monopolies over farm equipment, make strides to expand rural broadband coverage, and improve market access and sale options for farmers across the state.