



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?**

I strongly support local control of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) siting. While 100 polluted waterways is 100 too many, I am committed to significant changes in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources “master matrix” to put real enforcement teeth into separation distance requirements and requiring all categories of the matrix meet satisfactory levels on compliance.

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?**

Yes. Throughout our campaign we will be advocating “Iowa values” which include embracing and supporting our immigrant and refugee families. Former Gov. Robert Ray set a national example in the 1970s when we welcomed refugees fleeing conflict and we must restore this value. We included a stop in Storm Lake during our announcement tour to specifically highlight the success of Iowa’s long tradition of being a welcoming community.

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. Our current administration has been marketing Iowa as a “low wage” state – that must end. Our first step must be overturning the prohibition of counties raising their minimum wages that was recently passed. Next, we need a legislature committed to the dignity of hard days’ work. I believe wages should be raised to a level equal to 130% of federal poverty thresholds for a family of four for a 40-hour workweek, thus placing Iowa’s living wage at \$15.38 per hour.

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 first step must be putting the health of Iowans ahead of profits for the few by ending this administration’s privatization fiasco of Medicaid. Second, Iowa must continue to stand with other Midwest states – like Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois – in expanding Medicaid coverage, as allowed under the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid is a single-payer system, which we can expand to enable all Iowans to be able to opt into. Finally, as governor, I will advocate for a federal single-payer healthcare system.

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?

We need to protect and expand “net metering” which allows Iowans who generate their own electricity via wind or solar to get full credit. We also need to invest more in our renewable energy infrastructure, including incentivizing more electric car charging stations to make this mode of transportation more practical. We should expand and promote energy efficiency examples in our public buildings by using more solar rooftops and efficiency standards.

Achieving 100% clean energy will be a challenge that must be met with Iowa’s already well-established renewable energy resolve. To fully transition away from fossil fuels, Iowa will need to reach new heights in technologies like energy storage to make it a reality. I am committed to helping to lead this

challenge – our future depends on it and our economy will flourish because of it.

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. It is time we restore Iowans faith in their government. That starts with respecting the values Iowans hold dear and embracing those values throughout all of government. Too much of what our governor and legislature does today is look out for special interests. As they say, we have the best government money can buy. That must change. The wrong-headed “Citizens United” decision that turned our democracy over to the wealthy must be overturned. At the state level, it is time Iowa cleaned up its act by imposing campaign donation limits and reign in the power of lobbyists.

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, we will work to repeal the Stand Your Ground law.

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?

We are currently working through and researching policy proposals to deal with the student debt crisis that is crippling young Iowans from the moment they graduate and enter the workforce. The biggest challenge we face is the budgetary disaster created by this administration through outrageous tax breaks for their special interest corporate donors, the ill-fated Medicaid privatization fiasco and overall spending malpractice.

But we must act. We are exploring a range of options from student loan forgiveness through tax credits for graduates who stay and work in Iowa, to two- or four-year tuition-free

options. We anticipate introducing a full range of policy options later this year once we establish the full fiscal impact on our budget. Know this: making college an affordable reality for every Iowan will be a priority.

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?

Yes. First, we must rollback the 2013 commercial property tax cuts on corporations and large business, while still providing relief for Iowa's small business owners. This administration has crippled our state budget by rewarding their wealth donors with tax credits in the hundreds of millions for large corporations and multi-million-dollar handouts to multi-national corporations (many of whom pay no Iowa taxes). That must end.

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?

Growing up in a family farm in Red Oak, I watched my dad work as an early organizer for the National Farmer's Organization. There is nothing I would like to see more than fair prices for farmers. We must mobilize farmers to organize for collective bargaining for fair prices. As governor, I will help lead this effort.