



IOWA CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

ACTION FUND

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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's water quality is at a tipping point. If action is not taken soon, a community in our state could be the next Flint, Michigan. While leaders on all sides of the political aisle have identified this problem, the Branstad-Reynolds Administration and legislative Republicans have failed year after year to offer any meaningful solutions or funding to address the issue.

Public health and public safety must be top priorities for any governor. If I am elected next year, we will invest the resources necessary to fully fund the state's nutrient reduction strategy to keep waste water and farm runoff out of our water supply. We must also build new accountability measures into our efforts to ensure all sides are meeting goals and the state makes real progress toward cleaner water.

In the past legislative session, I strongly opposed Republican legislation that would have created a permanent nuisance exemption for confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), limited damages for operations that violate the law, and required individuals filing lawsuit pay expenses if they are unsuccessful. That bill, HF 468, would have damaged our state long-term and given far more latitude to large operations regardless of the impact they have on the surrounding community.

Local communities should not be left out of this process. Their voice is critical. As governor, I am committed to finding a more equitable balance that gives families across the state full confidence their health is being protected while still supporting responsible agricultural practices that drive Iowa's economy.

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?**

Immigrants and refugees reflect the strength of our country. For too long, but particularly since Donald Trump launched his presidential campaign, this community has been unfairly vilified and scapegoated for problems Republicans themselves helped create.

If I am elected governor, I will recommit to the tradition of Bob Ray who welcomed individuals and families from other parts of the world into Iowa with open arms. But I will make an equal commitment to help ensure people settling in our state feel safe in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

To that end, I do not believe our state and local law enforcement officials should be enlisted in a federal Immigration and Customs operation unless there is clear evidence of illegal activity beyond an individual's status as an undocumented worker. Additionally, anyone arrested should be afforded full due process as specified in the Iowa and United States constitutions.

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?**

I strongly support increasing the state's minimum wage to a livable wage of \$15 per hour for Iowa workers. However, I think that is only a first step in building an economy that truly works for all Iowans across all our communities. We must also focus on creating more good paying jobs with good benefits that allow Iowa families to save for retirement, pay for their kids' college education and more.

That's why I proposed the 50/50 x5 initiative to create 50,000 new jobs in five years that pay \$50,000 or more. I will accomplish that in part by offering free and universal access to our state's community colleges to provide critical training for Iowans to fill the jobs that will drive our economy in the years to come. I am also committed to completely reforming the state's tax credit program to focus on high-quality jobs and expanding broadband access to every part of the state to ensure all Iowans have the resources they need to start a business and put their skills to the greatest use.

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 I grew up in eastern Iowa, I experienced firsthand what it means to lack health insurance. My parents regularly had to choose between taking one of their children to the doctor and being able to pay for food, clothing, or the monthly mortgage. No family should be placed in that situation but unfortunately Republicans in Washington D.C. and Des Moines are fighting to make this a reality for thousands of Iowans.

If I'm elected governor, I will fight for a Medicaid for All program that gives Iowans better health care options. Medicaid for All will create more competition in the Iowa marketplace by creating a public option available to any Iowan who does not have health insurance or is dissatisfied with their current coverage. This approach will deliver a higher quality and more affordable health care system for all Iowa communities.

In order to bring this program to Iowa, I will end Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds' disastrous privatization of Medicaid that has forced many providers to close their doors while reducing critical services for Iowa patients.

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?

The science debate around climate change is over. This issue threatens virtually every aspect of life in Iowa particularly in agriculture where more frequent and intense droughts have the potential to undermine our farm economy.

I am committed to not only maintaining Iowa's leadership position in renewable energy but also expanding and advancing the use clean energy sources in the state of Iowa. MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy and others have dramatically increased wind energy production in the state to the point where we are second in the nation in installed capacity despite being in the bottom half of all states in size. As governor, I will work with Iowa's utility companies, the Iowa Utilities Board, and the Office of Consumer Advocate to continue growing expanding wind production in the state and push Congress to extend the production tax credit beyond its current expiration date of 2019.

Additionally, solar energy is an area where we can see dramatic growth in Iowa over the next decade if we remove the current limitations to private solar generation and net metering. As a state, we should work to remove the regulatory hurdles Iowans face as they purchase solar panels to generate their own electricity.

We should also support efforts now to expand the use of electric vehicles, increasing the availability of charging stations throughout Iowa and possibly even providing incentives to Iowans who purchase fuel-efficient vehicles such as these.

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?

Today's campaign finance system is broken. Candidates and elected officials spend far too much time fundraising rather than engaging the public on the issues confronting

the state. Moreover, the voices of average voters often get lost in the sea of corporate money being spent to influence our elections.

I support efforts to reform our campaign finance laws and I am a strong proponent of outlawing any and all corporate contributions. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United was a travesty and a perversion of the first amendment. It should be overturned immediately. That is the first and most critical step. If we do not overturn Citizens United and at the same time enact campaign finance laws that apply solely to political parties, state candidates, and federal candidates, we will end up increasing the influence of corporations and unregulated Super PAC spending such as Americans for Prosperity. That outcome further undermines the democratic process in our country and makes it far more difficult to enact meaningful changes for Iowans.

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?

I served in the military for more than two decades including five deployments overseas. Through those experiences, I have firsthand experiences with firearms for most of my adult life. But I'm also a father and a former prosecutor who understands how guns can severely impact the wellbeing of our families and our communities.

The simple fact is that so-called Stand Your Ground bill undermines public safety, increases gun violence in our state and places additional, unnecessary burdens on our criminal justice system. Other states that have adopted stand your ground legislation, particularly those with existing concealed carry laws, have all experienced significant increases in homicides.

I have significant concerns about how this proposal may impact the ability of prosecutors to hold criminals to account. The simple fact is this bill will make it more difficult to put criminals behind bars. Specifically, the legislation created new challenges for prosecutors and other law enforcement officials to determine what is a criminal act and what is a legitimate act of self-defense.

This is a shoot first law and it will tie the hands of law enforcement. Ultimately, that will deprive victims of remedies by providing blanket immunity for individuals who simply claim they were acting in self-defense.

I am not willing to create a war zone mentality in Iowa. Instead, we should get back to Iowa values that prioritize a common sense approach to public safety that supports strong and safe communities. As governor, I will fight to repeal the so-called 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?

I'm proposing a new initiative that will provide free and universal access to our state's community colleges. This program will dramatically expand educational opportunities while reducing the student debt that has saddled far too many of our neighbors. At the same time, it will help grow Iowa's economy, increase wages and provide Iowans with the training necessary to hold the jobs of the 21st Century. This type of approach will create a better and more skilled workforce so that companies will be far more likely to locate in Iowa on their own initiative, not because they receive millions in tax dollars to do so.

Specifically, here is what I'm proposing:

- Any Iowan will be able to receive free tuition at one of our state's 14 community colleges.
- These students will need to enter a field designated as high demand.
- Recipients must also dedicate time as a volunteer or mentor.
- Students will need to pursue all available state and federal aid before accepting grants through this program.
- After graduation, students must work in Iowa for at least three years or the grant will need to be repaid to the state.

In Arkansas, a state with virtually the same population as Iowa, this program costs \$8 million per year or about 0.11% of our state's annual budget. That's a worthwhile investment in our state's future.

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. Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds have failed to manage the state's finances and pursued the wrong priorities. On the one hand, they have year after year chosen to starve Iowa's schools and allow Iowa's waterways to become even more polluted. On the other hand, they hand out tax breaks to large companies time and again. They provided \$8 million to Facebook to add 10 new jobs in Polk County. They offered approximately \$20 million to Kum & Go to simply move their corporate headquarters

from West Des Moines to Des Moines. There are plenty of instances where the administration and the Iowa Economic Development Authority have wasted tax dollars chasing corporations and investments that fail to grow Iowa's economy or increase wages.

As governor, I am committed to reforming the state's process of offering tax credits. That includes eliminating unnecessary tax breaks and loopholes that benefit only a handful of companies and not the public as a whole. Tax incentives should only be offered when a company is willing to commit to creating high-paying jobs with good benefits.

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?

In representing a rural legislative district, I have seen firsthand the challenges farmers have faced in the past several decades and over the past few years in particular. With turbulent commodity prices, Iowa's farmers and producers have struggled to make ends meet. As governor, I am committed to bringing economic growth to the entire state including all 99 counties and not just our largest cities alone.

As governor, I will work to ensure domestic and international markets are open and fair to all types of agriculture. My administration will take a far more aggressive role in promoting Iowa's agricultural leadership to ensure our farmers are able to sell their products with as few obstacles as possible.

One of the most critical roles for Iowa's governor will be to play a leadership role in the formulation of the next U.S. Farm Bill. That will require close, ongoing, hands on collaboration with our congressional delegation, leadership of key federal committees and federal agencies. As governor, I will be a strong advocate to help farmers manage risk and protect income in the years to come.