

| Name | Race | Questions | Responses |
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| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | In Iowa - technology and science are key drivers of current and future economic growth. From renewable fuels, agriculture, health sciences and many other industries the Policies that include appropriations to promote R&D from the state level along with Federal funding would be instrumental in further development. Additionally, providing education opportunities at the college, high school and even lower grades to develop future tech and science professional and innovators will further position Iowa for the future. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | The state of Iowa should create a scientific-integrity council. The council would work in coordination with the state universities, colleges and other scientific community leaders to eliminate political meddling by government officials in matters related to science. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | The state of Iowa has a solid foundation of wind and solar development. I will propose and support policies that allow for the expansion of wind and solar development, battery storage R&D and additional tax incentives for business and residential use of these renewable energy sources. I will also propose policies to develop Iowa's EV grid. Additionally, tax incentives to improve construction of buildings, roadways and bridges that further reduce our carbon footprint. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | In the immediate term, with a hydrocarbon war in Europe and economic challenges as a result of the public health and economic crises, Iowa's biofuels industry could be vital in meeting the challenges at home and abroad. Longer term, I would advocate for a winding down of these fuels along with other fuels that are not carbon friendly and working with our agriculture sector on new and emerging revenue streams. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Iowa must improve soil and water conservation practices to meet the challenges of climate change. Many farmers are adapting, but because of costs and lack of resources many are yet to begin. Cover crops, buffer strips, reduction in tilling and other practices will be significant steps. Consideration of moving from voluntary to regulatory must be considered. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Iowa and other Midwest states could be at the forefront of taking on the climate challenge, both reducing carbon emissions and creating thousands of jobs. Expanding wind and solar energy, building the EV infrastructure, providing funding for additional R&D are some of the ways Iowa can lead. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | I would need to work closely with the scientific community to understand further the studies and proposals to consider. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | By making sure the science is allowed to be presented and discussed. Using the science to determine best practices and promoting policies that support the science. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | Vaccinations have prevented millions of deaths and disease throughout the world. We must have policy leaders that will embrace the scientific community when it comes to protecting people from current and future virus' and disease. This is a combination of leadership and policy. As a former teacher I believe that all students and school personnel should be immunized per CDC recommendations. |

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| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | Working with the scientific community to understand the current and developing public health situations is critical. Having the courage to not let politics cloud the real steps needed in the face of prevention and treatment is required. Collaboration to prepare for potential future waves of the COVID-19 or similar public health matters will be a major part of my efforts. We must prepare our schools with proper ventilation and filtration systems, proper testing and tracing tools, proper protective equipment to be used as necessary. We must do the same in our workforce, in nursing homes, in essential services areas and more. Iowa and the US failed its people. We can and must do better. |
| Eddie Mauro | State Representative District 30 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | As a former teacher and current member of a school advisory committee, I am seeing first hand the mental health crisis on teachers and students. We are lacking services in urban and rural communities. We must invest in infrastructure and professionals to meet this current mental health crisis. We must provide monies to help Iowans who have a gap in insurance coverage or no insurance coverage to have access to mental health professionals. We must work quickly using monies from the federal infrastructure bill and resources from the state of Iowa to provide fast and reliable internet service to utilize telehealth when and if appropriate in providing mental health care. We have so much to do and need the right leaders to take on these challenges and not only react but work with the scientific community to develop forward thinking policies to better position Iowa so it is out in front of these issues to mitigate loss at all levels. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | I will support adequate funding for all levels of public education in Iowa. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | As a trained research scientist with a PhD, I will support policies that do not allow political interference in research. Included in this support will be support for the tenure process and keeping at objective. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | I will support policies to expand solar energy through introducing financial support similar to that found for bio-fuels. I will support financial assistance to installation of electrical charging stations throughout the state, not just near the Interstate Highway System. I would support installation of solar panels over parking lots in Interstate rest areas to generate electricity for charging stations. I also would policies that encourage installation of solar panels over parking lots to generate electricity and to shade parking spaces. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | Biofuels should be a part of the energy portfolio at levels that allow for cleaning our waterways. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | I will support policies to harden infrastructure against flooding and severe storms. Infrastructure should also be removed from flood plains were practical. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | By increasing the use of renewal energy, developing carbon free alternative along with biofuels. |

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| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | I will defer to experts on these subjects to develop policies that I will then evaluate those proposed policies using my training as a research scientist. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | I am a research trained PhD, any legislative activity that is not evidence based will not receive my support. Funding for impact studies needs to come from public sources, not commercial sources. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | I am a pharmacist, I support the full use of vaccines wherever possible. I support school vaccination requirements when supported by evidence. I would allow for medically based exemptions. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | I conduct research into pharmacy service in Iowa as a part of my position as an Associate Professor of Pharmacy at Drake University. I have colleagues who are expert in Public Health that I would consult with on issues where I need further information. I would support sustainable funding for public health infrastructure. |
| Michael Andreski | State Representative District 31 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | I am well versed in mental health treatment through my professional training. I will support development of provider networks throughout rural Iowa using combinations of in-person and telehealth care. I would support the development of telehealth care provided by licensed professions that is available outside of usual appointment hours. Much of crisis care is needed on nights and weekends and that is currently a huge area of concern. The major reason providers will not accept insurance is insufficient reimbursement. Levels of reimbursement need to set to maximize care provision, not to maximize return on investment for shareholders of insurance companies. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | I support public education in grades K-12. As mathematics is one of my loves, I have a Bachelor and Master degrees in architecture from ISU. I am also an active Scouter which has promoted the STEM program as part of their youth activities. I would like to see Science Fairs promoted in the media. We have to figure out a scientist is as important and typically more important than athletes for the support of our colleges and universities. I don't understand how we can help "ensure workers" but surely we can help support youth to see how valuable and fun science can be to their future. |

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| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | Not vote for dumb*** legislation which diminishes the value to our society for all those people who are smart, visionary and curious on all things that matter to our collective air, water and land. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | From my campaign platform letter: We are in a climate crisis and just touting ethanol as an additive is not enough. I am not a scientist but believe we must look at the air/water/land pollution as dire and adopt controls to turn this looming catastrophe around ASAP. In my opinion, solar and wind generated energy on an industrial scale is a viable option to reduce air pollution. We must work with big ag organizations to mandate buffer zones along our streams to attack water pollution and award family and urban farmers for using environmentally friendly farming practices to help reduce pollution of our land. My in-laws family business (Iowa Supply Company) were one of the first wholesalers of solar in Iowa. I designed a few of the Solaron Systems in the early 1980s. Our first project was installed at Scattergood School. It was an air based system using rocks to store the heat. The high value solar project on the capital grounds was built and later failed (I don't know why?) but we must continue to support and encourage solar and wind as alternative fuel sources. Yes, I am aware of their environmental impact but we have to keep trying, exploring, designing alternatives. We have no other choice. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | I sure wish I knew the answer to this question but I don't. Some research documents the production and processing to create biofuels does more harm to our land than not. I would work with our professors and students at our great colleges and universities to actually measure whether biofuels are a plus or minus on our energy portfolio? I have more questions than answers on this one. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Stop building in the flood ways whether 1' above the 100 year level or not. Building in flood ways just does not make any measure of a being a smart idea to me. Its not just rural as you may recall (I was Des Moines' mayor pro tem during the disastrous floods in 1993 and worked for the State of Iowa, State Historical Society during the 2008 flooding in CR and EF-5 tornado damage in Parkersburg. I am keenly aware of damage caused by water and wind. See what I say about our climate crisis we are now experiencing. We must, we have to figure this out together at any and all expense. We have run out of options. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | I have a dream to live in an Iowa which is once again a leader in education, agricultural science, and environmental studies. To live in a state that values its land, air and water natural resources. To live in a state where our colleges and universities are on the cutting edge of inventing new technologies based on cutting edge research. I work to make that dream a reality. Not a good answer I know but its the only one I can offer to you. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | My family settled St. Ansgar as Norwegian farmers (Hans Halvorson and Andrew Jacobson family) soon after Iowa became a state. I don't understand farmers let alone corporate farming. I have not worked on a farm and in fact always lived in the metro Des Moines area. That does not mean I don't respect what farmers do to feed the world but my interest is trying to help the small family farmers in rural and urban Iowa. We must work with Farmers bureau, hog, chicken and ranchers organizations. We can scream, threaten, regulate all we want to stop degradation of our air, water and land resources, but until the large ag related organizations and ag corporate understand everything will be lost unless we work together to stop this madness we will lose the race. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | Listen, think, act (and throw in a prayer or two) to create an unbeatable urban/rural coalition to help us survive. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | More the merrier. I don't understand the anti-vaccers and the no mask for me's. I understand some peoples have a very deep (and deservedly so) fear of "white man's science"). But I believe it should be the role of an elected public official to set an example of authority and leadership on health issues especially this one. How many Iowans could have survived with the belief science has this one right. |
| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | Not watch network news but rely on the CDC and Dr. Fouché the Magnificent to tell us what is happening and what is recommended to mitigate our exposure. |

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| Jack C. Porter | State Representative District 36 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | Shot em? - I mean the providers. I guess that is probably not a viable option. So, seems to me our insurance commissioner and elected officials need to work with insurance companies and get this right. Putting Iowa's health needs in the hands of a corporation as opposed to public servants is not a bright solution for the long term. I honestly believe our health issues are very common whether in rural Iowa or urban inner city neighborhoods. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | I will support any policy that pushes actual biology. As in, Human beings with XY chromosomes are men and humans with XX chromosomes are women. Not pushing "science" that has an agenda. Technology is advanced when science isn't for sale to the highest bidder. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | I think any college or university that uses aborted body parts from children should be stripped of their funding. I will support any research program that desires to advance biological science that doesn't require the murder of other human beings to advance research. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | Offer tax credits for those interested in building solar or wind energy sources on their property. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | As long as the government isn't forcing people to buy biofuels against their wills, Iowa can have or should use as much of this energy as it wants. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Incentivize no till farming and planting cover crops to help decrease erosion. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Keep the government out of everyone business and allow the free market to develop products that are more efficient. Not spraying chemicals everywhere would also help. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | Reduce regulations on small farmers. This will encourage a more diverse farms, ones that are not as reliant on chemicals to keep the farm going. Incentivize more organic production. |

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| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | Keeping government and lobbyist out of the process. Science is science, it shouldn't be for sale to the highest bidder. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | Absolutely no one should be forced to take a vaccine against their will. Vaccines are just as dangerous as they are helpful but since science is for sale, opposing research and opinions are not allowed. This question is bias in itself and I don't agree with the premise of the question. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | Iowa's public health infrastructure is about making money. Not about helping people or saving lives. Stop paying hospitals for using one specific treatment and back the doctors to use what actually works for their patients. Hospitals and the medical "industry" are interested in making money, not science or helping people. |
| Zach Dieken | State Representative District 5 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | If we are going to push evidence based policy we should be looking at all the evidence. Not just the evidence that puts money in the pharmaceutical industries pockets. Most people don't need to be drugged up, they need counseling and accountability. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | Long-term, Iowa's economic reliance on so few industries is hurting us more and more. Development of future-forward ideas and business ventures is vital to Iowa as a place where young people can see a future for themselves. This starts in Iowa's public schools, engaging students with exciting, hands-on STEAM curriculum from youth and encouraging them all to see that there are diverse areas where they might find their interests and gifts. Then, it requires support of community colleges and public universities, as well as policies that promote tech careers that are not traditionally college-founded, through apprenticeships and technical training programs, as well as support for those currently in the workforce to expand their skills and credentials. It involves promoting and designing programs that encourage business incubation and bringing together people with innovative solutions to Iowa's struggles, such as the research parks currently under UIowa and Iowa State. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | Scientists and researchers need to know that sources of funding are not subject to political machinations, and that the funds to, in particular, our Board of Regents institutions will be funded securely and proactively from expected state and federal sources. Experts must be engaged as legislators make policy decisions, and must be protected from any type of retaliation for speaking accurately. Selection process for directors of agencies must be based on experience and aptitude, not on political games. Relatedly, the proposed removal of our public universities' tenure system will escalate the drain of engaged civilian research scientists from Iowa. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | Our state government must push forward incentives for small and large businesses that build up our green infrastructure, assist families in utilizing carbon-neutral energy in residences and consider every agency's forward actions with an eye to increasing and supporting the growth of geothermal, wind, solar, and hydroelectric use across the state. Companies like Mid-American and, to a lesser extent, Alliant Energy, although imperfect, should be engaged and incentivized in moving toward their goal of net-zero emissions. State buildings must be built and/or renovated over time to decrease carbon footprint, and local municipalities should be supported in making similar investments. Further, Iowa should be pushing land developers, in their proposals, to focus on designing buildings that meet their energy needs through sustainable sources. |

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| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | Biofuels are a broad and varied category. Wood-burning stoves are utilized in many areas of Iowa, providing heat for the home and for cooking, particularly in this age of "junk" mail that can be reduced to biomass fuel for a fire, but can emit CO2 at similar levels to coal and pose challenges with regards to ventilation. On the other hand, ethanol-based gasoline additives are a dangerous way to string along corn farmers and the public, burning cleaner, but also less efficiently, than traditional gasoline, and, therefore, requiring more gallons burned for the same power produced. Cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel, and algae-based biofuels are potentially promising and worthy of further research, but currently economically non-viable at scale. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | First of all, we are in a position to work proactively against these concerns, engaging climate and agricultural scientists, as well as civil engineers and others, to identify early warning signs and areas at greatest risk and employ protective and preventive measures. Second, in the event of damage from storms and flooding, we need to lean on Iowa's tradition of helping our neighbors through a combination of local groups, the Iowa National Guard, and state funding. Rural communities, specifically, are in need of reliable access to high speed internet and technology, well-funded local emergency services, and dedicated, securely funded municipal healthcare for. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Iowa, with our low population and broad land and water, has an opportunity to have sweeping impacts on climate change through a number of decisions. We must say no to the claim on private lands for carbon sequestration pipelines, and work against the notion that these pipelines are a panacea to rising emissions. We must act as responsible stewards of our land and water, planting diverse, drought-resistant crops and working with natural ecosystems, rather than against them. We must fully fund and follow our Iowa DNR in an effort to reclaim Iowa's prairie and woodland heritage and engage people in enjoyment of outdoor recreation opportunities year-round. We are already a national leader in wind energy, and must embrace geothermal, hydroelectric, and solar to their fullest potential, while engaging our research universities to push forward in developing innovations in sustainable energy, land use, and agriculture. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | Policy must promote and support sustainable, diverse crop selection and companies and individual farmers who seek to build up Iowa's food supply rather than subsist on overdue-for-elimination subsidies of one or two crops. Concerns which are designed with flexible planting schedules, cover crops, low- and no-till field management, and reliance on a broad variety of crops rather than one that can be wiped out by a season of flood or drought are the future of Iowa farms. Confinement feeding operations, while cost-effective, have proven to be health hazards and must be phased out of existence in Iowa. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | When policies are written and considered, in drafting, committee meetings, and public comment periods, all salient parties must be included and their guidance actively sought. Those who have the most, financially, to gain or lose from decisions should be only one source of perspective, and not the strongest or most valued. It is the responsibility of lawmakers to uplift the vital information provided by stakeholders engaged in considering the long-term ramifications of policy, making their evidence and council bear the weight and offering the discussion it requires. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | Public health matters are simple- an individual's freedom to decide ends where they impact the right to life and safety of another. As we owe every child a public education, we owe them each a safe learning environment, free of polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and any other potentially serious disease that science has developed vaccination for. Requirements of vaccination for the safety of all are sound, established policy that must be upheld. |
| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | I am lucky to reside in a community where I am surrounded by individuals who work in public health and in medicine. My spouse is a medical officer with the US Navy. Many of my closest friends are nurses, doctors, PAs, and caregivers. In addition, there are numerous opportunities provided by groups at the local, state, and federal levels to learn more about specific topics as they emerge or become more salient for Iowans. Most of the people I have met in the public health sector are only too eager to share their expertise. What I have learned over the past decade is that rural municipal hospitals are closing or being quietly sold to massive networks with no community roots, Iowa's privatization of Medicaid has been a drastic failure for patients and healthcare workers, leaving Iowans with low competition in the ACA state marketplace for insurance providers, and the number of unfilled positions in healthcare is growing year after year. The state and municipal public health departments can be powerful forces for good in our communities, if they are not held hostage to political games. |

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| Elinor A. Levin | State Representative District 89 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | Iowa needs to aggressively work to bring in mental healthcare providers for all settings (out-patient, in-patient, residential placement, emergency), all communities (rural, suburban, urban), and for all cohorts (youth, elderly, veterans, schools, working adults, lgbtq+ individuals). Some of these people will be trained in Iowa, and we must offer incentives to retain them. Others, we need to convince to come here from other locations. In both cases, this means showing that Iowa is a great place to make a home, to work in a supported, supportive mental health field of services and providers, to grow a practice or find a niche in supporting a community. We should consider all opportunities to encourage young people interested in working in mental health, but also to provide stable, consistent, supportive working conditions for those Iowans as they progress in their field. We need to get creative to ensure that services are available to all when they are needed. This may include telehealth services, but mental health is not always best served by phone or video chat. It also may involve collaboration with non-profit groups such as United Action for Youth and Community in Johnson County, and others around the state, to let those doing the work now tell us how we can best extend services to those whose needs are not currently met. Of course, when we have moved to universal coverage through a single-payer system, there will no longer be a question of individuals carrying insurance that providers do not accept. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | My parents had never lived somewhere this cold. They came to Iowa City thirty years ago from Venezuela and small-town life was a big change from the bustling metropolis of Caracas. They planned to stay for three years for my dad's medical training at the University of Iowa and not one day more. Instead, they found a strong, welcoming community, incredible opportunities, and world-class public schools. They decided to stay and build a life here and for thirty years they have worked to make this community stronger. Today, many of my friends are not making that same decision. Facing rising tuition and student loan debt, low salaries in Iowa, state divestment from our communities, and regressive social policy, half of our Iowa and Iowa State students leave after graduation. Every engineering graduate that moves to the Twin Cities represents a lost chance for Iowa to build out a clean energy system. Every nurse that moves to Chicago represents an increased burden on our struggling healthcare system. Every teacher crossing into Minnesota for their job represents an unserved Iowa classroom. Iowa's largest export is no longer corn or soybeans: it is youth and opportunity. Our leadership in Des Moines does not have a vision for the future. Republicans have prioritized tax cuts for the rich over funding for public schools, are working to slash our state's safety net, and are proposing less funding for regents universities this year than the year I was born. How can we ask young people to invest their time, their hopes, and their dreams in a state whose leadership is not willing to match those investments? I'm running because Iowa can reverse this trend and lead on the most pressing issues facing our state and our country. Our state can embrace America's changing economy by making big investments in our K-12 education system, our public universities, and infrastructure for the green economy to build a stronger future right here in Iowa. And having worked as a field organizer for political campaigns and for the Iowa Democratic Party, I have met countless Iowans who agree, and are ready to do the work to make it happen. We need to invest in and retain our most talented young people by making public universities and community colleges tuition-free for students who commit to staying in Iowa after graduation. We need to properly fund our public schools and support our teachers so that we can live up to our proud tradition of having the best public education system in the country. We need to invest in research and innovation to bring the green economy to Iowa and take on climate change. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | We need to depoliticize the board of Regents by creating a bipartisan nomination process that ensures we get qualified members running our University. It cannot continue to be a patronage job given to the biggest Republican donors. We also need to get out of the way of overlegislating campus and leave the focus and results of research up to the experts at our universities. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | Iowa has made great strides in growing our wind sector and transitioning our electricity sources to renewable energy. We can continue this by investing in solar and ending the political interference that has hampered large-scale solar projects. The next frontier will be electrifying our transit, homes, businesses, and public buildings to reduce use of natural gas and petroleum. I'd like to see tax credits for heat pumps, induction stoves, electric water heaters and other electrification measures. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | This is an issue that will mostly be decided on the federal level through the farm bill. That being said, the best evidence available makes me skeptical that biofuels in their current form help us mitigate climate change and there is a lot of evidence that they contribute to other environmental problems, for example our lack of clean water. We should invest in renewable forms of energy and electrification, especially because it is dangerous to have such a large sector of our economy dependent on federal subsidies that may go away. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | We need to continue funding the great research at our Universities on these issues, particularly the IHR at the University of Iowa. We could also do more to get that research out to rural Iowans by investing in more outreach programs for scientists at our Universities. We need to stop farming the two-year flood plain and invest in mitigation and preparedness, knowing that those investments now are much more cost effective than waiting until after disaster strikes. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Iowa has an incredible opportunity to be a leader in the green energy sector as we've seen through the expansion of wind energy. Where industry has left Iowa over the last 50 years, we have opportunities to use existing industrial infrastructure to bring the manufacturing jobs of the green economy here to Iowa. Finally, agriculture is a huge part of emissions in this country and we have an opportunity to lead on making agriculture more sustainable. |

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| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | Overwhelming data show that no-till farming and cover crops can decrease the carbon costs of farming and improve water quality. I'd like to see those incentivized and combined with a vegetative buffer law like the one that has been implemented in Minnesota to great effect. Investing in decentralized renewable energy sources that are coupled with fertilizer production at the coop or county level would be a great way to stimulate rural economies while decreasing the impact of one of the drivers of emissions from agriculture. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | As the representative for Iowa City, experts at the University would be a huge part of my decision-making process and I would invite them to testify on these issues. While I am not an expert on environmental science, my biology background means I have a lot of experience reading scientific papers and literature, a skill that is clearly lacking in today's legislature. That's why I've been endorsed by 314 action, a group who's mission is to recruit, train, and elect scientists to public office. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | I am so disappointed that we have not done better as a state. The vaccine is safe and effective and should be our number one tool for fighting this virus, for me that includes a vaccine requirement in schools. As a middle schooler in Iowa City, I (despite being vaccinated) was infected with whooping cough due to low vaccination rates at my school. It is incredibly sad to see so many people infected or severely ill with avoidable illnesses, particularly for my father who is a doctor at the UIowa ICU and regularly treats severely ill, unvaccinated patients. We need to invest in a public health first approach to healthcare and our messaging on vaccinations needs serious investment. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | My father is a doctor at the University of Iowa and helped found one of the first long-covid clinics in the country. I am committed to meeting with and listening to experts at the University of Iowa, many of whom I already know, and working to keep myself educated and current on public health issues. I'd also like to see investment in rural public health, particularly for agricultural and meatpacking workers who have faced a severe lack of access to our states systems. |
| Adam Zabner | State Representative District 90 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | The mental healthcare crisis in Iowa is a direct result of a legislature that fails to fund mental healthcare. We are ranked 51st among states and territories, a statistic that is tragic and representative of the concerns I hear regularly from friends and constituents about our mental healthcare system. We need to invest in and retain young people in order to create a stronger pipeline of people ready to work in this field. We need to reinvest in our regents Universities and in our dedicated mental healthcare institutions. Every Iowan deserves access to quality mental healthcare. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | I support funding for education in STEAM fields at the K-12 level. I support policies that allow the Iowa Department of Education to strengthen the current state standards (21st Century Skills/Technology Literacy) to better reflect the skills needed in today's workforce. I will support or introduce requirement of a dedicated environmental science class for high school students to help them better understand climate change, water quality (especially in an agriculture state), and alternative energy. I will support or introduce financial scholarships and grants that would encourage more women to study STEAM fields at the college level. |

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| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | Academic freedom is part of the foundation of teaching and learning. I will support or introduce legislation that protects teachers and researchers at our Regents institutions, ensuring them job security and assumption of expertise in their field. This will be an important effort, as the recent legislative sessions have led to attacks on educators at all levels for teaching scientifically sound ideas and theories. I will work hard to make sure Iowa continues to attract and keep premier scientists and researchers in the state by making sure the right to research is not funded or influenced by personal and political stances. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | I will support legislation that continues to offer financial incentives for Iowans who invest in solar energy. I will support legislation that protects private land-owners from targeted local policies that limit their ability to invest in wind or solar equipment on their land. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | Biofuels should be PART OF Iowa's energy portfolio but ethanol and other biofuels should continue to be studied as to the level of pollution they add to the environment; the toll they take on engines, requiring replacement sooner than with regular fuel; and the use of Iowa's rich farmland to produce corn for fuel rather than consumption. If the farms growing corn for ethanol instead allowed solar panels on the same amount of land, the energy produced would be greater and the harm to the environment would be less. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Iowa needs to get serious about studying the effects of climate change on everyday weather. Cedar Rapids endured the derecho, our neighbors in Nebraska and South Dakota just went through a haboob, and, just last month (March), seven people were killed by tornados in Iowa. I will support legislation that incentivizes research and innovation in studying and addressing the storms that hit Iowa so we can continue to build a strong warning system across rural and urban areas. I will support legislation that incentivizes communities to return flood plains to natural habitats (prairie grass, wildlife areas). I will advocate for funds to reimburse farmers that stop farming in flood plains and instead use the land for natural storm barriers and/or wildlife areas. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Iowa can become a leader in addressing climate change by addressing it. Current legislative leaders do not seem to take the threat of climate change seriously. I will support legislation that fines companies that violate health and safety regulations that pollute land and water in the state. Too often, we look at the outcome of climate change and not the source. If we hold corporations and company farms accountable to a level that makes them respond, we can better address the effects an agricultural state has on water that isn't resource property or land that is over-tilled or in which soil quality is negatively impacted by fertilizer. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | I will support grants to farmers who rely on electric vehicles. More electric tractors are being introduced into the market and Ford recently unveiled an F-150 truck that is all-electric and getting very positive reviews. I will support financial incentives at the state level for farmers that commit to organic fertilizers. Financial support at the state level should be enticing to farmers to usher them into more sustainable farming practices. When Iowa legalizes the production and sale of cannabis, I will support regulations and legislation that requires sustainable farming for this new crop. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | It is important to with small farms and family farms to make sure they have a voice at the Capitol is important. Feed and animal waste are better controlled in smaller sections. Big/Corporate farms need to be fined in such a way that it actually takes a toll on their bottom line if they are in violation of safe farming practices. Those fines could fund research and field work being done to consider new and better ways to protect Iowa's waterways and rich farmland. According to the Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa has over 5,400 farms and over \$2.1 billion in pork/hog exports in 2018. https://www.iowapork.org/news-from-the-iowa-pork-producers-association/iowa-pork-facts/ With that kind of investment, hog farmers would benefit from maintaining safe facilities that maximize resources. Some sort of oversight to ensure farmers are using scientifically sound waste management, etc., should be well funded at the state level to preserve Iowa's farmland. |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | I support vaccines as a requirement to enter public schools. I support vaccines as a requirement to enroll at a public (Regents) university or community college. I support regular vaccines (e.g., flu and COVID boosters) as a recognition that not all people have the immune systems or the circumstances that allow them to be fully vaccinated. The responsibility should fall to those people who not only benefit from the vaccine but who also make society safer by not exposing more vulnerable populations to illnesses. Modern science and the institutions, organizations, and medical personnel that create and promote vaccines are better qualified to make the medically-based recommendation regarding vaccines. The American Pediatric Association still strongly recommends childhood immunizations on a schedule that is the least invasive to children's health and well-being. They even have a section on their website—which includes academic references—on how to address vaccine hesitancy. The APA indicates that some parents who reject childhood vaccines for their children feel they are "unnecessary." We must continue to educate families both on the benefits of vaccines and on the toll to society diseases like measles, meningitis, and even COVID have. (My parents still remember when the streets were cleared during outbreaks of polio; children would not be allowed outside for entire summer breaks. In Iowa, we did not adhere to safety guidelines regarding COVID like others around the country did. I feel like Iowans don't realize how serious the virus was taken in other parts of the country. Sadly, over 9,500 deaths in Iowa attributed to COVID has not convinced some people that COVID is worth avoiding through vaccine.) |
| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | The University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics are in Iowa House District 90. There are more experts on health topics and policies in this district than anywhere else in the state. If elected, I will open a regular channel of communication with physicians, nurses, unionized staff, and administrators at UIHC to make sure the legislature is responding and reacting to their concerns. The local office of public health will also be a helpful resource. Undoubtedly, funding to hire and retain premier staff is an important health policy that the state can address for the UIHC. I will make sure I can speak to other legislators about where the funding is going when we invest in healthcare in Iowa. |

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| Christy Wolfe | State Representative District 90 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | Evidence-based research to inform mental health policies is not hard to come by. Every factor of society has been challenged by contemporary events, be it the COVID crisis, military service, or farming losses. The number of young people reporting a rise in anxiety and depression, as well as the devastation to communities that lose a young person to suicide, are tracked by the Office of Iowa Public Health. Increasing mental health services in rural areas can be addressed by loan forgiveness programs for medical providers (including therapists) who serve areas in rural communities. In addition, Iowa legislators could support a tax credit for gas/mileage, as many mental health providers in rural areas travel between many small communities to meet their clients' needs. In regard to insurance, many people in Iowa are frustrated by the lack of consistency and communication between healthcare providers and insurance companies. Usually, when there is a discrepancy on what is or is not covered, the insurance company (and NOT the patient) wins that fight. Even in Iowa City (IAHD 90), I have spent months challenging a charge, caught between the UIHC, that codes certain services in a way that meets the federal requirements they follow due to federal funding, and the insurance company, that insists all the UIHC has to do is change the code... Mental health services are vital and, if elected, I will support or introduce legislation to broaden the ability of providers and insurance companies so that mental health services are not considered a luxury. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | STEAM/STEM is the apparatus that attempts to infuse critical theory with inquiry & research based methods to create more 'equitable' outcomes. Its nothing but hot fucking garbage and I am going to end it. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | Here's a policy, use some actual scientific method instead of using science & research to promote things like truth & knowledge as social constructs instead of objective truths. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | There is no actual statistical data that proves without a doubt that climate change is responsible for the majority of things it gets blamed for. The weather doesn't inherently affect minorities worse than anyone else nor is it a byproduct of whiteness. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | What ever role the market allows it to have, but it seems to me that if it was such a wonderful concept, it wouldn't have to be mandated by the feds. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Once again, there is no definitive, indisputable scientific evidence that climate change is response for increased flooding and more severe storms. Things like HAARP and cloud seeding seem more likely suspects than climate change. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | By not using woke concepts to promulgate the scientific method. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | By purging the corporate farms out of the state and putting the land and resources back into the hands of the local family farmers. |

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| John George | State Representative District 91 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | See the question above. And then start planting phytoremedial hyperaccumulating plants that clean the toxins out of soil. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | I would propose a medical freedom bill that would prohibit all forms of mandatory vaccinations and all other forms of medical tyranny that infringe on the rights of individuals who feel that these procedures are not in their best interests. Its idiots like the ones using STEAM who's bullshit application of research has made it so we will never trust the science again. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | By getting wokeness and government regulation tf out of our healthcare systems. |
| John George | State Representative District 91 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | The need seems to exceed the ability because woke neomarxists manipulate and propagandize our children from PreK all the way through their early 20s and college now. CRT, queer theory, etc has resulted in an exponential increase in preteens believing they are transgendered or queer or whatever else because of the level of grooming that's being done behind parents backs. Sending these already vulnerable individuals to a woke therapist isnt at the top of my to do list. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | I support funding for programs to improve steam education in K-12 schools and oppose attempts to censor K-12 curriculum, including STEAM curriculum as part of the Republican "culture wars". I also support programs that help reduce the costs of college for high-need fields, such as steam educators, scientific research and development, engineering, mathematics, allied health and medical professions. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | I support the 'Six Principles of Scientific Integrity' identified by the Obama administration, and support Iowa adopting policies and regulations based on these principles and support legislation that requires agencies to adopt uniform policies on scientific integrity. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | I support policies that increase subsidies and incentives for clean, renewable energy and green technologies while ending subsidies and incentives for technologies that use fossil fuels. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | Biofuels are a cleaner alternative to burning fossil fuels for energy, however, research is emerging that the production of ethanol creates enough greenhouse gases to negate any benefit that ethanol creates. If the science continues to show that ethanol is not beneficial to our environment, and especially if it is doing harm, then ethanol should play little or no role in our energy portfolio. These decisions should be based on science rather than economics. |

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| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | I support policies to provide funding to help rural communities relocate critical infrastructure outside of flood plains and to encourage development in locations that are less susceptible to extreme weather events. I support funding to develop and help farmer implement farming practices and technologies to help them adapt to climate change. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | Midwest states can take a lead in addressing climate change by developing infrastructure that decreases out dependence on fossil fuels for energy production and transportation. For wind and solar energy to replace coal-fired power plants, we need to invest in the infrastructure to support energy from these sources and to encourage development of more wind and solar farms. For people to switch from gasoline to electric vehicles, rapid charging stations or battery exchange stations need to be broadly available across the state, including in rural areas. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | I am not familiar with current recommendations for sustainable agriculture, but I support evidenced-based measures that accomplish these goals. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | Ensure that policies and legislation addresses the health and environmental risks associated with CAFO facilities, and that Right-to-Farm laws do not over-ride public health and environmental policies related to farming practices. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | I am not only supportive of vaccines, I require them for my staff, and provided financial incentives to my daycare families in 2021 to get all eligible members of their households vaccinated. I strongly support school and childcare vaccination requirements. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | I am a registered nurse, and for the past two years, I have been the author of the Cedar County Covid Report, which was a daily report from August 2020 to June 2021, and a weekly report since. I follow the CDC, Iowa Public Health and Iowa COVID Tracker websites close to determine current covid conditions and recommendations for my daycare staff and families and my community. I also keep free PCR covid tests in stock at my center that I provide to anyone that requests one or more. |
| Deb VanderGaast | State Senator District 41 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | Eight years ago, my child care center was the only Children's Mental Health Waiver provider in Cedar County. We had to end this service when Iowa Medicaid dropped child care providers as a category of waiver service providers. Tele-medicine is an important tool to help rural residents access mental health services, which is also dependent on rural broadband infrastructure. The other thing that will help increase access to mental health services is de-privitization of Iowa Medicaid will improve provider reimbursement and decrease denial of services, which would help increase the number of mental health providers that accept medicaid. Student loan forgiveness for mental health providers that serve rural and high-need areas help to increase the supply of mental health service providers. |

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| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | It starts with valuing education. As a state, we need to recommit (both in terms of values and what we choose to fund) to prioritizing public education, fund it accordingly and allow collective bargaining again for public sector employees - including teachers - so we can start to draw the best here again. School districts around the state, rural, suburban and urban, will all benefit. It also requires broadband that is available across the state. Then fund K-12, apprenticeships, community college and the Regents' universities. Be flexible and innovative with curriculum. Tap into the expertise in our universities and colleges and keep connecting high schools with the community colleges so students can start to build their skills. This is the future and if we do not keep pace, we - and our kids - will be left behind. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What policies do you propose or support to insulate Iowa scientists and research from political interference and influence? | Tenure and tenure track positions at our Regents' universities are there for a reason - to allow for academic freedom, including research. UI is an R1 research university, which brings multiple grant and research opportunities to the state - magnets for undergrad and PhD students as well as faculty; multipliers for the economy and UIHC. Tenure must be taken off the table as a political tool and the legislature should allow the Board of Regents to carry out its responsibilities without interfering with what can be taught and by whom. We need to re-instill the state with a culture of education. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | We need to incentivize what will move us forward - provide tax credits for wind and solar; encourage solar on a smaller scale (e.g. distributed power on homes, businesses, schools; over parking lots), as well as on a larger scale on land that cannot or should not be farmed. Offer incentives - and timelines - for our power companies to stop using coal and gas. What we don't use we don't need to produce, so incentivize and assist in making buildings and homes more energy efficient. Encourage urban development that is walkable and bikeable rather than just car-centric. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | This is an area that is currently integral to Iowa's economy and about which I still have a lot to learn. I tend to think we should be using our land to produce food rather than fuel, but change will need to occur gradually. We can work nationally to gradually shift to renewables and start to reduce the acreage devoted to it, as we look to improve the health of the land. There are biofuels other than ethanol but whatever we do, it should be science- and evidence-based, not purely commodity or profit-based. We have the Renewable Fuel Standard because of the oil crises of the 1970s; it was a worthwhile undertaking then, but this is not the 1970s, technology has moved on and we need a solution that is more sustainable for our land and will reduce our carbon footprint. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What policies do you propose or support to improve rural resiliency in the face of increased flooding and severe storms that result from climate change? | Flood plains should not be farmed - they can be re-planted with prairie, which will help retain the soil, nourish it and also bring back wildlife. Use no-till farming, increase the variety of crops grown, use cover crops and do animal husbandry on a reasonable scale (not CAFOs). We can also plant trees as windbreaks, reduce tiling and increase prairie strips along waterways. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | How can Midwest states, like Iowa, become leaders in addressing climate change? | We can build in resiliency by being good stewards of our land and water. We can incentivize (as can the federal government) the behaviors we want to see in farming and in development. We can increase our supply of renewable energy - we are already leaders in wind but woefully behind in solar. We need our farmers and energy companies to be partners. What we don't use, we don't need to extract, so developing a culture of energy savings and efficiency are also key. We need to expand our broadband so more can be done virtually. We need to expand our electric vehicle charging network so owning an EV is a viable option - and encourage farm implement manufacturers to develop an electric fleet as well. We also need to plant more trees - they are natural air conditioning, and a healthy tree canopy in towns and cities is essential. Replanting prairie where it makes sense (where we never should have been farming) will also help. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | What science-based policies do you propose or support to manage agriculture so it provides a healthy, affordable and sustainable food supply, and commodity crops, while mitigating negative effects on rural populations and natural resources? | That's a really big question. I don't pretend to have all the answers. I do know that we are incentivizing commodity crops with the Farm Bill - and that there are options to do better with our land and our food production. It seems to me that we are overusing chemicals (including some that we know leave forever chemicals and are harmful), losing topsoil at a rate 16 times greater than it is being generated, putting both silt and chemicals into our water. It may raise yields but it's not going to keep the land healthy and producing in the long run. And for the most part, we're growing two crops whereas we used to grow many more. I like the notion of land stewardship - take care of the land and protecting our soil so it will take care of us. We shouldn't be farming in flood plains. Maybe we pay farmers to replant them with prairie. Its roots will hold the soil and enrich it. If we incentivize them to do things that will preserve the soil, they will be able to continue to farm for generations to come - practices such as no-till farming and the use of cover crops. We need to break up some of the agro monopolies which don't give those who raise animals a fair profit. And we need another (more humane) way to raise animals than in CAFOs - we don't need the antibiotics in our food system, and we don't need the large amount of waste in our waters. We can still farm - and farm commodity crops - but we need to do it on the right land and grow other things as well. That may all be superficially stated but we need to start with the outcome in mind and begin to incentivize the right things, so we no longer have a broken food chain that exploits workers (meat packing, for example) and the land. If we don't take care of the land, eventually it will stop taking care of us. |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | How will you ensure that research and scientific evidence plays a role in the development of policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations? | Another good question. For that to happen, we need to have balanced government in Iowa - that means, we need to not have one party controlling all the levers of power. My sense is that big donors play an outsized role and are likely preventing a review of the Master Matrix. It's not working - and county governments have no say in what operations are stood up in their respective counties. We need a new matrix; we need county governments to have a say; we need the Department of Natural Resources funded at a level where they can actually enforce regulations; our ag research institutions, including at Iowa State, need to have a voice; and there need to be real consequences for those who are not in compliance. The industry as a whole is a candidate for de-monopolization to give smaller producers a chance. As it stands, our land and water are being degraded and our streams and lakes are at risk. |

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| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | Preventing disease through immunization is one of the greatest achievements of public health, yet today vaccine hesitancy significantly threatens this accomplishment. What is your position on vaccines and school vaccination requirements? | <p>All you have to do is look back at cemeteries of the 1940s and 50s - before all the lifesaving vaccines we have now were available - to see the graves of young children. Vaccines are essential and I support school vaccination requirements. They protect everyone, creating herd immunity to protect especially those who are immunocompromised and cannot be vaccinated.</p> <p>Part and parcel of this is combatting the disinformation and misinformation that are so readily available on social media and in some of the mainstream media, and which work against science. We need the fairness doctrine reinstated and, starting early on in education, students need to be taught to fact check.</p> |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | How would you inform yourself on public health topics and policies beyond COVID-19 and strengthen Iowa's public health infrastructure? | <p>First, we need to fund our public health system, which has been under-funded for years. Then we need to build it up with pandemic-preparedness in mind, so we are ready for the next pandemic. I listen to the professionals in public health at the county level and to epidemiologists at UIHC and other area hospitals. I would expect this information to be pushed out by the state, the county and municipalities, and to be taught in schools at age-appropriate levels. We need to ensure not only that we are communicating with all segments of the population - including in multiple languages - but also that our communities work together. We have a common interest - including equity interests - in ensuring that we have a robust public health system.</p> |
| Janice Weiner | State Senator District 45 | The need for mental health services in Iowa far exceeds the availability and number of providers. How will you use evidence-based policies to meet your constituents' mental health needs, including increasing the availability of mental health services in rural areas and to those carrying insurance that providers don't accept? | <p>There are supposed to be six access centers by now across the six mental health regions in the state - as of now, there are just two - in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. The other four need to be funded, built and staffed. We are dead last in the country in the number of mental health beds per capita. That needs to change. We are supposed to have a children's mental health system - again, it needs to be funded. At base, it comes down to funding and bringing in providers.</p> <p>The legislature just changed how the mental health regions are funded - now it is state funding instead of the regions funding it. We need IDPH and our county health departments to work with other experts, including those who deal with mental health challenges at our schools and universities, with the insurance companies, and with those in the non-profit sector who have been working on this for years (NAMI, for example), to lay out an evidence-based approach. We have a suicide epidemic in the rural areas - the new 988 number can, I hope, help. But as with everything else, it takes money, and the new flat tax will rob the state of funds for important undertakings such as this. It also needs to be paired with addition specialists, since many are dual diagnosis. That is one glimmer of hope: we need to use the opioid settlement funds to work on improving our system in a holistic way. Our jails and ERs are not the answer, but they are currently housing a lot of people who are hurting. Civil mental health courts and drug courts can be another element of the answer.</p> |
| Glenn Hurst, MD | United States Senator | What policies will you support or introduce to make science and technology industries a greater part of Iowa's economy and ensure workers receive adequate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education to prepare them to work in this sector? | <p>I support the Green New Deal which makes huge investments in science and technology including, clean energy production, ample and adequate housing, expansion of clean manufacturing, and addressing personal and mass transportation. All of these areas are dependent on individuals with strong science and technology skills. This is why the Green New Deal includes money for training this workforce. Independent of the Green New Deal, I support expanding public education to include no out-of-pocket tuition for community college and trade programs. A well-rounded education, including arts, math, etc will make for a flexible workforce that can adapt as technology changes and as it reshapes industry needs from that workforce.</p> |
| Glenn Hurst, MD | United States Senator | What is your position on HR-849 which would establish scientific integrity policies for Federal agencies (link - right-click to open in new tab)? | <p>I would support HR-849 if it came to the Senate. As a physician, we are trained to look at data, judge its quality, accept or reject it, and make decisions based on the best data available. The function of HR-849 is to assure that the conclusion drawn from data is not coming from a political perspective, but rather, from the quality of the data. Oversight of that function will hopefully restore public trust in the most valuable tool we have for decision-making, quality data.</p> |
| Glenn Hurst, MD | United States Senator | What policies would you support to move Iowa from traditional energy sources to carbon-neutral sources, such as wind and solar? | <p>I would support the Green New Deal with an emphasis on decreasing the emission of greenhouse gasses. The urgency of this need for conversion to carbon-neutral is evidenced by today's inflation in the energy sector and the dramatic climate events we are seeing across the globe. Due to this urgency, I support the federal jobs program outlined in the Green New Deal for converting us to an energy-independent country with a potentially carbon-negative footprint. AS much as what I support, I believe it is relevant, what I would oppose. I oppose the carbon pipeline for the purpose of fracking more petroleum for combustion. I oppose so-called clean coal and would push for the decommissioning of coal-based energy production facilities. And though I support the use of ethanol as we transition away from combustion, I do not support a long-term future for ethanol as a combustion substitute.</p> |
| Glenn Hurst, MD | United States Senator | What role should biofuels have in Iowa's energy portfolio? | <p>As stated previously, I oppose long-term dependence on biofuels which release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere on combustion. As the energy market sits today, ethanol can only contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. There is a temporary place for ethanol as we transition to non-combustion engines in personal vehicles and as we develop mass transit options such as high-speed rail to replace airplane travel.</p> |

