

Iowa US Governor 2026

THE ISSUES

ZACH
LAHN

REPUBLICAN

ROB
SAND

DEMOCRAT

Learn how to vote in Iowa at voterready.iowa.gov!

See guides.vote for online guides with links and sources.	zachlahn.com	robsand.com/priorities
ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. Is “ unapologetically pro life” at conception . Says Iowa’s 6-week abortion ban is “ good ,” and “ would likely support a measure to further protect life.” “Every life is a gift from God and it is our duty to protect life before birth.” Opposes discarding embryos after fertility treatments. “We need to look at regulating” IVF. “We shouldn’t be allowing abortion pills in the mail, period.”	Legal. Would “ use whatever tools I have to protect Iowans’ reproductive rights.” Opposes the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Opposes Iowa’s 6-week abortion ban; it “goes too far .” Would veto any bill that further restricts access to abortions, contraception , IVF, or surrogacy. “This decision is between a woman, her family, and her doctor - not politicians.”
ECONOMY How to grow Iowa’s economy?	Supports “prioritizing Iowa’s homegrown companies with our incentives and tax dollars.” Would create the “Iowa Entrepreneurship Fund” to help young Iowans “build their company right here.” Opposes pulling from the taxpayer relief fund, says it’s “never sustainable.” Would “ take on the big ag cartels” and “ get Iowa farmers a fair deal.” “ People grow economies,” not government.	Says Iowa’s budget deficit is “a fiscal time bomb” caused by “State leaders and their irresponsible budgeting practices.” Opposes using the “surplus” from federal funding to “cover those deficits.” Supports legalizing “adult-use cannabis” to address the state deficit and to “help boost Iowa’s economy and increase state revenue.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Would expand Iowa’s Education Savings Account (ESA) program, which allows state funds to cover private school costs. ESAs are “a good idea” and “ foundational to freedom as Iowans.” Would consider “audit[s]...to make sure that we are spending dollars wisely.” Supports “making public schools so good they are competing with private schools.”	No. The “school voucher program is an open invitation to waste , fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.” The program “ takes resources away from public schools.” Supports “annual audits” of the voucher program. Calls for “ universal all day pre-K” and paying for it “by no longer sending our taxpayer dollars to Iowa’s wealthiest families to pay for the private school tuition.”
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Yes. Would “[root] out any indoctrination that’s happening” in schools. “If a teacher is caught pushing a political agenda in the classroom, teaching license will be revoked, period.” Says it’s “ wrong ” to “write America’s history as one in which we are an oppressor.”	No position found.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Tighten. Would “incentivize different types of nitrogen application for our farmers” to address high nitrate loads in waterways. Calls for doing “independent research” and holding “companies accountable,” so Iowans can “have clean water.” Would “veto any bill granting agricultural chemical companies immunity from lawsuits.”	Tighten. Would invest in conservation programs, water quality monitoring, radon testing, manure management plans, and a “dirty water notification system.” Calls for “the single biggest expansion of wetlands that we’ve ever seen in Iowa” to sift “ pollutants out of our water.” “No immunity for chemical companies sickening Iowans.”

ISSUES	LAHN (R)	SAND (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Loosen. Would “always support” the Second Amendment. Supports removing Iowa’s ban on “ offensive weapons ” such as machine guns. Sees gun control as an effort to “implement...big government-controlled policies on our lives.” Supports a permit to carry in schools. “We need to have people there...ready to protect our kids.”	Mixed. “I’m a life-long gun owner. I’m a supporter of the Second Amendment.” “I don’t want to do culture wars stuff.... I don’t want to do work in either direction on stuff that has to do with firearm[s].” “I do not think that folks need to have machine guns.” Would not support permitting guns in schools or on school property.
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Unclear. Sees consolidation in the industry diminishing local healthcare. Would bring “antitrust suits” to “bring competition to the [healthcare] market.” Sees “prioritizing [population] growth in our rural communities” as the way to have more rural hospitals. In 2015 opposed Medicaid expansion.	Increase. Would “ reverse the privatization of Medicaid...by an executive order.” Would “expand tele-health services” and “crack down on PBM s” (Pharmacy Benefit Managers). Would establish “a Cabinet-level Cancer Task Force.” Would equalize reimbursement rates for telehealth & telephone services. Wants more competitive reimbursement rates for mental health services and Medicaid.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Would “ ban benefits for illegal immigrants.” Supports banning H-1B visa holders from employment in Iowa’s government and universities. Says those jobs should go to Iowans. “I reject the idea that our people won’t do these jobs.” Sees tariffs on Columbia as a factor in reducing the number of violent Columbian criminals in the U.S.	“I am a big supporter of legal immigration.” Says the Biden administration “should have done a better job with border security.” Having legal immigrants ensures “we don’t have concerns about violent criminal records” and “they’re not exploited by their employers or their landlords.” “Why would we kick out people who are playing by the rules and don’t have any criminal record?”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Harder. Supports right to work laws, which allow employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union dues. Right to work is “Iowa first legislation.”	Likely easier. “I’ve been on picket lines around the state for workers who are trying to get better jobs and better benefits.” Would “ always make sure Iowa workers have a seat at the table and an ally in the governor’s office.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	No position found.	Mixed. Opposes a bill repealing civil rights protections for transgender Iowans. “ Legalizing discrimination is wrong.” Supports banning transgender athletes in women’s sports. Supports “common-sense policies like the law protecting fairness in women’s sports.”
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	No position found.	Legal. Legalizing marijuana is “kind of a no-brainer .” “We should treat it the way we treat alcohol.” “ Regulate and tax its use” to “ grow our economy.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the state minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	No position found.	Yes. “We should raise the minimum wage.” Iowa’s low hourly wage is “ fueling a growing workforce shortage” and “ forcing workers out of Iowa.”
TAXES How to handle state taxes?	Supports eliminating income taxes. Supports imposing heavier taxes on out-of-state landowners. Would “ lower property taxes for Iowans by raising property tax rates on Wall Street institutional investors.” Says data centers should pay five times the property tax rate of the surrounding properties.	Supports heavier taxes on out of state landowners. “We should not be giving tax incentives to data centers.” Says “some of the tax reforms that we have done in Iowa over the last few years have been necessary,” but needs more information to appraise the impacts of recent tax cuts and is concerned about Iowa’s budget deficit.

[guides.vote](#) is a nonpartisan effort to show where candidates stand. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We have space for candidates polling 15% or more; use the QR code on the right for online versions, including links to credible sources and other candidates. [Vote411.org](#) offers guides to local races and how to vote. For campuses, see Campus Vote Project’s [state-specific guides](#) to student voting rules.

[guides.vote](#) | [facebook/guides.vote](#) | [@guidesvote](#) | [instagram/guides.vote](#)

