

2022 Voter's Guide for the Iowa House's Primary Election

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 85 CANDIDATES

Amy Nielsen (D)

Occupation: Stay-at-home mom and former Mayor of North Liberty

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DID NOT RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE



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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 86 CANDIDATES

Dave Jacoby (D)

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DID NOT RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE

Jacob Onken (R)

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DID NOT RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE



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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 89 CANDIDATES



Elinor A. Levin (D)

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Volunteer or Community Service:

Iowa City Community Theatre: President 2018-2020, 2021-Present

Board Member 2011-2012, 2020-2019

Member 2011-2012, 2017-Present

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics: Volunteer Services, 2010-2012, 2017-Present

South District Neighborhood Association: Leadership, 2019-Present

Member 2017-Present

LWVJC: Board Member 2021, Member 2018-Present

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: 2014-2016

What do you love most about the community? This is a place where people value an original idea as well as accessibility and long-term potential. This community embraces such a wide variety of arts, culture, and ideas, and offers them all up for the enjoyment of all. The businesses support the non-profits, and the people benefit from both.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa's population growth from the years 2010-2019. If elected, how will you support policies that encourage and support refugee and immigrant population resettlement to live and work in Iowa?

Basic banking knowledge is lacking in some immigrant communities, and those who are unbanked see less financial growth and less financial security. New residents are often cut off by language barriers from programs designed to serve people in their exact situations, so documentation needs to be readily available in a variety of languages, and translation services for newly requested languages must be prioritized. In addition, we must create varied opportunities to welcome and learn from new members of our community, and not wait for them to seek us out. We learn and grow as a place when we hear new and different ideas and experiences, and provide support to those who need it. Above all, state code must uphold the human rights of all, and no local government interaction should instigate inquiry into someone's immigration status.

With the highest housing prices in the state, Johnson County has seen the availability of affordable housing consistently diminish. What kind of policies or actions do you support for our community to meet the demand for more affordable housing? Housing codes need to be built, and adjusted as they come under review, to prioritize affordable, accessible, secure, high-quality housing and owner-occupiers. Builders and lenders who meet these goals, as well as those who

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seek to establish community-based housing that incorporates green space, energy efficiencies, and walkable consumer opportunities, should be incentivized at the state and local level, particularly in the light of the amount of property in Johnson County that is currently being converted into self-storage units, one of the highest return-on-investment uses of land for owners, but not necessarily for the community members around them.

Having access to high quality, affordable child care has continued to be an issue that faces our local workforce. How will supporting policies that will grow our child care workforce expand affordable child care in our communities? Childcare is a huge part of current gender disparities in our workforce, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated the issue. Lack of placements for children in quality care, coupled with the extremely high cost of daily childcare, mean that responsible parents often don't have a choice between being the primary care provider and working. As it always has, this necessity falls, primarily, on female parents, whether they lead single-parent homes or maintain a two-parent household. Advocating for universal public pre-K will be just one of the ways I will work to improve this situation. In addition, I would push for fair wages and hours for those who work as childcare providers, in order to recruit and retain trustworthy and compassionate individuals and to lower the burden on those currently working in the field. I would like to see home childcare and childcare centers, both, recognized for their vital role in our communities and economy with financial and legislative support.

Local economic development incentives, workforce innovation, and a competitive workforce all help develop Iowa's urban and rural areas. How do you plan to support small businesses in our area? State government can do so much more to support and promote Iowa's small businesses, from providing incentives for maintaining staff and assisting with implementation of high safety standards during a health crisis, to building up our start-up grant and loan programs, to offering tax credits for ecologically forward-thinking business practices, to ensuring that we are creating a state where young, productive workers want to live and can see a future for themselves and their families. It is difficult to operate a small business when people are leaving the state in droves for neighboring states with higher minimum wages, better public services, and inclusive and welcoming policies.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the Iowa Legislature? At 34, I am 20 years younger than our average legislator, and I see my cohort and those that come after us leaving Iowa more than staying. I am a woman and an educator, self-employed and a former public-school teacher. I am an active-duty-military spouse, and president of a non-profit with a 65+ year history in our state. My primary traits are compassion and communication skills, both of which are sorely needed to reach the Iowans who feel left behind by state government, but see no potential for a better future.

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 89 CANDIDATES

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 90 CANDIDATES



Andrew Dunn (D)

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Volunteer or Community Service:

- General Volunteer and grant writer at the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa
- Volunteer web designer, Black Voices Project
- Iowa Farmers Union Board Member
- Fmr. ED, March For Our Lives Iowa 501(c)(3)

What do you love most about the community? Our people. Iowa City is a beautiful microcosm of America. People come from a wide variety of countries, faith traditions, and socio-economic classes. Through all that, our ability to care for each other collectively shines brightly.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa's population growth from the years 2010-2019. If elected, how will you support policies that encourage and support refugee and immigrant population resettlement to live and work in Iowa? I think there are many things that need to be done. Among the first needs to be the expansion of affordable housing opportunities and funding. That, coupled with boosted funding for ELL programs, and fighting/rolling back many of the xenophobic and bigoted policies targeting that target marginalized communities will be paramount to making sure IS and feels safe to new and diverse communities.

With the highest housing prices in the state, Johnson County has seen the availability of affordable housing consistently diminish. What kind of policies or actions do you support for our community to meet the demand for more affordable housing? I would like to see home rule returned to municipalities so more local policies can be made to address income issues, and requirements that new developments include affordable housing be strengthened. While working to build the majority to make this happen, I will push for subsidies to municipal public transportation to expand service areas, electrify more fleets, and lower the cost to riders.

Having access to high quality, affordable child care has continued to be an issue that faces our local workforce. How will supporting policies that will grow our child care workforce expand affordable child care in our communities? I support a number of policies to increase access to affordable childcare. 1. We need to create tax incentive for private companies to either operate their own childcare facilities for families or provide a stipend for childcare to eligible employees, 2. We need to expand state support for education and licensure to folks interested in starting their own childcare businesses, including providing grants to do so, 3. We need to study the feasibility of state subsidized and/or operated childcare facilities in areas where the need is greatest.

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Local economic development incentives, workforce innovation, and a competitive workforce all help develop Iowa's urban and rural areas. How do you plan to support small businesses in our area? As a son of small business owners, I support actions to limit commercial rent hike during times of high volatility, expanding tax breaks for small businesses, and making sure that the largest businesses in the state, mostly large MNC's, pay their fair share in taxes that allow us to invest in programs that make Iowa a great place to live AND work.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the Iowa Legislature? I have been working in and around the Iowa Legislature since 2015. I've spent the last three legislative sessions as an aide in the Iowa Senate. I have, in my time in both activist and professional roles ushered bills and regulatory changes from ideas to law. I have the relationships and experience needed to be a strong and effective advocate for all members of our community in Des Moines.



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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 90 CANDIDATES



Christy Wolfe (D)

Occupation: Clerk, Iowa House (part-time); Substitute teacher, ICCSD (part-time)

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Website: www.christywolfeforiowa.com

Volunteer or Community Service:

Past service: The Greater Iowa City Housing Fellowship (Executive Board); Cedar Rapids Community School District Diversity Committee; Iowa Association of College for Teacher Education (Executive Board).

What do you love most about the community? I love the children's section in the basement of Prairie Lights; the public library; the Farmer's Market (which should be the Baker's Market, because we always seem to bring home baked goods and no produce); Friday Night Music; and the bouncy floor of the playground downtown.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa's population growth from the years 2010-2019. If elected, how will you support policies that encourage and support refugee and immigrant population resettlement to live and work in Iowa? The growing immigrant and refugee population in Iowa should have access to affordable housing and school services that best prepare their children for the future. I will support policies that protect human rights and combat racism and bias in the workplace. I will support workers' rights through legislation that reinstates collective bargaining and returns to unions the ability to protect workers from unfair practices. People who immigrate to the U.S. come for opportunity: better jobs with better pay, better school systems, better chance to improve their quality of life. I will support policies that promote economic development, fund schools to encourage innovation and high quality learning, and protect clean air and water in the state. Needless to say, the policies that support all workers and all children in Iowa would benefit the refugee and immigrant population. The policies I will support to encourage and enhance growth, technology, agricultural, and educational advancements will lead to a better future for all.

With the highest housing prices in the state, Johnson County has seen the availability of affordable housing consistently diminish. What kind of policies or actions do you support for our community to meet the demand for more affordable housing? In 2001, my spouse and I started looking for a house in Iowa City. We had rented in three distinct neighborhoods in Iowa City; we hoped to find a home in which we could raise our children. The house we now live in was built by the building program at the ICCSD high schools. Students worked side-by-side with craftspeople in the Homebuilders' Association. The house was then sold through the Greater Iowa City Housing Fellowship (now The Housing Fellowship). Without the Housing Fellowship and the guidance they gave us in financing our first (and only) home, we would have been overwhelmed and

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underprepared. I was so impressed with the help we got, I sat on the Executive Board of the Housing Fellowship for several years. The Housing Fellowship does an amazing job of finding and procuring federal money—often in the form of Community Development Block Grants—to develop new facilities and new programs to help families settle into a place to call home. I will support policies and actions that will bring money to nonprofits that help new home-owners through grants, forgivable loans, and assistance with start-up costs. In Iowa City, helping families own their own homes should be as much a financial priority as support for rental assistance.

Having access to high quality, affordable child care has continued to be an issue that faces our local workforce. How will supporting policies that will grow our child care workforce expand affordable child care in our communities? Thirteen years ago, my sister was a single mother in Iowa City with newborn twins. Full-time daycare was over \$1000 a month per child...and that was over a decade ago. I will support policies that give assistance to care providers who put state and federal dollars into two areas: improving pay and benefits for their workers, and creating some flexibility in year-round care options. When my kids were in daycare and after-school care, I was always so grateful for the providers who spent time getting to know my kids and providing them with a safe and energetic environment. I know that many families have to decide if the cost of childcare outweighs the income from employment. Families—and, in particular, women—shouldn't have to step out of the workforce because childcare costs diminish their income to such a degree that they have a zero-sum return. In the same sense, families shouldn't have to sacrifice quality and safety from childcare providers to save money. There are so many ways state dollars could supplement childcare and so many ways state dollars could incentivize employers to help fund childcare for employees. Affordable quality childcare options could level the playing field for employees seeking advancement and opportunities at work.

Local economic development incentives, workforce innovation, and a competitive workforce all help develop Iowa's urban and rural areas. How do you plan to support small businesses in our area? I will support bills and policies that attract workers to the area and the state, both by raising minimum wage in the state and by making sure business-provided healthcare options are affordable to both the worker and the employer. I will advocate for grants, forgivable loans, and other opportunities to encourage and enhance start-up resources for new businesses and for the renovation of current businesses. I will consult with business leaders in the area about bills that change tax laws, work policies, and other employer-related issues. Community stakeholders will be the best source of information when addressing the needs of business in Iowa.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the Iowa Legislature? I moved back to Iowa, after a ten-year hiatus from the state, to go to law school. I got my JD and PhD but then stayed for the remarkable schools, vibrancy of all the University has to offer, and diversity of the population in Iowa City. I plan to bring my work in Iowa schools, along with my understanding of complex laws like the ADA/IDEA, Title IX, and the Every Student Succeeds Act, to the House floor for debate on school funding and educational innovation. My life experiences are unique and will be an asset in House debates.

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 90 CANDIDATES



Adam Zabner (D)

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Volunteer or Community Service:

Volunteer at CommUnity Food Bank

Rotary Club Iowa City Downtown

What do you love most about the community? Living in Iowa City means a level of exposure to the arts that I haven't encountered anywhere else. Whether it's Arts Fest, Prairie Lights, Hancher, or Public Space One, I love how people in our community are committed to coming together and sharing the arts with each other.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa's population growth from the years 2010-2019. If elected, how will you support policies that encourage and support refugee and immigrant population resettlement to live and work in Iowa? 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.

Our state has a proud history of support for refugees and immigrants under the political leadership of people like Bob Ray. When Pope Jean-Paul II visited Iowa, he knew two things about our state: "farmers" and "refugees". Unfortunately, our governor and Republican leadership have failed to live up to this proud legacy. Governor Reynolds has said that migrant children are "not our problem."

We must recognize that immigrants make our communities stronger and work to renew our commitment to growing our state by welcoming immigrants and refugees. That means new investments in refugee services, stepping up to welcome refugees from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and working to make our government services multilingual and accessible.

If elected, I am fully committed to making this issue one of my top priorities. We need immigrants if we want our communities to thrive and we need to welcome immigrants because it's the right thing to do.

With the highest housing prices in the state, Johnson County has seen the availability of affordable housing consistently diminish. What kind of policies or actions do you support for our community to meet the demand for more affordable housing? I am very concerned about the rapid rise of housing costs in our community and the impact on both renters and people trying to buy

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their first homes. This problem has become even more acute over the last year and places a large burden on our community.

Study after study has shown that the best way to keep housing affordable is to increase the supply of homes. That means working to upzone our community and encouraging the development of new housing, particularly multifamily and affordably-priced housing. On the state level, I'd like to see more investment in affordable housing and protections for tenants. I'd also like to see support for local groups that are already doing work on the ground to take on this issue.

Finally, our community needs new infrastructure in order to accommodate commutes from our fastest-growing cities like North Liberty and Tiffin into Iowa City. This would expand the supply of housing with access to our city center. Our state has placed the burden on our local communities to facilitate inter-city transit, I'd like to see Iowa DOT create a funding process to contribute to collaboration between our communities on projects.

Having access to high quality, affordable child care has continued to be an issue that faces our local workforce. How will supporting policies that will grow our child care workforce expand affordable child care in our communities? This is an issue that I hear about very often when knocking on doors and when talking to small business owners. Childcare costs have skyrocketed and place a huge burden on parents and families. It is absolutely crucial to the success of our state that Iowa take action on childcare availability and affordability.

The answer cannot be to lower the quality or safety standards for childcare. Instead, our state should make investments in quality, affordable childcare. That means direct support for families through a childcare tax credit similar to the one tried this year on the federal level that massively decreased child poverty. We also should provide further grants and tax incentives for providers that commit to affordable prices. Finally, we should support existing nonprofits and local-level solutions.

Local economic development incentives, workforce innovation, and a competitive workforce all help develop Iowa's urban and rural areas. How do you plan to support small businesses in our area? 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.

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?

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.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the Iowa Legislature? I am an organizer and I plan to work tirelessly to help rebuild the Iowa Democratic Party and work to create a coalition that can get things done in Des Moines. I've worked for our state party in the most conservative parts of our state and I know how to build connections and local power. Working for Jon Ossoff in Georgia, I saw that state flip blue because of a decade of hard work from local activists, that's the approach I want to see in Iowa.

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 91 CANDIDATES



John George (R)

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Volunteer or Community Service:

What do you love most about the community? no place epitomizes the American spirit of capitalism and the American pursuit of happiness more than the small businesses of our rural Iowa communities.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa's population growth from the years 2010-2019. If elected, how will you support policies that encourage and support refugee and immigrant population resettlement to live and work in Iowa? I would continue the policies laid out by President Trump that were contained in his Executive Orders 13769, 13780, 13888 and all other applicable orders.

With the highest housing prices in the state, Johnson County has seen the availability of affordable housing consistently diminish. What kind of policies or actions do you support for our community to meet the demand for more affordable housing? by continuing to advance fair housing choice within the program participant's control of influence.

Having access to high quality, affordable child care has continued to be an issue that faces our local workforce. How will supporting policies that will grow our child care workforce expand affordable child care in our communities? by making child care expenses tax deductible for parents, additional tax incentives on the employer side for businesses that have onsite child care, implement dependent care savings accounts to everyone in the state with govt matching of funds up until a certain amount.

Local economic development incentives, workforce innovation, and a competitive workforce all help develop Iowa's urban and rural areas. How do you plan to support small businesses in our area? by decreasing regulations and taxes that burden small businesses.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the Iowa Legislature? the ability to cut through the political bullshit and get to the core/root issue of the problems people and businesses are facing.

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IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 91 CANDIDATES

Adam Grier (R)

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Skylar Limkemann (R)

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2022 Voter's Guide for the Iowa House's Primary Election

IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 92 CANDIDATES

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Heather Hora (R)

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Jaron P. Rosien (R)

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