



DAVE DAWSON

IA 04 CANDIDATE

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WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

As your next U.S. Representative, I will work to make health care more affordable and accessible, raise incomes for Iowa families, and invest in rural communities. When Congress passed the 2025 budget bill that cut nearly a trillion dollars in health care funding, I knew I had to step forward and run for Congress, so we had someone to fight to keep rural hospitals and nursing homes open and to ensure Iowa's most vulnerable citizens have access to mental health and other treatments close to home.

DEMOCRACY & VOTING RIGHTS

I support making voting accessible to all U.S. citizens and would vote to support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. I support significant government reforms, including: Congressional term limits; overturning Citizens United to get unlimited corporate money out of politics; placing a moratorium on lobbying for a minimum of 5 years between the end of a Congressional term and employment as lobbyist; a ban on stock trading to prohibit stock trading for members of Congress while in office; and an enforceable Code of Judicial Ethics for the U.S. Supreme Court, so they are held accountable.

ECONOMIC SECURITY, WORKERS & FAIR TAXES

I support raising the minimum wage, which has been stuck at \$7.25/hour since 2009. This failure to act for 17 years is the longest period of time in American history the federal minimum wage has not been raised. I am currently a union member in AFSCME and have been since 2003, and I am currently part of a collective bargaining unit. I support the Pro Act, which would make it easier to create a union and provide greater collective bargaining rights to workers. I support having a progressive tax system to ensure the richest 1% of income earners pay their fair share of taxes to ensure we can invest in working class families to make health care, childcare, and higher education more accessible.

HEALTHCARE, AFFORDABILITY & THE CARE ECONOMY

I support restoring the 2025 funding cuts by Congress to the ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid, so rural hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and treatment facilities have the resources needed to provide care and services to rural communities in Iowa, which disproportionately rely upon these programs. I support strengthening Medicare for current and future beneficiaries by making the Part D prescription drug benefit part of the overall Medicare program, so beneficiaries would not need to purchase a separate Medicare Advantage plan, which would also eliminate additional co-pays, deductibles, premiums, and out-of-pocket expenses. I support having mental health and substance abuse treatment services on parity with any other health care services. I support restoring the protections provided to women under Roe vs. Wade.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESSES

I support passing a long-term farm bill to restore stability to Iowa's ag economy. I support reforms that focus on family farmers, not acres; encourage crop diversification; and fund soil and water quality conservation efforts. I support funding for local farm to market programs to encourage locally sourced foods. I support enforcement of anti-monopoly laws to prevent price fixing and corporate consolidation that have resulted in less competition in food processing and other agricultural industries. I support funding to help transition land to new farmers. I oppose out-of-state corporate or foreign ownership of farmland. I support providing more low interest loans to small and new businesses to develop greater opportunities in rural towns. I oppose the use of eminent domain for a carbon capture pipeline in Iowa. I support year-round E15 as we develop more crop alternatives and continue to improve and create better renewable energy sources.

CIVIL RIGHTS & PERSONAL FREEDOM

I support equal protection for all, and I have argued and won a case before the Iowa Supreme Court to ensure equal protection for children. I would oppose efforts to allow discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. I support restoring the protections provided to women under Roe vs. Wade. I believe in freedom of speech and freedom of religion, but no one should be able to discriminate against a protected class of persons in public services to achieve their own personal views on speech or religion. I believe in the separation of church and state, so that the government does not promote or interfere with individual religious practices. However, the government should not fund religion or promote particular religious beliefs.

IMMIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

As a prosecutor for 19 years, I support the rule of law. No one should enter the U.S. without authorization, so we need immigration enforcement against criminals who break the law. The current executive branch has not followed the law by unilaterally revoking persons with lawful status, including refugees, asylum seekers, students with visas, and persons with temporary work permits, and their ICE actions have resulted in the deaths of citizens. The executive branch needs to follow the constitution to ensure due process and equal protection. Congress needs to reform immigration laws to ensure adequate workforce and allow lawful immigration to occur more easily for immigrants who pass background checks and want to come to the U.S. to better themselves and their families. The immigration process should not take years and thousands of dollars to accomplish. Workers in the U.S. should not be able to be exploited, regardless of their immigration status. Refugees should be permitted to come to the U.S. when forced to flee their country because of violence or persecution.

CLIMATE, ENERGY & RURAL RESILIENCE

Climate change is real, and we should take actions to address it based upon the best science available. I support science-based research to address creation of more renewable energy, including ethanol and biofuels, as well as wind and solar power. We need to have funding available to reduce carbons in the atmosphere and be prepared for increased natural disasters.

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

I have been a prosecutor for 19 years, so working to achieve public safety has always been part of my life. I support holding violent criminals accountable for their crimes and advocating for victims' rights, especially victims of domestic violence. As a state legislator, I supported laws to reduce mandatory sentencing for non-violent drug offenses. I support efforts to train law enforcement in de-escalation techniques and understanding mental health crises, so the use of force is reduced. I do not support defunding the police. I support research to address gun violence prevention. I support passing laws for universal background checks to ensure criminals do not have access to firearms.

EDUCATION, FAMILIES & OPPORTUNITY

I support continued federal funding for grants and low interest loans for higher education. I do not support eliminating the U.S. Department of Education. I support loan forgiveness programs to encourage workforce development in public service jobs, especially in rural communities. I support apprenticeship program funding to provide training for in-demand jobs. I served for 14 years as legal counsel and board member on the board for the Community Action Agency of Siouxland, which oversees Head Start and Early Head Start. Both of these, as well as other, early childhood education programs are vitally important to ensuring children start off life on the best track to a strong education. I support enacting additional funding to provide for paid family leave programs to ensure families have access to affordable, local, well-trained childcare providers.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY & SUPPORTING SENIORS AND VETERANS

I joined the Democratic party in 2004 in response to President Bush's war on Iraq in 2003, which was a mistake and did not improve national security. However, at least Congress authorized military action in Iraq. President Trump has now engaged in a new war in Iran in 2026 without any Congressional authorization and with an expectation that Congress will provide a blank check to fund this war. I think the new Iran war is a mistake and will not improve national security. No war funding should be permitted when Congress has not authorized a war. If war funding is authorized, it should be paid for without adding to the national debt, so increased revenues should be added for any war funding. I support the U.S. remaining part of the United Nations and NATO to ensure we have strong international alliances. When the men and women of our armed forces return from the military service, we need to ensure the Veteran's Administration is adequately staffed and funded to address the needs of our Veterans. I support strengthening Social Security and Medicare. To ensure we keep our promises to seniors, I support eliminating the income cap on Social Security payroll tax payments. I would oppose efforts to dismantle or change eligibility and benefits under Medicare. I support strengthening Medicare for current and future beneficiaries by making the Part D prescription drug benefit part of the overall Medicare program, so beneficiaries would not need to purchase a separate Medicare Advantage plan, which would also eliminate additional co-pays, deductibles, premiums, and out of pocket expenses. I am currently the vice-president of a local non-profit that provides day habilitation services and community employment opportunities to persons with intellectual disabilities. We need to restore the cuts to Medicaid to ensure disabled Americans can access the programs and services needed to allow them to lead productive lives.