



# JOSH TUREK

## US SENATE CANDIDATE

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## WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

*Every opportunity I've had in life is because of the work of a great Senator from Iowa. Senator Tom Harkin and the work he did on the Americans with Disabilities Act provided me and so many other disabled Americans an on-ramp onto society. I believe Iowans deserve to once again have a senator who is fighting for social and economic justice and fighting for the middle class, not just billionaires and large corporations. I am also running for Senate because I think we need more working class representation in Washington. I am the only candidate in this race who is not a millionaire, and I know that it's working class families like mine that bear the cost of Washington's corruption. I went through a lot of economic and health care adversity in my life. Iowans are struggling right now, and I know how that feels because I've struggled too.*

## DEMOCRACY & VOTING RIGHTS

*There is no more important right than the right to vote – it is the foundation of our democracy. I will continue to be a staunch defender of efforts to expand the ability for eligible voters to participate in our democracy. The attacks we're seeing on verifiably safe means of voting like vote by mail and early voting disproportionately impact the disabled community. We absolutely need to address the corruption in Washington by getting dark money out of politics and making Members of Congress accountable to their constituents, not corporate PACs and big-dollar donors. I am not taking any corporate PAC money, because I am going to Washington to fight for Iowa and Iowans, not billionaires and large corporations. I support term limits, banning Members of Congress and their families from trading stock, and I will fight for legislation to mandate Members of Congress to hold annual town halls with their constituents.*

## ECONOMIC SECURITY, WORKERS & FAIR TAXES

*The very first bill I will sponsor in the U.S. Senate will be a Dignity in Work bill to raise the minimum wage – and ensure it increases with inflation – and restore collective bargaining rights to all of our workers. I have a 100% voting record with the Iowa Federation of Labor because I always put workers first. I support cutting taxes for the middle class and working families and closing loopholes for billionaires and big corporations. We also need to hold corporations accountable by cracking down on unfair wages and incentivizing policies that benefit workers. To build a strong middle-class economy, we also need to lower costs in housing, health care, and pharmaceuticals. We need to ban Wall Street private equity firms from purchasing single family homes, ensure a public option so every Iowan has access to health care, and take on Big Pharma and PBMs.*

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## HEALTHCARE, AFFORDABILITY & THE CARE ECONOMY

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*As someone who underwent 21 surgeries before I was 12, I believe health care is a human right. I will fight for a public option because I believe everyone deserves access to basic care. Health care as a human right absolutely includes women's reproductive health care. I sponsored legislation to repeal Iowa's extremist abortion ban. In the Senate, I will fight to fully fund Medicaid and Medicare and restore, protect, and expand the ACA. The cuts to Medicaid and the ACA have decimated our rural health care system, and rural Iowans deserve better. In the Iowa legislature, I have fought to lower drug costs. I will do the same in the Senate. We also need to crack down on private equity purchasing elder care facilities and health care centers, which increases cost and worsens care. I will work to increase investments in mental health care, particularly in rural communities.*

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## AGRICULTURE, RURAL COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESSES

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*Iowa's farmers have been hit hard by the chaotic tariffs and trade policies coming out of Washington, supported by Ashley Hinson. Iowa farmers are the best in the world, and they deserve a Senator willing to fight for them to have a level playing field. In the Senate, I will fight to rollback Trump's chaotic tariffs and champion common sense legislation like Right to Repair and Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling. I'll work to break up the monopolies that are driving up input costs and oppose bailouts to foreign countries that make it harder for our farmers to compete. I'll also fight for a Farm Bill and demand that Congress does not recess if a Farm Bill is set to expire without passage of a new one.*

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## CIVIL RIGHTS & PERSONAL FREEDOM

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*As a member of a minority group that is largely underrepresented at all levels of government, I know what it feels like to have to fight for your rights. I am the first permanently disabled member of the Iowa legislature, and when I was first elected to the Iowa House, the Capitol was not even fully accessible. I spoke out against Iowa removing gender identity from our civil rights code – in fact, it was the only time I've ever been reprimanded on the House floor. No person should have barriers to accessing health care, credit, housing, employment, or education because of who they are. I am deeply committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people.*

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## IMMIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

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*Immigration is personal to me. I am married to an Afro-Latina immigrant, and I've seen firsthand how broken our immigration system is. During Trump's first term, my wife was initially served deportation papers without even being offered an interview. After becoming a U.S. Citizen, she was unfairly pulled off voter files multiple times. Immigrants are a vital part of our nation's and state's economy and we need to ensure a pathway to earned citizenship is in reach. In Iowa, immigrants make up a significant portion of our manufacturing, farming, and health care workforce. We deserve a functional immigration system that keeps our borders secure and enforces our laws, and we need an easier pathway to citizenship. Those two goals are not mutually exclusive, and that's why we need comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level.*

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## **CLIMATE, ENERGY & RURAL RESILIENCE**

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*Climate change is an existential threat and we need to do everything we can to address it. The impacts of climate change are already hitting lowans hard. Between 2020 and 2025, lowans saw insurance premiums increase by 96% because of extreme weather events. I've heard from homeowners and farmers that their insurance rates are skyrocketing because of the increase in floods, derechos, and other extreme weather events. And everyone I talk to in Iowa, across the political spectrum, agrees that we need to tackle the water quality crisis. Working class lowans are paying the price of corporations polluting our air and water with no accountability. The reason we can't get lasting change on this issue is that policymakers take their corporate PAC checks. I am not taking any corporate PAC money, so lowans can trust me to get to Washington and address this issue.*

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE**

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*When it comes to crime and public safety, my priority is always keeping lowans safe. Working in adaptive sports, I've seen the impact of gun violence. The captain of one of my Paralympic teams was shot in the back when he was 18, leaving him disabled. When I travel the state, I hear from young people who have grown up with school shooting drills as the norm. That's wrong. I recognize that this is a distinctly American issue that we need to address. I also support the Second Amendment and want to protect Iowa's hunting tradition. There are common sense reforms we can prioritize – such as red flag laws and universal background checks to make sure dangerous people like convicted felons and domestic abusers can't get their hands on guns. We also need to put a lot more time and energy into solving our mental health crisis.*

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## **EDUCATION, FAMILIES & OPPORTUNITY**

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*I believe that access to quality education is the single greatest indicator of future success, and I believe that public dollars belong in public schools. Iowa was number one in public education, and it's because I grew up in Iowa when we were #1 that I was able to overcome long odds. Local AEA's and public schools opened the door of opportunity for me. Now, we are robbing future generations of that opportunity. I will always fight to make sure every kid has the same access to quality education. You should not have to win the genetic or economic lottery to get that. We need to address the student loan issue so young people can afford to start their lives. I also support investments in job training programs and apprenticeships to prepare the next generation of lowans to fill gaps in the labor market without having to go to college.*

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## **NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY & SUPPORTING SENIORS AND VETERANS**

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*We need to save Social Security by ensuring billionaires pay their fair share and fully fund Medicare. As the first permanently disabled member of the Iowa legislature, I have been fighting to eliminate unnecessary barriers to education, health care, and employment for Americans with disabilities and will continue to do so in the Senate. On the global stage, I know first-hand that wars do not end when the bombs stop. I was born with spina bifida because of my father's exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. We should not be spending billions on a war abroad while we are closing health care facilities and people can't afford the basics here at home. In the Iowa legislature, I have been a champion for our troops and their families when they are on active duty and when they come home. I will continue to fight for them in the U.S. Senate.*

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