



# ZACH WAHLS

## US SENATE CANDIDATE

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## WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

*Iowa families are working hard and still falling behind. Costs keep rising, paychecks aren't keeping up, and Washington puts insiders over lowans. I'm running to change that. In the Iowa Senate, I have been a relentless champion for fair wages, strong unions, retirement security, and better healthcare. We need a US Senator with the courage to take on the corruption that rigged the system in the first place. I'm the only candidate in this race who has called on Chuck Schumer to step aside for new Democratic leadership — because I'll stand up to anyone doing wrong by Iowa, in either party. I'm not taking one dime from corporate PACs. I'm running a 99-county campaign to rebuild a statewide coalition, fight to lower costs, and take on the concentrated corporate power that keeps Washington working for insiders instead of lowans. Iowa deserves a real fighter. That's what I'll be.*

## DEMOCRACY & VOTING RIGHTS

*Democracy doesn't work when corporations write the rules. I've opposed every Iowa bill that restricted voting access and mail voting, and spoke out against federal proposals targeting women voters. In the Senate, I'll fight for the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. At the statehouse, I worked across the aisle to introduce a bipartisan constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United. I've also introduced legislation to ban state lawmakers from insider trading and to implement common sense term limits. These proposals are supported by a vast majority of lowans. The best thing we can do for our democracy is cleaning up the corruption and building an economy that works for us, not the insiders. We must hold this administration accountable when it ignores the law, defies court orders, and concentrates power in the executive branch. I won't be a rubber stamp for anyone.*

## ECONOMIC SECURITY, WORKERS & FAIR TAXES

*My mom Jackie was an SEIU nurse, I knew from a young age the power that a union contract can improve people's lives. I'm proud to have the support of 23 different labor unions and councils, and I will be a Day One co-sponsor and champion of the PRO Act in the U.S. Senate. I am also proud to support a federal \$15 minimum wage for all Americans, so that all Americans have a baseline to support themselves and their families. I've seen across Iowa what happens when big investment companies move in. Whether it's nursing homes, housing, health care, fire trucks — and we're the ones paying the price. We need real antitrust enforcement, accountability for price-gouging corporations, and a tax code where the wealthy pay their fair share. The economy should work for the people who built it, not the corporate donors rigging the system.*

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## HEALTHCARE, AFFORDABILITY & THE CARE ECONOMY

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*Healthcare is a human right. In the Senate, I'll fight to expand Medicare to age 55, extend coverage to hearing, vision, dental, and home health care – and allow all Americans and employers to buy into Medicare. I will also fight to lower drug costs by reforming PBMs. We must restore the ACA tax credits Republicans eliminated and reverse every Medicaid cut Ashley Hinson voted for. Medicaid and CHIP cover roughly 700,000 Iowans, and these cuts are having real consequences for real people, especially in rural Iowa. At the statehouse, I co-sponsored insulin cost caps, expanded mental health access, and a solution to Iowa's nursing home crisis. I've co-sponsored 29 reproductive rights and maternal health bills, which is a real point of contrast in this Democratic primary. Reproductive freedom means patients make their own medical decisions. Full stop. I'll fight to restore that freedom federally, and I won't back down.*

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## AGRICULTURE, RURAL COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESSES

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*In the Iowa Senate, I have represented small towns and rural communities in Johnson, Cedar, and Muscatine counties. I have seen how consolidation has hollowed out Iowa's farm economy – in meatpacking, in seeds, in inputs – and the Farm Bill has too often made it worse by prioritizing large-scale consolidation over independent family farmers. I'll serve on the US Senate Agriculture Committee and fight for a Farm Bill that actually works for Iowa, instead of Iowa working for the Farm Bill and the big multinational corporations that write it. It is unacceptable that America has become a net importer of food. We must overhaul farm credit to better support young farmers, diversify our ag economy, develop new approaches to conservation programs, enforce antitrust law in agriculture, and reinvest in USDA Rural Development offices that communities and farmers depend on. And that is exactly what I'll fight for in the US Senate.*

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## CIVIL RIGHTS & PERSONAL FREEDOM

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*When I testified before the Iowa House in 2011 about my two moms, Jackie and Terry, it wasn't political – it was personal. And when I found the courage to speak up, I learned how to win hearts and minds from the people that some Democrats write off. I've brought that same approach to the statehouse, fighting for people who don't have powerful lobbyists, who aren't wealthy donors, or who aren't well-connected. That's why I voted NO on Iowa's biggest reproductive rights rollback and co-sponsored 29 reproductive rights bills. I supported bipartisan policing reform with Rep. Ras Smith and oppose legislation that piles harsher sentences on Black communities for non-violent offenses. I'll pass the Equality Act and oppose every effort to overturn Obergefell, and I will fight any attempt to use religious freedom as a license to deny civil rights. Freedom means freedom for everyone. No exceptions.*

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## IMMIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

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*I believe in a humane immigration system – and would have supported the bipartisan immigration reform bill that Trump had killed in advance of the 2024 election. We need more staff and judges to efficiently process immigration cases, and treat people both at the border and within our country with humanity and dignity. The Senate needs to uphold our constitutional due process rights, not back down. When Republicans pushed a 2024 bill requiring Iowa law enforcement to partner with ICE to arrest and deport people, I spoke on the Senate floor against it. My Democratic primary opponent voted for that bill. That's a real difference. I support a clear path to citizenship for Dreamers and for people who work hard and play by the rules. Legal immigration pathways for agriculture, healthcare, and trades must come with strong labor protections – so no employer can use immigration status to exploit workers.*

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

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*Iowa has traditionally been a national leader in renewable energy, and I plan to continue to advocate for policies that strengthen Iowa and the country's capacity to transition towards clean energy, including restoring renewable energy investments made by the Inflation Reduction Act that Ashley Hinson voted to gut. Trump/Elon Musk's DOGE cuts jeopardized progress towards a cleaner future. I've heard how the administration withheld congressionally approved spending for the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) funding for local communities meant to help shield them from natural disasters like floods, derechos, and tornadoes. That should not have been allowed to happen. We need to continue to maintain the USDA Rural Development offices across Iowa and the country, which plays an important role in facilitating key infrastructure projects for small town and rural governments and hospitals.*

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE**

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*I was proud to support bipartisan legislation in 2020 to enact meaningful reforms on policing, including the banning of chokeholds that had resulted in needless deaths. I've opposed legislation that would create enhanced penalties for those convicted of non-violent crimes, and plan to oppose a controversial "three strikes" bill that would create a mandatory 20 year sentence without parole for those with several non-violent convictions — while my Democratic primary opponent joined Republicans to vote for the bill. I led the opposition to dangerous legislation in the statehouse that eliminated the requirement for common sense background checks prior to the purchase of handguns in our state, made worse by legislation a few years later that lowered the age to purchase a handgun to 18. While states have declined to ensure common sense protections are in place, I will advocate for federal protections.*

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## **EDUCATION, FAMILIES & OPPORTUNITY**

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*I've long criticized the underfunding of our public education system by Republicans at the statehouse, made even worse by Gov. Reynolds's private school voucher scam that diverts public money to private schools. This unaccountable giveaway to some of Iowa's wealthiest families needs to be scrutinized, and if the state government won't do it, the Department of Education needs to step in. Interest for student loans should be held in check, and our public service loan forgiveness program should be expanded. Iowa's childcare system is a mess. My wife and I have one kid, and our daycare cost as much as our mortgage when we first enrolled our son. We need an all-of-the-above approach to supporting new parents and making affordable childcare a reality. That includes paid family leave — which I've supported in the legislature and will continue to champion in the US Senate.*

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

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*I will never vote to authorize an endless war. My generation grew up amid 9/11, Afghanistan, and Iraq — lives and limbs lost, families shattered, trillions wasted. My moms both worked for the VA, taking care of the veterans of those conflicts, many of them scarred for life, physically or psychologically. Now as we watch this war with Iran, it feels like the people in power didn't learn anything, and that's why Congress must reclaim its constitutional war powers from the Executive Branch. And America is strongest when we work with our democratic allies, not when we alienate them. At home, I strongly oppose what DOGE has done to federal workers at the VA, to Social Security, and more. I introduced my "Keep the Promise Act" to ensure the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share, just like working Iowans do, securing long-term solvency without cutting a single benefit.*

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