



ASHLEY WOLFTORNABANE

IA 04 CANDIDATE

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WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

I'm running because I want to bring the voices of everyday folks to Washington so we can return the power to the 4th district and create a Happier, Healthier Iowa together. In short, I want to help people, and federal office can be a very efficient way to help a lot of people all at once. Unfortunately, many Representatives use their power to help the rich and powerful, instead. That has to change. I've cared about politics most of my life, so when our former Progressive Democratic candidate, Ryan Melton, unfortunately had to suspend his campaign here in the 4th district, it was very important to me that someone with energy and similar values continue the momentum that Ryan Melton and JD Scholten created here in the 4th District. So, after searching for such a candidate, and coming up empty, I launched my campaign on July 4th.

DEMOCRACY & VOTING RIGHTS

Our current restrictions to prevent illegal voting are working so well that according to Iowa's Secretary of State, 99.9998% of voting was done legally in 2024. The SAVE America Act would only make it more difficult for eligible voters to vote because it's really about silencing voices by taking away votes. We need automatic voter ID for citizens like Germany, Australia, and Canada, we absolutely need campaign finance reform, such as moving to publicly funded elections, to level the playing field. We need to end gerrymandering, and the best way to do that is by enacting proportional representation for the US House. This also allows a multi-party system, which many Americans crave. To protect our democratic institutions, we need supreme court reform and a No Kings amendment to the constitution in 2029. This would strike down presidential immunity, and remove a president who disregards the constitution.

ECONOMIC SECURITY, WORKERS & FAIR TAXES

-Minimum wage increase, but do it intelligently with a federal minimum wage formula that gets applied state by state, and indexed to each state's cost of living. This way the minimum wage packs the same punch in each state and is also sustainable. We would phase this in with small business tax credits. -Protect unions and collective bargaining, end so-called "Right to Work" laws that actually restrict worker rights. Increase laborer protections, including stopping wage theft through practices such as hiring contractors to avoid paying benefits. -Close loopholes and raise tax rates for the billionaires and corporations. They should be contributing appropriately to their country. -Creating a strong middle class requires lowering costs that are the largest drain on middle class folks: healthcare, housing, and childcare. More on healthcare and childcare below, but to reduce housing costs, we have to invest in affordable housing, and provide first-time home buyer assistance.

HEALTHCARE, AFFORDABILITY & THE CARE ECONOMY

We need publicly funded, universal healthcare, like the happiest countries on earth benefit from. We must provide dental, vision, long-term care, and mental health coverage in this. We currently pay more between all of our personal expenses and our government spending on healthcare than what this system would cost us. Countries with these systems negotiate prescription drug prices, making them more affordable. Additionally, universal healthcare is the answer to our rural healthcare deserts. Our rural facilities are particularly vulnerable to cuts to Medicaid, etc, and the solution is to pay every bill, which is what a universal healthcare system does. Until we are able to achieve this system, we must protect all of our healthcare safety nets, such as Medicaid, Medicare, the ACA, etc. Healthcare decisions should be made between patients and doctors, and the government needs to stay out of those choices.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESSES

To protect and empower family farmers, including beginning farmers we have to: End the pointless tariffs that are destroying livelihoods Break up monopolies Disincentivize out-of-state landlords. Implement incentives for diversifying crops and livestock. One way of ensuring a market for this is creating or re-establishing relationships between farmers and schools, providing children with produce that will help them be healthier and learn better. But breaking up monopolies will also allow for new, smaller markets to pop up locally. This will also help with our soil and water quality. Strengthening our rural communities really takes funding through revitalization grants for towns and businesses, funding public education to keep schools open, and funding our hospitals. Universal healthcare would work wonders on rural communities.

CIVIL RIGHTS & PERSONAL FREEDOM

-Protect the LGBTQ+ community, which is under attack. -Protect ALL women's rights, including the right to decide with her doctor that she needs an abortion. -Reimplement affirmative action and DEI initiatives. -Stop imposing Christian rule, but instead allow everyone to worship or NOT worship as they choose.

IMMIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

ICE was created in such a way that it only has executive oversight, and therefore was way too easy to turn into secret police, so we need to abolish ICE, and replace it with a new immigration enforcement entity with congressional oversight when we enact comprehensive immigration reform. Our broken immigration system begins with step one: asylum. In the United States, asylum is only granted to people who can prove discrimination in their home country based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Most people fleeing their countries are fleeing for other reasons than those listed, so many people don't even attempt to claim asylum. We have to: - broaden asylum - make pathways to legal work status and citizenship easier - implement stricter immigrant laborer protections - always go through due process with immigrants, just as we should with citizens.

CLIMATE, ENERGY & RURAL RESILIENCE

We have to listen to the experts to be good stewards of this earth so it may be enjoyed by many generations to come. This means transitioning to renewable energy and putting in place legislation that requires the biggest climate offenders to change their practices. It will take years to start to see the benefits of pro-environment initiatives, so we must also invest in infrastructure that is more resilient to disasters. But, this is just a bandaid. We must treat our planet better or it will continue to treat us worse. Here in Iowa, the corporate farming industry is contributing to climate change, so we must go back to more crop and livestock diversity, while using scientific farming advances that have been made to make this more cost effective and kinder to our soil and water, and therefore our wildlife and the rest of us.

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

-End the private prison system, and implement a fully public system that is racially just and focuses on better preparing inmates for re-entry into society. -Felons should be able to earn their voting rights back. -End qualified immunity and change the culture in police departments to promote local safety and wellbeing, rather than being seen as an enemy of the public, as some departments are. I'm very fortunate to live in a town with a police department that embraces diversity and makes public safety their number one priority, so I would like to see that in all departments. -Common sense gun laws, such as universal background checks, mandatory gun safety education, and registering. -If we make sure all Americans are fed, able to go to the doctor, can trust their government, have adequate, safe housing, people will be much happier and healthier, which will decrease gun violence, including suicides.

EDUCATION, FAMILIES & OPPORTUNITY

-Public education should be fully funded, with increases in funding indexed to inflation. -We need student loan relief for lower income folks and those who have been paying on their loans for twenty or more years. -Address the root cause of high student loan debt, including implementing adequate income-driven repayment programs, increasing funding to public colleges to prevent steep tuition increases, increasing Pell grants, and possibly implementing tuition-free community colleges. -Promote technical and apprenticeship programs for sectors where it makes sense to do so. -Implement paid family leave, like Minnesota, but for the whole country. -Universal pre-k and funding to provide adequate childcare facilities and employees to support the working class.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY & SUPPORTING SENIORS AND VETERANS

-Audit military spending, and decrease the funneling of our tax dollars into the military industrial complex. -No more senseless wars, wars for conquest, or wars for resources. -We must treat our allies better and refocus on soft power. -Reimplement USAID, which was incredibly inexpensive, considering how well it worked to promote good will toward America. -Veterans services should be expanded and made easier to access. We are currently \$7.3 trillion behind on paying out veteran disability benefits. We should funnel some of our excess defense spending into paying those promised benefits. -Protect Social Security and Medicare -Reimplement DEI initiatives, which protect older folks and those with disabilities, as well as people of color and women.
