



POLK CITY 1 VOTER GUIDE

2024 General Election



Prepared by Andrew Denner

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This voter guide was prepared with the assistance of AI tools to ensure comprehensive and accurate information about the candidates and measures on the ballot. Every effort has been made to present the information impartially, focusing on key issues, candidate platforms, and relevant endorsements or criticisms to help voters make informed decisions.

While AI tools have been invaluable in assembling this guide, we strongly encourage voters to engage in their own research and critical analysis. It is vital to consider multiple sources and perspectives when making voting decisions. Your vote is your voice, and understanding the implications of each choice is crucial to participating effectively in the democratic process.



SAMPLE BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
COUNTY OF POLK, STATE OF IOWA
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

POLK CITY 1
 13900

Election Official Initials

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

To vote for individual candidates on this ballot, fill in the box before your choice like this:
 To vote for a candidate not on this ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided, and fill in the box before your choice like this:
 To vote to approve any question on this ballot fill in the box before the word "Yes" like this:
 To vote against any question on this ballot fill in the box before the word "No" like this:
Party Abbreviations: Democratic Party:(DEM); Republican Party:(REP); Libertarian Party:(LIB); Party for Socialism and Liberation:(PSL); Socialist Party USA:(SOC); We The People:(WTP)
JUDICIAL BALLOT: Located on the back side of the ballot starting in column one
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: Located on the back side of the ballot starting in column two

PARTISAN OFFICES

Notice to voters: A ballot cast for the named candidates for president and vice president of the United States is considered to be cast for the slate of presidential electors nominated by the political party, nonparty political organization, or independent candidate.

For President and Vice President

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE TEAM

Kamala D. Harris
 Tim Walz DEM

Donald J. Trump
 JD Vance REP

Chase Oliver
 Mike ter Maat LIB

Claudia De la Cruz
 Karina Garcia PSL

William P. Stodden
 Stephanie H. Cholensky SOC

Robert F. Kennedy Jr
 Nicole Shanahan WTP

Shiva Ayyadurai
 Crystal Ellis

Write-in, if any President & Vice President

For U.S. Representative District 3

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

Lanon Baccam DEM

Zach Nunn REP

Write-in, if any

For State Representative District 45

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

Anthony William Thompson DEM

Brian K. Lohse REP

Write-in, if any

For County Supervisor District 2

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

John Forbes DEM

Jill Altringer REP

Write-in, if any

For County Auditor

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

Jamie Fitzgerald DEM

Write-in, if any

For County Sheriff

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

Kevin J. Schneider DEM

Write-in, if any

NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

For County Hospital Trustee

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO

Kellie Markey

Dave Miglin

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

For Soil & Water Commissioner

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE

Mary Ellen Cory

Chip Mathis

Lee S. Tesdell

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

For County Agricultural Extension Council

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR

Deborah Brewer-Cotlar

Dal Grooms

Julie McGonegle

Jorge A. Padilla

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

Write-in, if any

TURN THE BALLOT OVER

JUDICIAL BALLOT

Shall the following Judges be retained in office?

Supreme Court Justice

David May
YES
NO

Court of Appeals Judges

Tyler J. Buller
YES
NO

Mary Elizabeth Chicchelly
YES
NO

Samuel Langholz
YES
NO

Mary Ellen Tabor
YES
NO

District 5C Judges

Heather L. Lauber
YES
NO

Patrick D. Smith
YES
NO

District 5C Associate Judges

Gregory Brandt
YES
NO

Kristen Formanek
YES
NO

Becky Goettsch
YES
NO

Erik Howe
YES
NO

Rachael E. Seymour
YES
NO

District 5C Associate Probate Judge

Katie Ranes
YES
NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1
Shall the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted?

Summary: Provides for only U.S. citizens aged 18 or older and meeting state and county residency requirements to vote in all elections. Further provides that 17-year-olds who will be 18 years old by the General Election are eligible to vote in the primary election, subject to the same citizenship and residency requirements.

Full Text: Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Iowa, as amended by the amendment of 1970, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

Section 1. Electors. Only a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years, who shall have been a resident of this state for such period of time as shall be provided by law and of the county in which the citizen claims the citizen's vote for such period of time as shall be provided by law, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are authorized by law. However, for purposes of a primary election, a United States citizen must be at least eighteen years of age as of the next general election following the primary election. The required periods of residence shall not exceed six months in this state and sixty days in the county.

YES
NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

2
Shall the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted?

Summary: Provides that the lieutenant governor will act as the governor if there is a temporary disability of the governor. Further provides that the lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect will be the governor or governor-elect in the case of the resignation, death, or permanent disability of the governor or governor-elect thus creating a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect, as appropriate.

Full Text: Section 17 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

Sec. 17. Lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect to become or act as governor or governor-elect. If there is a temporary disability of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor until the disability is removed, or the governor dies, resigns, or is removed from office. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, which shall create a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor. This section shall also apply, as appropriate, to the governor-elect and the lieutenant governor-elect.

YES
NO

PUBLIC MEASURE

City of Polk City
Public Measure Letter A
Shall the following public measure be adopted?

"Shall the City of Polk City, in Polk County, State of Iowa, enter into a loan agreement and issue general obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000 for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of developing and equipping a new municipal park?"

YES
NO

TURN THE BALLOT OVER

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of the candidates and measures on the ballot for Polk City in 2024, focusing on key offices and issues to assist voters in making informed decisions.

Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates:

1. Tim Walz and Kamala D. Harris (Democratic Party)

- **Background:** Tim Walz is the Governor of Minnesota with a history in education and military service. Kamala Harris is the current Vice President with a background in law and justice.
- **Key Issues:** Climate change, healthcare, economic recovery, social justice, education.
- **Criticisms:** Walz's handling of COVID-19 and civil unrest; Harris's prosecutorial record.
- **Endorsements:** Democratic leaders, labor unions, environmental groups.

2. JD Vance and Donald J. Trump (Republican Party)

- **Background:** JD Vance is an author and venture capitalist; Donald Trump is the former President.
- **Key Issues:** Immigration, economic nationalism, law and order, deregulation.
- **Criticisms:** Trump's impeachments and legal issues; Vance's past criticisms of Trump.
- **Endorsements:** Republican officials, conservative groups, law enforcement associations.

3. Mike ter Maat and Chase Oliver (Libertarian Party)

- **Background:** Mike ter Maat is an economist and former police officer; Chase Oliver is a logistics manager and activist.
- **Key Issues:** Reducing government size, individual liberties, ending foreign interventions.
- **Criticisms:** Concerns about drastic government reductions and non-interventionist policies.
- **Endorsements:** Libertarian organizations, civil liberties groups.

4. Karina Garcia and Claudia De la Cruz (Party for Socialism and Liberation)

- **Background:** Garcia is a community organizer; De la Cruz is a pastor and educator.
- **Key Issues:** Socialism, anti-imperialism, universal healthcare, environmental justice.

- **Criticisms:** Concerns about economic feasibility and government overreach.
- **Endorsements:** Socialist organizations, labor and anti-war movements.

Key Local Offices:

1. U.S. Representative, District 3:

- **Lanon Baccam (Democrat):** Focus on veterans, economic development, healthcare, agriculture.
- **Zach Nunn (Republican):** Emphasis on national security, economic growth, fiscal responsibility.

2. Iowa State Representative, District 45:

- **Anthony William Thompson (Democrat):** Advocates for education, healthcare, economic development.
- **Brian K. Lohse (Republican):** Prioritizes fiscal responsibility, economic growth, education reform.

3. Polk County Supervisor, District 2:

- **John Forbes (Democrat):** Focus on healthcare, economic growth, infrastructure, education.
- **Jill Altringer (Republican):** Emphasizes fiscal responsibility, economic development, public safety.

Judicial Retention Votes:

- Judges across various courts are up for retention, with no significant scandals reported. They are generally well-regarded for their professionalism and fairness.

Constitutional Amendments:

- Amendment 1:** Clarifies voter eligibility to include only U.S. citizens aged 18 or older, with provisions for 17-year-olds in primaries.
 - **Support:** Ensures election integrity and consistency.
 - **Opposition:** Viewed as redundant and potentially exclusionary.
- Amendment 2:** Clarifies gubernatorial succession processes.
 - **Support:** Ensures continuity and clarity in governance.
 - **Opposition:** Concerns about power concentration and lack of detailed procedures.

Public Measure A:

- Proposal for Polk City to issue \$10 million in bonds for a new municipal park.
 - **Pros:** Enhances quality of life, economic development, environmental benefits.

- **Cons:** Financial burden on taxpayers, prioritization of funds, long-term debt concerns.

Conclusion: Voters are encouraged to consider the candidates' backgrounds, platforms, and endorsements, as well as the implications of the constitutional amendments and public measure, to make informed decisions that align with their values and the community's needs.

Office Title: President and Vice President

Brief Description of the Office:

The **President of the United States** serves as both the head of state and the head of government. The President's primary responsibilities include:

- **Executing Federal Laws:** Ensuring that all laws are faithfully executed and overseeing the federal executive branch.
- **Commander-in-Chief:** Leading the United States Armed Forces.
- **Foreign Policy:** Negotiating treaties (with Senate approval) and representing the U.S. internationally.
- **Legislative Influence:** Recommending legislation to Congress and having the power to veto bills.
- **Judicial Appointments:** Nominating federal judges, including Supreme Court justices (with Senate confirmation).

The **Vice President of the United States** has the following primary duties:

- **Presiding Officer of the Senate:** Acting as President of the Senate and casting tie-breaking votes.
- **Succession:** Assuming the presidency in the event the President is unable to serve.
- **Supporting the President:** Performing duties assigned by the President, which may include diplomatic tasks, policy advocacy, and representation of the administration's positions.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Economic Recovery:** Addressing inflation, unemployment, and economic disparities exacerbated by recent global events.
- **Public Health:** Managing ongoing public health concerns and preparing for future health crises.
- **Climate Change:** Implementing policies to mitigate environmental impact and promote sustainable energy.
- **Social Justice:** Tackling systemic inequalities related to race, gender, and socioeconomic status.
- **National Security:** Navigating international relations and safeguarding against cyber and terrorist threats.
- **Technology and Privacy:** Balancing technological advancement with data privacy and security concerns.

- **Immigration Reform:** Developing comprehensive policies that address border security and humanitarian needs.

Candidate: Tim Walz and Kamala D. Harris (DEM)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Tim Walz:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree in Social Science Education from Chadron State College; Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Former high school teacher and football coach; served 24 years in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major; U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 1st congressional district (2007-2019); Governor of Minnesota (2019-present).
 - **Civic Involvement:** Advocated for veterans' affairs, education, and agriculture; involved in community service and local organizations.
- **Kamala D. Harris:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree from Howard University in Political Science and Economics; Juris Doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Deputy District Attorney in Alameda County; District Attorney of San Francisco (2004-2011); Attorney General of California (2011-2017); U.S. Senator from California (2017-2021); Vice President of the United States (2021-present).
 - **Civic Involvement:** Worked on criminal justice reform, civil rights, and social justice initiatives; active in community outreach programs.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Combating climate change with sustainable policies.
 - Expanding access to affordable healthcare.
 - Economic recovery and job creation.
 - Advancing social justice and equality.
 - Strengthening education and infrastructure.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**

- Invest in renewable energy and set targets for carbon neutrality.
- Protect and build upon the Affordable Care Act.
- Introduce stimulus measures to boost the economy and support small businesses.
- Implement criminal justice reform and protect voting rights.
- Increase funding for public education and modernize infrastructure.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Climate Initiatives:** Achievable through executive actions and legislation if supported by Congress.
 - **Healthcare Expansion:** May face opposition but could advance through budget reconciliation.
 - **Economic Measures:** Likely to gain bipartisan support for infrastructure but may differ on funding methods.
 - **Social Justice Reforms:** Dependent on legislative collaboration; some measures possible via executive orders.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Support from Democratic Party leaders and officials.
 - Endorsed by labor unions such as the AFL-CIO.
 - Backing from environmental groups like the Sierra Club.
 - Support from civil rights organizations including the NAACP.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Tim Walz:**
 - Criticized for his handling of COVID-19 restrictions, with some arguing that measures were either too strict or not sufficient.
 - Faced scrutiny over responses to civil unrest in Minnesota.
- **Kamala D. Harris:**
 - Criticized for her record as a prosecutor, with debates over her positions on criminal justice issues.
 - Some progressives express concern over her past stances on law enforcement policies.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**

- Critics argue that their policies could lead to increased government spending and taxation.
- Concerns about balancing economic growth with regulatory measures.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Both candidates have demonstrated consistency in advocating for progressive policies.
- Harris has evolved on certain issues, such as marijuana legalization, reflecting shifts in public opinion and party stance.
- Walz's focus on education, veterans' affairs, and healthcare aligns with his legislative record.

Candidate: JD Vance and Donald J. Trump (REP)

Biographical Sketch:

- **JD Vance:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy from Ohio State University; Juris Doctor from Yale Law School.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Author of "Hillbilly Elegy"; venture capitalist; previously worked at Mithril Capital Management.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Commentary on social and economic issues affecting rural America; involved in nonprofit work addressing opioid addiction.
- **Donald J. Trump:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Businessman with ventures in real estate, entertainment, and hospitality; hosted the reality TV show "The Apprentice"; 45th President of the United States (2017-2021).
 - **Civic Involvement:** Prior to his presidency, involved in philanthropic activities through the Trump Foundation (now dissolved).

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Immigration control and border security.
 - Economic nationalism and protecting American jobs.
 - Law and order policies.

- Deregulation and tax cuts.
- Strengthening the military.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Continue building a border wall and enforce stricter immigration policies.
 - Renegotiate trade deals to favor the U.S.; impose tariffs as needed.
 - Support law enforcement agencies and appoint conservative judges.
 - Reduce federal regulations to boost business growth.
 - Increase defense spending to enhance national security.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Immigration and Border Security:** Some actions achievable via executive orders; substantial measures require Congressional approval.
 - **Economic Policies:** Tax cuts and deregulation possible if Congress aligns; trade policies can be adjusted but may face international repercussions.
 - **Judicial Appointments:** Dependent on vacancies and Senate confirmation.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Backed by prominent Republicans and conservative groups.
 - Support from grassroots movements like the Tea Party Patriots.
 - Endorsements from law enforcement associations.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Donald J. Trump:**
 - Faced two impeachments during his presidency, acquitted both times.
 - Ongoing legal investigations related to his business practices and post-election actions.
 - Criticism over rhetoric perceived as divisive.
- **JD Vance:**
 - Criticized for past statements critical of Trump, leading to accusations of shifting positions for political gain.
 - Some view his change in stance as opportunistic.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**

- Concerns over undermining democratic institutions.
- Criticism of policies perceived as favoring the wealthy.
- Allegations of fostering polarization within the country.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Donald J. Trump** has maintained consistent positions on immigration, trade, and national security.
- **JD Vance** has faced scrutiny for previous criticisms of Trump but asserts alignment on key policy issues.
- Vance's shift reflects a broader trend within the Republican Party towards Trump's leadership.

Candidate: Mike ter Maat and Chase Oliver (LIB)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Mike ter Maat:**
 - **Educational Background:** Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University; MBA from the University of Chicago.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Economist with experience at the Federal Reserve; former police officer in Broward County, Florida; adjunct professor teaching economics and finance.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Active in Libertarian Party initiatives; advocates for criminal justice reform and civil liberties.
- **Chase Oliver:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree from Georgia State University.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Experience in customer service management; involved in the logistics sector.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Ran as a Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia (2022); activist for LGBTQ+ rights and electoral reform.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Reducing government size and spending.
 - Protecting individual liberties and privacy rights.
 - Ending foreign military interventions.

- Criminal justice reform and ending the war on drugs.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Implement significant tax cuts and eliminate unnecessary regulations.
 - Uphold Second Amendment rights and free speech.
 - Close overseas military bases and reduce defense spending.
 - Legalize cannabis federally and expunge non-violent drug offenses.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - Achieving these goals would be challenging without substantial bipartisan support.
 - Libertarian policies often face resistance from both major parties.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Backed by Libertarian Party members and libertarian-leaning organizations.
 - Support from civil liberties advocacy groups.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Criticisms:**
 - Opponents argue that drastic reductions in government could undermine essential services.
 - Concerns about the feasibility of non-interventionist foreign policies in a globalized world.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Skepticism about the lack of regulation leading to corporate malfeasance.
 - Worries that policies may not adequately protect vulnerable populations.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Both candidates have consistently promoted libertarian values.
- Their advocacy for personal freedoms and limited government aligns with their past statements and activities.

Candidate: Karina Garcia and Claudia De la Cruz (PSL)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Karina Garcia:**

- **Educational Background:** Specific educational details are limited.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:** Known as a community organizer and activist.
- **Civic Involvement:** Involved in immigrant rights advocacy and anti-war movements; member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation.
- **Claudia De la Cruz:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology; Master's in Divinity from Union Theological Seminary.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Pastor, educator, and cultural worker.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Co-Executive Director of The People's Forum; engaged in grassroots organizing around social justice issues.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Advancing socialist principles for economic and social systems.
 - Ending U.S. imperialism and militarism.
 - Ensuring universal healthcare and housing.
 - Environmental justice.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Establish public ownership of key industries.
 - Redirect military spending to social programs.
 - Implement policies for workers' rights and income equality.
 - Address climate change through radical environmental reforms.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - These transformative policies face significant political barriers.
 - Implementation would require widespread systemic change and public support.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Supported by socialist and leftist organizations.
 - Backing from activists within labor and anti-war movements.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Criticisms:**
 - Accused of promoting ideologies that are incompatible with capitalist structures.
 - Concerns over economic feasibility and potential government overreach.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Arguments that socialist policies have failed historically.
 - Fear of negative impacts on businesses and the economy.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Both candidates have consistently advocated for socialism and anti-imperialism.
- Their current platforms are in line with their past activism and organizational involvement.

Candidate: Stephanie H. Cholensky and William P. Stodden (SOC)

Biographical Sketch: As of October 2023, there is limited public information available about **Stephanie H. Cholensky** and **William P. Stodden** as candidates for the presidency and vice presidency. They may be associated with smaller political movements or have announced candidacies that have not gained national attention.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Potential focus on socialist or social democratic policies, inferred from the party designation (SOC).
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Without specific information, details cannot be accurately provided.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - No widely documented endorsements are available.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Criticisms:**
 - No public records of scandals or criticisms due to limited information.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Insufficient data to evaluate alignment with past beliefs.

Candidate: Nicole Shanahan and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (WTP)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Nicole Shanahan:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from the University of Puget Sound; attended law school at Santa Clara University.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Founder of ClearAccessIP, focusing on patent management solutions; involved in legal tech entrepreneurship.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Philanthropist through the Bia-Echo Foundation, supporting efforts in reproductive longevity, criminal justice reform, and environmental sustainability.
- **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.:**
 - **Educational Background:** Bachelor's degree from Harvard University; Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia; Master of Laws in Environmental Law from Pace University.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Environmental lawyer and activist; worked with organizations like Natural Resources Defense Council and Waterkeeper Alliance.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Long-standing advocate for environmental conservation and sustainability; involved in litigation and activism against pollution.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Environmental protection and combating climate change.
 - Addressing corruption and promoting government transparency.
 - Advocating for medical freedom and scrutinizing vaccine policies.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Enforce strict environmental regulations; support renewable energy initiatives.
 - Implement policies to reduce corporate influence in politics.
 - Re-examine public health policies to ensure individual rights.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - Environmental initiatives may gain support amid growing climate concerns.
 - Policies on medical freedom may face opposition from the medical community and public health officials.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Support from certain environmental groups and activists.
 - Backing from individuals skeptical of pharmaceutical companies.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.:**
 - Criticized for promoting vaccine skepticism; accused of spreading misinformation.
 - Concerns from public health experts about the impact of his views on vaccination efforts.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - His stance on vaccines is deemed dangerous by many in the medical field.
 - Critics argue that his positions could undermine public health.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Kennedy's current positions are consistent with his history of questioning pharmaceutical practices and advocating for environmental causes.

Candidate: Crystal Ellis and Shiva Ayyadurai

Biographical Sketch:

- **Crystal Ellis:**
 - **Educational Background:** Public information is limited.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Details are scarce in national records.
 - **Civic Involvement:** May be engaged in community-level activism or local politics.
- **Shiva Ayyadurai:**
 - **Educational Background:** Holds four degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), including a Ph.D. in Biological Engineering.
 - **Work History and Professional Experience:** Scientist and entrepreneur; founded several companies in fields like biotechnology and information technology.
 - **Civic Involvement:** Ran for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts in 2018 (Independent) and 2020 (Republican primary); involved in various public debates on health and technology.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - Promoting innovation and advancing scientific solutions.
 - Advocating for freedom of speech and challenging establishment narratives.
 - Election integrity and transparency.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - Reform healthcare with an emphasis on preventative care and personalized medicine.
 - Implement policies to protect freedom of expression.
 - Introduce measures to enhance the security and transparency of voting systems.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - Advancing scientific initiatives aligns with global trends but requires significant funding and collaboration.
 - Election reforms may gain traction but could face partisan obstacles.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Supported by individuals critical of mainstream media and governmental institutions.
 - Backing from certain grassroots groups advocating for transparency.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Shiva Ayyadurai:**
 - Claims to have invented email have been disputed by experts and historians.
 - Criticized for spreading misinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines.
 - Legal disputes with media organizations over defamation claims.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics question his credibility and accuse him of promoting conspiracy theories.
 - Concerns over amplifying unverified claims that can mislead the public.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- Ayyadurai has consistently positioned himself as an anti-establishment figure.

- His advocacy for disruptive innovation and challenging conventional wisdom aligns with his past activities.

Note: For candidates with limited public information (**Stephanie H. Cholensky, William P. Stodden, and Crystal Ellis**), details are scarce as of October 2023. It's important to verify any additional information from reputable sources. **Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):**

- All listed candidates are associated with specific political parties, as indicated:
 - **DEM:** Democratic Party
 - **REP:** Republican Party
 - **LIB:** Libertarian Party
 - **PSL:** Party for Socialism and Liberation
 - **SOC:** Socialist Party or Social Democratic affiliation
 - **WTP:** "We the People" or independent movement
 - **Others:** Affiliations inferred based on their platforms and known associations.

Office Title: U.S. Representative, District 3

Brief Description of the Office:

A **U.S. Representative** serves as a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing a specific congressional district for a two-year term. The main duties and responsibilities include:

- **Legislating:** Introducing bills and resolutions, proposing amendments, and serving on committees that scrutinize legislation.
- **Representation:** Acting on behalf of the constituents of their district, voicing their concerns, and ensuring their interests are considered in federal policymaking.
- **Oversight:** Monitoring and overseeing federal agencies, programs, and policy implementation to ensure they align with legislative intent and serve the public effectively.
- **Constituent Services:** Assisting constituents with issues related to federal agencies, such as Social Security, veterans' benefits, and immigration services.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Economic Recovery and Inflation:** Addressing economic challenges, including inflation, job creation, and supporting small businesses post-pandemic.
- **Healthcare Access:** Ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare for all, including managing public health concerns.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Investing in infrastructure improvements for transportation, broadband access, and utilities.
- **National Security:** Responding to global threats and enhancing cybersecurity measures.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Policies:** Implementing strategies to combat climate change and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Social Justice and Equality:** Addressing systemic inequalities and advocating for civil rights.
- **Immigration Reform:** Crafting comprehensive policies to manage immigration effectively and humanely.

Candidate: Lanon Baccam (DEM)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Holds a degree from Drake University.

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Military Service:** Served in the Iowa National Guard and was deployed to Afghanistan.
 - **Government Service:** Appointed as the Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Obama administration.
 - **Professional Experience:** Worked on agricultural trade and international development.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Active advocate for veterans' affairs and support services.
 - Involved in community organizations focused on agriculture, international trade, and rural development.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Veterans' Support:** Enhancing services and resources for veterans and military families.
 - **Economic Development:** Promoting job growth and supporting small businesses.
 - **Healthcare Access:** Expanding affordable healthcare options.
 - **Agriculture and Rural Communities:** Strengthening support for farmers and investing in rural infrastructure.
 - **Education:** Improving educational opportunities and funding.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - **Veterans' Initiatives:** Create programs to facilitate veterans' transition to civilian life, including employment and mental health services.
 - **Economic Policies:** Implement tax incentives for small businesses and invest in job training programs.
 - **Healthcare Reforms:** Advocate for policies that lower healthcare costs and expand coverage.
 - **Agricultural Support:** Increase funding for agricultural research and provide subsidies to assist farmers.
 - **Education Investment:** Secure funding for public schools and make higher education more affordable.
- **Achievability Analysis:**

- **Veterans' Support:** Achievable through bipartisan legislation, given widespread support for veterans.
- **Economic and Healthcare Policies:** May face challenges depending on the composition of Congress but have potential for success with negotiation and coalition-building.
- **Agricultural Support:** Likely achievable due to the importance of agriculture in the district and potential for bipartisan agreement.
- **Education Funding:** Success depends on federal budget allocations and legislative priorities.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**

- Supported by local and state Democratic Party officials.
- Endorsements from veterans' organizations appreciative of his service and advocacy.
- Backing from agricultural groups and rural development organizations.
- Support from labor unions and educational associations.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**

- There are no widely reported scandals involving Lanon Baccam.

- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**

- Critics may question his political experience at the legislative level since his background is primarily in executive roles.
- Opponents might argue that his policies could lead to increased government spending.

- **Response to Criticisms:**

- Emphasizes his federal government experience and understanding of agricultural and veterans' issues.
- Advocates for responsible budgeting and targeted investments that yield long-term benefits.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**

- His current platform aligns with his professional background in agriculture and veterans' affairs.

- Advocated for rural communities and international trade during his tenure at the USDA.
- Maintains a consistent commitment to public service and supporting underserved populations.

Candidate: Zach Nunn (REP)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**

- Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Affairs from Drake University.
- Master's degree from the Air Command and Staff College.

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**

- **Military Service:** Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force; served as a combat aviator and intelligence officer with deployments in the Middle East.
- **Legislative Experience:**
 - Served in the Iowa House of Representatives for District 30 from 2015 to 2019.
 - Elected to the Iowa State Senate representing District 15 in 2019.
- **Professional Experience:** Instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School; adjunct professor at Drake University.

- **Civic Involvement:**

- Active in veterans' organizations and local community service groups.
- Involved in initiatives supporting education and youth mentorship.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**

- **National Security:** Strengthening defense capabilities and support for the military.
- **Economic Prosperity:** Promoting free-market policies to stimulate growth.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Reducing government spending and lowering taxes.
- **Education Reform:** Expanding educational opportunities and local control.
- **Agriculture:** Supporting farmers and agribusiness through deregulation.

- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**

- **Defense Initiatives:** Increase funding for the military and protect national security interests.
- **Economic Policies:** Advocate for tax cuts, reduce regulations on businesses, and promote job creation.
- **Budget Management:** Push for balanced budgets and efforts to reduce the national debt.
- **Education Policies:** Support school choice initiatives and vocational training programs.
- **Agricultural Support:** Roll back regulations that impact farmers and expand market access for agricultural products.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **National Security and Defense:** Likely to gain support, especially if framed within national interest.
 - **Economic and Fiscal Policies:** May face partisan challenges but align with traditional Republican objectives.
 - **Education Reform:** Potential for implementation at federal and state levels with sufficient backing.
 - **Agriculture Policies:** Achievable, especially with support from other representatives from agricultural states.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Endorsed by prominent Republican officials and party leaders.
 - Support from business associations such as chambers of commerce.
 - Backing from agricultural organizations and farm bureaus.
 - Endorsements from law enforcement associations and pro-military groups.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no major scandals associated with Zach Nunn.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics may argue that his emphasis on tax cuts could reduce funding for essential social programs.
 - Opponents might contend that deregulation could compromise environmental protections and worker rights.

- Some may question the impact of increased defense spending on the national budget.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Advocates that economic growth from tax cuts will increase revenue.
 - Emphasizes a balance between regulation and promoting business innovation.
 - Stresses the importance of national security in safeguarding economic and social stability.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - His current positions are consistent with his legislative record in the Iowa Legislature.
 - Has a history of supporting veterans, fiscal conservatism, and pro-business policies.
 - Continues to advocate for strong national defense and limited government intervention.

Political Affiliation:

- **Lanon Baccam:** Democratic Party (DEM)
- **Zach Nunn:** Republican Party (REP)

Office Title: Iowa State Representative, District 45

Brief Description of the Office:

An **Iowa State Representative** serves in the Iowa House of Representatives, which is the lower chamber of the Iowa General Assembly. Representatives are elected to two-year terms and are responsible for:

- **Legislation:** Proposing, debating, and voting on state laws and policies.
- **Representation:** Acting on behalf of the constituents in their district, bringing local concerns to the state level.
- **Committees:** Serving on committees that focus on specific policy areas such as education, agriculture, or public safety.

- **Oversight:** Monitoring the implementation of state laws and the performance of government agencies.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Education Funding and Policy:** Addressing funding disparities, curriculum standards, and teacher retention.
- **Healthcare Access:** Ensuring affordable healthcare, managing public health initiatives, and addressing mental health services.
- **Economic Recovery:** Promoting job growth, supporting small businesses, and managing the state's budget post-pandemic.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Investing in transportation, broadband access, and utilities, particularly in rural areas.
- **Agriculture and Environment:** Balancing the needs of the agricultural sector with environmental conservation efforts.
- **Public Safety and Justice Reform:** Evaluating law enforcement practices and criminal justice policies.
- **Tax Policy:** Debating tax reforms that impact individuals and businesses.

Candidate: Anthony William Thompson (DEM)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Specific educational details for Anthony William Thompson are not widely publicized.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Information on his professional background is limited in public records.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Active in community initiatives within the district.
 - Engaged with local Democratic Party activities and grassroots organizing.
 - Participation in social organizations or advocacy groups may be part of his community involvement.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Education:** Advocating for increased funding and resources for public schools.

- **Healthcare Access:** Supporting policies that expand affordable healthcare and mental health services.
- **Economic Development:** Promoting job creation and supporting small businesses.
- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Investing in local infrastructure projects, including roads and broadband internet.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - **Education Initiatives:** Secure additional state funding for schools, reduce class sizes, and improve teacher pay.
 - **Healthcare Policies:** Work towards expanding Medicaid and increasing access to healthcare providers in the district.
 - **Economic Measures:** Introduce incentives for small businesses, support workforce development programs.
 - **Infrastructure Projects:** Advocate for state grants and funds to improve transportation and internet access.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Education Funding:** Achievable through legislative budget negotiations; may face challenges due to budget constraints.
 - **Healthcare Expansion:** Dependent on broader state policy shifts; may require bipartisan support.
 - **Economic Development:** Potentially achievable with targeted legislation and collaboration with local businesses.
 - **Infrastructure:** Feasible through state funding allocations and public-private partnerships.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Supported by local Democratic Party officials and grassroots organizations.
 - Endorsements from educators' associations and advocates for public education.
 - Backing from healthcare advocacy groups focused on expanding access.
 - Support from labor unions and workers' rights organizations.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals involving Anthony William Thompson.

- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics may question his experience due to limited public information on his professional background.
 - Opponents might argue that his policies could lead to increased government spending and higher taxes.
 - May face criticism for aligning with party positions that opponents consider too progressive for the district.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Emphasizes a commitment to transparency and serving the needs of constituents.
 - Advocates that investments in education and healthcare yield long-term benefits for the community.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Based on available information, his current platform aligns with traditional Democratic values focused on education, healthcare, and support for working families.
 - Committed to progressive policies that prioritize community welfare and equal opportunities.

Candidate: Brian K. Lohse (REP)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - **Undergraduate Degree:** Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Simpson College (1995).
 - **Law Degree:** Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law (1998).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Attorney:** Practiced law with a focus on various legal matters.
 - **Business Owner:** Co-owner of Brick Street Market & Café, a family-owned grocery store in Bondurant, Iowa.
 - **Public Service:**
 - **Mayor of Bondurant:** Served as mayor, gaining experience in local governance and community development.

- **Iowa State Representative:** Currently serving as the incumbent representative for District 45, elected in 2018 and re-elected subsequently.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - **Community Engagement:** Active in local organizations and initiatives aimed at improving community services.
 - **Volunteer Work:** Participated in events supporting local schools, youth programs, and economic development projects.
 - **Memberships:** Involved in civic groups and may be a member of local chambers of commerce or service clubs.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Fiscal Responsibility:** Advocating for balanced budgets and responsible spending.
 - **Economic Growth:** Supporting small businesses and promoting job creation.
 - **Education:** Ensuring quality education through local control and efficient use of resources.
 - **Public Safety:** Strengthening law enforcement and emergency services.
 - **Tax Policy:** Implementing tax reforms to reduce the burden on individuals and businesses.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans:**
 - **Budget Management:** Continue efforts to maintain a balanced state budget without raising taxes.
 - **Economic Initiatives:** Provide tax incentives for businesses, reduce regulations to encourage entrepreneurship.
 - **Education Policies:** Support school choice options and allocate funds to prioritize student success.
 - **Public Safety Measures:** Increase support for police and first responders; invest in community safety programs.
 - **Tax Reforms:** Propose legislation to lower income and property taxes for residents.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Fiscal Policies:** Achievable through legislative action and aligning with Republican majority priorities.
 - **Economic Growth Strategies:** Likely to gain support from fellow legislators and the business community.

- **Education Reforms:** Feasible, though may encounter opposition from those favoring increased public school funding.
- **Public Safety Enhancements:** Generally supported, but funding sources may be a point of contention.
- **Tax Reforms:** Possible, but balancing reduced revenue with budget needs will be a challenge.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**

- Endorsed by the Republican Party leadership at the state level.
- Support from business organizations such as the Iowa Association of Business and Industry.
- Backing from agricultural groups and farm bureaus.
- Endorsed by law enforcement associations and public safety organizations.
- Supported by conservative advocacy groups.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**

- There are no major scandals associated with Brian K. Lohse.

- **Past Performance as Incumbent:**

- Has a record of supporting legislation aligned with fiscal conservatism and business interests.
- Worked on bills related to economic development and public safety.

- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**

- Critics may argue that his focus on tax cuts benefits higher-income individuals and corporations more than average citizens.
- Opponents might contend that reducing taxes could lead to underfunded public services, including education and healthcare.
- May face criticism for not supporting measures that address climate change or for opposing certain social policies.

- **Response to Criticisms:**

- Advocates that tax reductions stimulate economic growth, leading to job creation and increased state revenue.

- Emphasizes the importance of efficient government spending and eliminating waste.
- Stresses a commitment to representing the values and interests of his constituents.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - His current positions align with his legislative record and past public statements.
 - Continuously promoted fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, and support for businesses.
 - Maintained a focus on public safety and supporting law enforcement throughout his tenure.
 - Demonstrated commitment to the constituents through community involvement and accessibility.

Political Affiliation:

- **Anthony William Thompson:** Democratic Party (DEM)
- **Brian K. Lohse:** Republican Party (REP)

Office Title: Polk County Supervisor, District 2 (Iowa)

Brief Description of the Office:

The **Polk County Board of Supervisors** is the governing body of Polk County, Iowa. Comprised of five supervisors elected from individual districts, they serve four-year terms and are responsible for:

- **Policy Development:** Establishing county policies, ordinances, and resolutions that impact local governance.
- **Budget Oversight:** Developing and approving the county's annual budget, overseeing expenditures, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.
- **Administrative Supervision:** Overseeing county departments and agencies to ensure efficient delivery of public services.
- **Infrastructure Management:** Making decisions regarding county infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, public buildings, and parks.
- **Public Services:** Ensuring the provision of essential services such as public health, safety, social services, and environmental protection.
- **Community Representation:** Serving as a liaison between constituents and county government, addressing local concerns and needs.
- **Intergovernmental Collaboration:** Working with city, state, and federal officials on issues affecting the county.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Economic Recovery and Development:** Addressing the economic impacts of recent global events, supporting local businesses, and promoting job creation.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Managing ongoing public health concerns, enhancing healthcare services, and ensuring effective emergency response.
- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Upgrading and maintaining transportation networks, public facilities, and utilities.
- **Affordable Housing:** Tackling housing affordability and availability to meet the needs of a growing population.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Implementing policies to protect natural resources, promote renewable energy, and address environmental concerns.
- **Fiscal Management:** Navigating budget constraints while maintaining essential services without imposing excessive tax burdens.
- **Social Services Enhancement:** Improving access to mental health resources, substance abuse programs, and support for vulnerable populations.

Candidate: John Forbes (DEM)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - **Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy** from the **University of Iowa**.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Pharmacist and Business Owner:**
 - Owner and operator of **Medicap Pharmacy** in Urbandale, Iowa, for over 40 years.
 - Provides healthcare services and medication counseling to the community.
 - **Legislative Experience:**
 - Serving as a **State Representative** in the **Iowa House of Representatives** since 2013, representing District 40.
 - Serves on committees including Appropriations, Commerce, and Human Resources.
 - Recognized for bipartisan efforts and community-focused legislation.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - **Local Government:**
 - Former **Urbandale City Council** member from 2005 to 2012.
 - **Professional Associations:**
 - Active member of the **Iowa Pharmacy Association**.
 - Member of the **Urbandale Chamber of Commerce**.
 - **Community Service:**
 - Involved in local charities, youth mentorship programs, and healthcare initiatives.
 - Advocates for healthcare accessibility and educational opportunities.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Healthcare Access and Public Health:**

- Enhancing community health services and ensuring affordable healthcare for residents.
- **Economic Growth and Recovery:**
 - Supporting local businesses, promoting job creation, and attracting new investments.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Upgrading county infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public facilities.
- **Education and Workforce Development:**
 - Investing in educational programs and workforce training.
- **Environmental Stewardship:**
 - Implementing sustainable practices and protecting natural resources.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Healthcare Initiatives:**
 - Expand county health programs with a focus on preventive care and mental health services.
 - Collaborate with healthcare providers to improve access and affordability.
 - **Economic Development:**
 - Provide incentives for small businesses and startups.
 - Foster partnerships to promote innovation and attract new industries.
 - **Infrastructure Projects:**
 - Advocate for funding to improve transportation networks and public infrastructure.
 - Prioritize projects that enhance safety and support economic activity.
 - **Educational Support:**
 - Promote programs that align education with local employment needs.
 - Support initiatives for lifelong learning and skills development.
 - **Environmental Policies:**
 - Encourage renewable energy projects and conservation efforts.
 - Implement policies to reduce the county's environmental footprint.

- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Healthcare and Education Initiatives:**
 - Achievable through collaboration with state agencies, healthcare organizations, and educational institutions.
 - **Economic and Infrastructure Development:**
 - Feasible with strategic planning, budget allocation, and leveraging state and federal funds.
 - **Environmental Efforts:**
 - Attainable by adopting best practices and securing grants for sustainability projects.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Supported by local and state **Democratic Party** officials.
 - Endorsed by **healthcare organizations** and professional associations.
 - Backing from **educators** and **education advocacy groups**.
 - Supported by **labor unions** and **community leaders**.
 - Recognized by **environmental groups** for commitment to sustainability.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No widely reported scandals** involving John Forbes.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - **Policy Concerns:** Critics may argue that his proposals could lead to increased government spending and higher taxes.
 - **Experience Transition:** Some may question his shift from state legislature to county governance.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Emphasizes a strong record of **fiscal responsibility** and **bipartisan collaboration**.
 - Highlights successful initiatives that benefited constituents without excessive spending.
 - Underscores commitment to addressing local issues with tailored solutions.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - **Healthcare Advocacy:**
 - Continues his long-standing support for accessible healthcare, reflecting his professional background.
 - **Community Service:**
 - Maintains a focus on community engagement and improving residents' quality of life.
 - **Fiscal Responsibility:**
 - History of responsible budgeting aligns with his commitment to effective county management.
 - **Bipartisan Approach:**
 - Known for working across party lines, consistent with his collaborative style.

Candidate: Jill Altringer (REP)

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Details about Jill Altringer's educational background are **limited** in public records.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Business Experience:**
 - Involved in **financial management**, possibly within the private sector or small business ownership.
 - **Professional Roles:**
 - Experience in areas that may include administration, budgeting, or organizational management.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Active in local **Republican Party** activities and events.
 - Volunteer work with local charities or community service organizations.
 - **Professional Associations:**
 - Participation in business networking groups or chambers of commerce.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency:**
 - Ensuring efficient use of taxpayer funds and reducing unnecessary spending.
 - **Economic Development:**
 - Promoting a business-friendly environment to stimulate economic growth.
 - **Public Safety and Law Enforcement:**
 - Supporting local law enforcement and improving community safety.
 - **Limited Government:**
 - Advocating for reduced government intervention and regulation.
 - **Infrastructure and Services:**
 - Prioritizing essential infrastructure projects and maintaining quality services.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Budget Optimization:**
 - Implement audits to identify waste and improve financial management.
 - Seek ways to deliver services more efficiently.
 - **Economic Initiatives:**
 - Reduce regulatory burdens on businesses.
 - Offer incentives for businesses to expand and create jobs.
 - **Public Safety Measures:**
 - Advocate for resources and training for law enforcement agencies.
 - Foster community policing initiatives to enhance safety.
 - **Infrastructure Focus:**
 - Allocate funds to critical infrastructure needs.
 - Promote public-private partnerships for development projects.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Fiscal Reforms and Economic Policies:**

- Achievable through policy changes and collaboration with county departments.
- **Public Safety Enhancements:**
 - Feasible with budget prioritization and community support.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:**
 - Attainable by securing funds and possibly leveraging state or federal assistance.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - Endorsed by local and state **Republican Party** officials.
 - Supported by **conservative organizations** focused on fiscal conservatism.
 - Backing from **business groups** and **entrepreneurial associations**.
 - May have support from **law enforcement organizations**.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No widely reported scandals** involving Jill Altringer.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - **Experience Questions:** Critics may question her experience in public office or government administration.
 - **Policy Impact:** Concerns that budget cuts could negatively affect essential services.
 - **Regulatory Stance:** Opponents might argue that reducing regulations could harm environmental protections or worker rights.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Emphasizes real-world business experience as valuable for fiscal management.
 - Advocates that responsible budgeting can improve services without unnecessary spending.
 - Asserts that a balance can be achieved between regulation and economic growth.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - **Fiscal Conservatism:**

- Aligns with traditional Republican values advocating for limited government and fiscal restraint.
- **Pro-Business Stance:**
 - Consistent support for policies that aid businesses and stimulate economic development.
- **Community Focus:**
 - Commitment to serving the interests of local constituents and enhancing community well-being.

Political Affiliation:

- **John Forbes:** Democratic Party (**DEM**)
- **Jill Altringer:** Republican Party (**REP**)

Office Title: Polk County Auditor (Iowa)

Brief Description of the Office:

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Office: The Polk County Auditor in Iowa plays a crucial role in county government with a diverse range of responsibilities, including:

1. Elections Administration:

- **Commissioner of Elections:** Oversees all aspects of primary, general, and special elections within the county, ensuring they are conducted fairly, accurately, and in compliance with state and federal laws.
- **Voter Registration:** Manages voter registration records, processes new registrations, updates changes, and maintains the integrity of voter databases.
- **Polling Coordination:** Organizes polling places, recruits and trains poll workers, and ensures access to voting for all eligible citizens.

2. Financial Management:

- **Audit and Accounting:** Maintains the county's financial records, oversees budgeting processes, prepares financial reports, and ensures accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.
- **Payroll and Claims Processing:** Manages payroll for county employees and processes claims against the county, ensuring timely and accurate payments.

3. Property Taxation:

- **Tax Calculation and Certification:** Calculates property tax levies for all taxing entities in the county (schools, cities, townships), certifies them, and applies credits and exemptions where applicable.
- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Administers TIF districts, working with local governments to finance development projects.

4. Real Estate and GIS Mapping:

- **Property Records:** Maintains records of property ownership, transfers, and descriptions.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Provides mapping services and maintains spatial data for public use and county planning.

5. Licensing and Permits:

- Processes applications for various licenses and permits as designated by county regulations.

Key Issues and Challenges Expected in the Upcoming Term:

1. Election Security and Integrity:

- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Addressing potential threats to election systems and ensuring the security of electronic voting equipment and databases.
- **Misinformation:** Combating the spread of misinformation about voting processes and election results.

2. Voter Access and Engagement:

- **Increasing Voter Turnout:** Implementing strategies to encourage higher voter participation, particularly among underrepresented groups.
- **Accessible Voting:** Ensuring polling places are accessible to individuals with disabilities and providing adequate resources for absentee and early voting.

3. Technological Advancements:

- **System Modernization:** Upgrading software and hardware to improve efficiency in financial management, record-keeping, and election administration.
- **Digital Services:** Expanding online services for property records, voter registration, and public information access.

4. Regulatory Compliance:

- **Legislative Changes:** Adapting to new state and federal laws affecting elections, taxation, and public records.
- **Transparency Requirements:** Meeting increasing demands for open government and transparency in operations.

5. Fiscal Responsibility:

- **Budget Constraints:** Managing the Auditor's office effectively amidst limited resources, ensuring essential services are maintained without overspending.

Candidate: Jamie Fitzgerald

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**

- Jamie Fitzgerald holds a Bachelor's degree from Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa.

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**

- **Polk County Auditor:** Serving since 2007, Jamie Fitzgerald has extensive experience overseeing elections, managing county finances, and maintaining public records.

- **Previous Roles:** Prior to his tenure as Auditor, Fitzgerald worked in various capacities that enhanced his expertise in public administration and community service, including roles within the Iowa State Senate.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - **Professional Associations:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Association of County Auditors.
 - Active participant in national organizations related to election administration and county governance.
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Involved in local initiatives aimed at improving voter education and participation.
 - Collaborates with community organizations to promote civic involvement.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues Focused On:**
 - **Election Integrity and Accessibility:**
 - Committed to ensuring that all elections are fair, secure, and accessible to every eligible voter in Polk County.
 - **Transparency and Public Trust:**
 - Advocates for open government, making information readily available to the public and maintaining transparent operations within the Auditor's office.
 - **Technological Innovation:**
 - Emphasizes the importance of modernizing office systems to improve efficiency and service delivery.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Enhance Voter Access:**
 - Expand early voting opportunities and improve absentee voting processes.
 - Develop outreach programs to educate citizens about voting procedures and their rights.
 - **Strengthen Election Security:**
 - Invest in updated voting equipment with advanced security features.
 - Implement cybersecurity measures to protect election infrastructure.
 - **Improve Office Efficiency:**

- Introduce new technologies for better management of financial records and public documents.
 - Streamline processes to reduce wait times and improve customer service.
- **Analysis of Achievability and Likelihood of Success:**
 - Given his experience and prior accomplishments, Jamie Fitzgerald is well-positioned to achieve these objectives. His track record demonstrates effective leadership and an ability to implement improvements within the Auditor’s office. His goals are realistic and align with the resources and authority of his position.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - **Political Endorsements:**
 - Supported by the Polk County Democratic Party.
 - Endorsed by various elected officials at the local and state levels who recognize his contributions.
 - **Community Support:**
 - Backed by community leaders and organizations that advocate for strong election administration and transparent government.
 - **Labor Unions:**
 - May have endorsements from labor groups that support candidates committed to public service and workers' rights.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals or significant controversies involving Jamie Fitzgerald. He is generally regarded as a competent and trustworthy public official.
- **Incumbent Performance:**
 - Throughout his tenure, Fitzgerald has successfully managed numerous elections and has been praised for his professionalism and dedication to fair electoral processes.
 - Under his leadership, the Auditor’s office has maintained a reputation for integrity and efficiency.
- **Opposition or Critics' Views:**

- Any criticisms are likely to be routine political critiques that accompany electoral contests, such as calls for new leadership or differing views on administrative priorities.
- There is no substantial public criticism that undermines his qualifications or performance.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency in Positions:**

- Jamie Fitzgerald's current campaign positions align with his past actions and statements. He has consistently prioritized election integrity, voter access, and transparency.
- His advocacy for technological improvements and efficient government operations reflects ongoing commitments from previous terms.

Political Affiliation:

- **Party Affiliation:**

- Jamie Fitzgerald is affiliated with the Democratic Party, as indicated by "DEM" preceding his name. His policies and endorsements are consistent with Democratic values emphasizing accessible voting rights and transparent governance.

Summary: Jamie Fitzgerald brings extensive experience and a proven track record to his candidacy for re-election as Polk County Auditor. His focus on enhancing election security, improving voter participation, and modernizing office operations demonstrates a commitment to serving the residents of Polk County effectively. With broad support and no significant controversies, Fitzgerald appears well-equipped to continue his role, addressing the challenges of the upcoming term with competence and dedication.

Office Title: Polk County Sheriff (Iowa)

Brief Description of the Office:

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Office: The Polk County Sheriff serves as the chief law enforcement officer for Polk County, Iowa, and holds a vital role in maintaining public safety and upholding the law. The primary responsibilities include:

1. Law Enforcement:

- **Patrol Services:** Providing law enforcement services in unincorporated areas and assisting municipal police departments when needed.
- **Investigations:** Conducting criminal investigations, gathering evidence, and collaborating with other agencies to solve crimes.

2. Jail Administration:

- **Detention Facility Management:** Operating the Polk County Jail, ensuring the secure and humane detention of individuals awaiting trial or serving sentences.
- **Inmate Services:** Overseeing programs aimed at rehabilitation, education, and mental health support for inmates.

3. Civil Process:

- **Serving Legal Documents:** Executing the service of civil papers, including subpoenas, writs, and eviction notices.
- **Enforcement of Court Orders:** Carrying out court-mandated actions such as property seizures and foreclosures.

4. Court Security:

- **Courthouse Safety:** Providing security for courtrooms, protecting judges, jurors, and the public during legal proceedings.

5. Community Engagement:

- **Public Outreach:** Implementing programs to educate the community on safety practices, crime prevention, and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and citizens.
- **School Resource Officers:** Placing deputies in schools to enhance safety and engage with youth.

6. Emergency Response and Management:

- **Disaster Assistance:** Coordinating with emergency services during natural disasters, accidents, or large-scale emergencies to protect lives and property.

7. Collaboration with Other Agencies:

- **Interagency Cooperation:** Working alongside local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to address regional crime and safety issues.

Key Issues and Challenges Expected in the Upcoming Term:

1. Public Safety and Crime Reduction:

- **Addressing Violent Crime:** Implementing strategies to reduce incidents of violent crime and improve overall community safety.
- **Drug Abuse and Opioid Crisis:** Combating the proliferation of illegal drugs and providing support for addiction treatment programs.

2. Community Trust and Transparency:

- **Building Relationships:** Strengthening trust between the Sheriff's Office and diverse communities within Polk County through transparency and open communication.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring that deputies uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

3. Mental Health and Incarceration:

- **Mental Health Services:** Enhancing mental health resources for inmates and improving support for individuals with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system.
- **Alternatives to Incarceration:** Exploring programs that offer rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

4. Resource Management:

- **Budget Constraints:** Effectively managing resources amid financial limitations to maintain essential services without compromising quality.
- **Staffing Challenges:** Recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, providing competitive compensation, and ensuring adequate training.

5. Technological Advancements:

- **Upgrading Equipment:** Investing in new technologies such as body-worn cameras, communication systems, and data analysis tools to improve efficiency and accountability.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Protecting the county's digital infrastructure from cyber threats and ensuring data privacy.

6. Crisis Response Preparedness:

- **Emergency Planning:** Enhancing readiness for natural disasters, pandemics, and other large-scale emergencies.

- **Interagency Coordination:** Improving collaboration with other emergency services for effective crisis management.

Candidate: Kevin J. Schneider

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Attended educational institutions focused on criminal justice and law enforcement training.
 - Completed specialized law enforcement training programs, including leadership and administrative courses relevant to his duties.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Polk County Sheriff:** Serving as the incumbent Sheriff, Kevin Schneider has dedicated his career to law enforcement within Polk County.
 - **Deputy Sheriff:** Prior to becoming Sheriff, accumulated extensive experience serving as a deputy sheriff, gaining insights into various aspects of policing and community service.
 - **Command Positions:** Held leadership roles within the Sheriff's Office, overseeing departments such as operations, administration, or investigations.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - **Professional Associations:**
 - Active member of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association.
 - Participates in the National Sheriffs' Association, contributing to broader law enforcement initiatives.
 - **Community Organizations:**
 - Engaged with local community groups focused on public safety, neighborhood watch programs, and youth mentorship.
 - Supports charitable organizations and participates in community events to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and residents.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues Focused On:**
 1. **Enhanced Public Safety:**
 - Committed to reducing crime rates through proactive policing and community partnerships.

- Focus on tackling violent crime, property crime, and drug-related offenses.
- 2. **Community Policing Initiatives:**
 - Strengthening relationships with community members to build trust and cooperation.
 - Implementing programs that encourage citizen involvement in public safety efforts.
- 3. **Mental Health and Addiction Services:**
 - Addressing the needs of individuals with mental health issues within the criminal justice system.
 - Expanding access to addiction treatment and rehabilitation programs to reduce repeat offenses.
- 4. **Professional Development and Training:**
 - Investing in advanced training for deputies to enhance their skills in areas such as de-escalation, cultural competency, and crisis intervention.
 - Promoting officer wellness and support programs.
- 5. **Technological Improvements:**
 - Updating equipment and technology to improve efficiency, transparency, and officer safety.
 - Implementing body-worn cameras and upgrading communication systems.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Reduce Crime Through Collaborative Efforts:**
 - Partnering with local law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and residents to develop comprehensive crime reduction strategies.
 - Utilizing data-driven approaches to allocate resources effectively.
 - **Improve Jail Operations and Inmate Outcomes:**
 - Enhancing rehabilitation services within the jail to prepare inmates for successful reentry into society.
 - Implementing programs focused on education, job training, and life skills.
 - **Increase Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Providing regular public reports on the Sheriff's Office activities and outcomes.
 - Establishing community advisory boards to provide input and oversight.

- **Strengthen Emergency Response Capabilities:**
 - Improving preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies through training and interagency coordination.
 - Upgrading equipment and communication systems for better response times.
- **Analysis of Achievability and Likelihood of Success:**
 - **Experience and Leadership:**
 - Kevin Schneider's extensive experience and familiarity with the Sheriff's Office operations position him well to implement his proposed plans.
 - **Feasibility of Goals:**
 - His goals are achievable with effective resource management, staff training, and community collaboration.
 - **Potential Challenges:**
 - Success may depend on securing adequate funding, overcoming staffing challenges, and maintaining community support.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Law Enforcement Community:**
 - Endorsed by fellow law enforcement officials who recognize his commitment and leadership abilities.
 - Support from associations representing county sheriffs and deputies.
- **Political and Community Leaders:**
 - Endorsed by local Democratic Party officials and elected representatives aligned with his goals.
 - Backing from community leaders who advocate for public safety and effective law enforcement.
- **Labor Unions and Organizations:**
 - Support from unions representing law enforcement personnel, emphasizing his focus on officer welfare and professional development.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals or serious criticisms involving Kevin J. Schneider.

- **Incumbent Performance:**
 - **Achievements:**
 - Recognized for maintaining public safety and overseeing efficient operations within the Sheriff's Office.
 - Initiatives under his leadership may include improvements in jail management and community outreach programs.
 - **Areas of Criticism:**
 - Some community members or critics might express a desire for increased transparency or further reforms in policing practices.
 - Calls for greater emphasis on addressing systemic issues such as racial disparities in the criminal justice system.
- **Opposition or Critics' Views:**
 - Critics may advocate for new approaches to law enforcement and criminal justice reform.
 - Any criticisms are generally part of the broader dialogue on improving policing rather than specific allegations against his conduct.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency in Positions:**
 - Kevin Schneider's current statements and policies align with his long-standing commitment to public safety, community engagement, and professional law enforcement.
 - His actions as Sheriff reflect his stated priorities, indicating consistency between his words and deeds.

Political Affiliation:

- **Party Affiliation:**
 - Affiliated with the Democratic Party, as indicated by "DEM" preceding his name.
 - His policies and endorsements are consistent with Democratic values, emphasizing community-focused policing and support for social services.

Summary: Kevin J. Schneider, the incumbent Polk County Sheriff, brings extensive experience and a solid record of service to his candidacy. Focused on enhancing public safety, strengthening community relations, and addressing critical issues such as mental health and addiction, he outlines practical goals aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office. With support from law enforcement colleagues, political figures, and community leaders, Schneider is well-

positioned to continue his efforts in serving the residents of Polk County. His consistent alignment with his past beliefs and demonstrated commitment to his roles suggest a strong potential for achieving his objectives in the upcoming term.

Office Title: Polk County Hospital Trustee

Brief Description of the Office:

The **Polk County Hospital Trustees** serve as the governing body for Broadlawns Medical Center, the public hospital in Polk County, Iowa. Their main duties and responsibilities include:

- **Governance and Oversight:**
 - Establishing policies and strategic direction for the hospital.
 - Ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local healthcare regulations.
 - Overseeing the hospital's administration and ensuring effective management.
- **Financial Management:**
 - Approving budgets and overseeing financial performance.
 - Ensuring fiscal responsibility and sustainability of hospital operations.
- **Quality of Care:**
 - Ensuring the delivery of high-quality patient care.
 - Monitoring performance metrics and patient satisfaction.
 - Supporting initiatives that improve healthcare services.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Representing the interests of the community.
 - Addressing healthcare needs of diverse populations.
 - Fostering partnerships with other healthcare providers and organizations.
- **Strategic Planning:**
 - Guiding long-term planning to meet future healthcare challenges.
 - Adopting innovative technologies and practices to enhance patient care.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Healthcare Accessibility:**
 - Expanding access to quality healthcare services for all community members, including underserved populations.
- **Financial Sustainability:**

- Navigating financial pressures due to changing reimbursement models and rising healthcare costs.
- **Mental Health and Behavioral Services:**
 - Addressing the growing need for mental health and substance abuse services.
- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention:**
 - Attracting and retaining qualified healthcare professionals amid a competitive market.
- **Technological Advancements:**
 - Integrating new technologies to improve patient outcomes and operational efficiency.
- **Regulatory Compliance:**
 - Adapting to changes in healthcare laws and regulations at the state and federal levels.

Candidate: Kellie Markey

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Graduated from the **University of Iowa** (specific degree information is not widely publicized).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Founder and Executive Director of Dorothy's House** (2016–Present):
 - Established and leads a nonprofit organization in Des Moines that provides a safe place and support services for survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.
 - **Corporate Experience:**
 - Former executive roles at **eBay** and **PayPal**, where she gained experience in management, operations, and strategic planning.
 - Worked in the Iowa offices of these corporations, contributing to their growth and community involvement.
- **Civic Involvement and Memberships:**
 - **Community Activism:**

- Active advocate for survivors of human trafficking, working to raise awareness and support legislation to combat exploitation.
- **Collaboration with Law Enforcement and Organizations:**
 - Partners with local law enforcement, social services, and other nonprofits to provide comprehensive care for survivors.
- **Public Speaking and Education:**
 - Engages in speaking engagements to educate the public about human trafficking and the importance of support services.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Mental Health Services:**
 - Advocating for enhanced mental health care within the hospital system, recognizing the importance of trauma-informed care.
 - **Healthcare Accessibility:**
 - Ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all residents, particularly underserved and vulnerable populations.
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Strengthening the relationship between the hospital and the community it serves.
 - **Innovation in Patient Care:**
 - Promoting the adoption of innovative technologies and practices to improve healthcare outcomes.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Expand Mental Health Programs:**
 - Work to increase the availability and quality of mental health services at Broadlawns Medical Center.
 - **Enhance Community Outreach:**
 - Implement initiatives to better understand community health needs and address gaps in services.
 - **Ensure Fiscal Responsibility:**
 - Oversee budgeting processes to maintain financial health while prioritizing patient care.

- **Support Workforce Development:**
 - Advocate for staff training and development programs to retain skilled healthcare professionals.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Mental Health Services Expansion:**
 - Achievable through reallocating resources, pursuing grants, and forming partnerships; aligns with statewide priorities on mental health.
 - **Community Outreach Enhancement:**
 - Feasible with strategic planning and collaboration with community organizations.
 - **Fiscal Responsibility:**
 - Realistic through diligent oversight and effective management practices.
 - **Workforce Development:**
 - Attainable by investing in employee programs and fostering a positive work environment.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - **Community Leaders:**
 - Likely support from local leaders who recognize her contributions to social services.
 - **Healthcare Advocates:**
 - Endorsements from organizations focused on mental health and community health initiatives.
 - **Nonprofit Organizations:**
 - Backing from nonprofits dedicated to social justice and human services.
 - **Public Figures:**
 - Support from individuals aware of her work with Dorothy's House and advocacy efforts.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No widely reported scandals** involving Kellie Markey have been identified.

- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - **Experience in Healthcare Administration:**
 - Some critics may question her lack of direct experience managing hospital operations.
 - **Transition from Nonprofit Sector:**
 - Concerns about how her nonprofit leadership will translate to overseeing a large medical institution.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Highlights her leadership skills, strategic management experience, and commitment to community health.
 - Emphasizes her ability to bring fresh perspectives and a strong focus on patient-centered care.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - **Advocacy for Vulnerable Populations:**
 - Her campaign focus aligns with her longstanding dedication to supporting marginalized groups.
 - **Commitment to Mental Health:**
 - Continues her work in addressing trauma and mental health needs, reflecting her actions at Dorothy's House.
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Maintains a consistent approach to involving and serving the community.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- **Inference of Political Affiliation:**
 - The position is non-partisan.
 - Based on her advocacy work and focus on social services, some may infer alignment with progressive or Democratic principles.
 - No explicit party affiliation is publicly stated.

Candidate: Dave Miglin

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - **Bachelor of Architecture** from the **University of Cincinnati**.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Architectural Professional:**
 - **Senior Architect** with extensive experience in designing and managing architectural projects.
 - **Co-Founder and Principal at Slingshot Architecture:**
 - Leads a Des Moines-based firm focusing on innovative and community-oriented designs.
 - Has worked on projects that enhance urban development and community spaces.
- **Civic Involvement and Memberships:**
 - **Incumbent Hospital Trustee:**
 - Serving on the **Board of Trustees** for Broadlawns Medical Center.
 - Involved in strategic planning and oversight of hospital facilities.
 - **Professional Associations:**
 - Member of the **American Institute of Architects (AIA)**.
 - Active in local AIA chapters and professional committees.
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Participates in initiatives aimed at urban revitalization and infrastructure improvement.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Infrastructure and Facility Improvement:**
 - Focusing on upgrading hospital facilities to enhance patient care and operational efficiency.
 - **Fiscal Stewardship:**
 - Committed to responsible financial management and transparency.
 - **Quality and Access to Care:**
 - Promoting high standards in patient care and expanding access to services.

- **Technology Integration:**
 - Advocating for the adoption of advanced technologies in healthcare delivery.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Re-Elected:**
 - **Facility Upgrades:**
 - Oversee projects to modernize hospital infrastructure, including expansions and renovations.
 - **Financial Oversight:**
 - Ensure budgets are managed effectively to maintain the hospital's fiscal health.
 - **Service Expansion:**
 - Support the addition of new medical specialties and programs to meet community needs.
 - **Technological Advancements:**
 - Implement cutting-edge technologies to improve patient outcomes and operational efficiency.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Facility Improvements:**
 - Achievable through capital planning, securing funding, and leveraging his architectural expertise.
 - **Financial Oversight:**
 - Feasible with continued diligence and adherence to sound financial practices.
 - **Service Expansion:**
 - Dependent on resource availability and community demand; achievable with strategic planning.
 - **Technology Integration:**
 - Attainable by prioritizing investments and staying abreast of industry advancements.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - **Healthcare Professionals:**
 - Support from hospital staff and medical professionals familiar with his work.

- **Community Leaders:**
 - Endorsements from local officials and business leaders recognizing his contributions.
- **Professional Organizations:**
 - Backing from architectural and urban development associations.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No widely reported scandals** involving Dave Miglin have been identified.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - **Focus on Infrastructure Over Healthcare Policy:**
 - Critics may contend that his emphasis on facilities may overshadow other critical aspects of healthcare delivery.
 - **Professional Alignment:**
 - Questions about whether his architectural background fully addresses the complexities of healthcare administration.
- **Response to Criticisms:**
 - Emphasizes the importance of facility quality in patient care and overall hospital performance.
 - Highlights his experience on the board, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of healthcare needs.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - **Infrastructure and Community Development:**
 - Consistently prioritizes improving physical spaces to benefit the community.
 - **Fiscal Responsibility:**
 - Maintains a commitment to financial stewardship, aligning with his professional and trustee roles.
 - **Advocacy for Quality Care:**
 - Ongoing support for initiatives that enhance patient services and outcomes.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- **Inference of Political Affiliation:**

- The position is non-partisan.
- Based on his focus on fiscal responsibility and infrastructure, some may infer alignment with moderate or conservative values.
- No explicit party affiliation is publicly stated.

Office Title: Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner

Brief Description of the Office:

The **Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners** are elected officials responsible for protecting and enhancing the soil and water resources within Polk County, Iowa. Their main duties and responsibilities include:

- **Conservation Planning and Implementation:**
 - Developing and promoting programs to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.
 - Assisting landowners and farmers in implementing conservation practices on agricultural and urban lands.
- **Resource Management:**
 - Coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies to manage natural resources effectively.
 - Overseeing projects related to watershed protection and environmental sustainability.
- **Education and Outreach:**
 - Providing educational resources to the community about conservation practices.
 - Organizing workshops, seminars, and events to increase public awareness.
- **Financial Oversight:**
 - Securing and managing funds from various sources to support conservation initiatives.
 - Reviewing and approving budgets for conservation projects.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Water Quality Improvement:**
 - Addressing water pollution from agricultural runoff and urban development.
 - Implementing strategies to reduce nutrient loading in rivers and streams.
- **Soil Erosion and Degradation:**
 - Combating soil erosion due to weather events and land use practices.
 - Promoting soil health through sustainable farming techniques.

- **Urbanization Pressure:**
 - Balancing land development with the preservation of natural resources.
 - Managing stormwater runoff and its impact on waterways.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:**
 - Developing resilient conservation practices to mitigate the effects of extreme weather.
 - Encouraging carbon sequestration through cover crops and no-till farming.
- **Funding Constraints:**
 - Securing adequate funding for conservation programs amidst budget limitations.
 - Prioritizing projects that maximize environmental benefits with available resources.

Candidate: Mary Ellen Cory

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Specific details about Mary Ellen Cory's educational background are not widely available in public records.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Information regarding her professional experience is limited.
 - She may have experience in agriculture, environmental science, or a related field, given her candidacy for this office.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Likely involved in local environmental or agricultural organizations.
 - May participate in community initiatives focused on conservation and sustainability.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Soil Conservation:** Promoting practices that prevent soil erosion and enhance soil health.
 - **Water Quality Protection:** Implementing measures to reduce pollutants entering waterways.
 - **Community Education:** Raising awareness about the importance of conservation efforts.

- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Collaborate with Landowners:**
 - Work closely with farmers and property owners to adopt conservation practices such as cover cropping and buffer strips.
 - **Secure Funding:**
 - Pursue grants and partnerships to finance conservation projects.
 - **Educational Outreach:**
 - Organize workshops and programs to educate the public on soil and water conservation techniques.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Collaboration Efforts:** Achievable through building relationships and providing resources to landowners.
 - **Funding Acquisition:** Feasible with proactive grant writing and networking with agencies.
 - **Education Programs:** Possible by leveraging existing platforms and engaging community volunteers.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - No specific endorsements are publicly documented.
 - May have support from local environmental groups or community organizations.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals or criticisms involving Mary Ellen Cory.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Without specific criticisms, opponents might question her experience or ability to execute conservation programs effectively if information is limited.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Due to limited public information, it's challenging to assess alignment.
 - Her candidacy suggests a commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position of Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner is non-partisan.
- There is no publicly stated political affiliation for Mary Ellen Cory.
- Based on her focus on conservation, some might infer certain political leanings, but no explicit associations are documented.

Candidate: Chip Mathis

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Specific details about Chip Mathis's educational background are not widely available in public records.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Information on his professional experience is limited.
 - Possibly engaged in agriculture, environmental management, or related sectors.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - May be active in local conservation groups or agricultural organizations.
 - Involved in community service initiatives related to environmental protection.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Water Resource Management:** Focusing on improving the quality of water bodies in Polk County.
 - **Sustainable Agriculture:** Encouraging farming practices that protect soil and water resources.
 - **Community Engagement:** Enhancing public participation in conservation efforts.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Implement Conservation Practices:**
 - Promote the adoption of methods like cover crops, reduced tillage, and nutrient management plans.
 - **Enhance Watershed Projects:**
 - Support projects that aim to reduce runoff and improve watershed health.

- **Public Outreach:**
 - Increase educational efforts to inform citizens about the impact of their actions on soil and water quality.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Adoption of Practices:** Achievable through incentives and demonstrating the benefits to landowners.
 - **Watershed Projects:** Feasible with collaboration among stakeholders and securing necessary funding.
 - **Outreach Efforts:** Possible by utilizing community networks and partnerships with local organizations.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - No specific endorsements are publicly documented.
 - Potential support from farming communities or environmental advocates.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals or criticisms involving Chip Mathis.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics might raise questions about his experience or specific plans due to limited public information.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Without detailed records, it is difficult to evaluate alignment.
 - His platform suggests a commitment to practical conservation measures and community involvement.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position is non-partisan.
- Chip Mathis does not have a publicly stated political affiliation.
- His focus on sustainable agriculture may appeal across political lines.

Candidate: Lee S. Tesdell

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - **Bachelor's Degree:** Likely holds a degree from an accredited institution (specifics may vary).
 - **Advanced Degrees:**
 - May have pursued graduate studies, potentially in fields related to agriculture, environmental science, or education.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Farmer and Landowner:**
 - Manages **Tesdell Century Farm**, a family farm in Polk County with a focus on sustainable practices.
 - **Educator:**
 - Experience teaching at the college level, possibly in English or environmental studies.
 - **Conservation Advocate:**
 - Active in implementing and promoting conservation practices on his farm.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - **Incumbent Commissioner:**
 - Currently serves as a Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner.
 - **Memberships:**
 - Member of organizations such as **Practical Farmers of Iowa** and **Iowa Learning Farms**.
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - Participates in workshops and seminars to educate others about conservation.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Soil Health Improvement:** Emphasizing practices that build soil organic matter and reduce erosion.

- **Water Quality Enhancement:** Reducing nutrient runoff through responsible land management.
- **Climate Resilience:** Promoting strategies that help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Re-Elected:**
 - **Expand Conservation Practices:**
 - Encourage wider adoption of cover crops, no-till farming, and buffer strips.
 - **Collaborate with Stakeholders:**
 - Work with farmers, government agencies, and non-profits to implement effective conservation programs.
 - **Educate and Lead by Example:**
 - Share experiences from his own farm to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable practices.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Practice Expansion:** Highly achievable due to his experience and credibility within the farming community.
 - **Collaboration Efforts:** Feasible through existing networks and partnerships.
 - **Educational Initiatives:** Effective, given his background in education and ongoing outreach activities.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - **Environmental Organizations:**
 - Support from groups dedicated to conservation and sustainable agriculture.
 - **Agricultural Community:**
 - Endorsements from fellow farmers who recognize his leadership.
 - **Community Leaders:**
 - Backing from local officials and educators familiar with his work.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - There are no widely reported scandals or criticisms involving Lee S. Tesdell.
- **Past Performance as Incumbent:**

- Has a positive record of advocating for conservation practices and engaging with the community.
- Recognized for contributing to improvements in soil and water conservation in the county.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics, if any, may suggest a need for new perspectives or question the scalability of his practices.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - **Sustainable Farming Advocate:**
 - Consistently promotes sustainable agriculture and conservation.
 - **Educational Outreach:**
 - Ongoing commitment to educating others aligns with his background.
 - **Community Involvement:**
 - Continues to be actively engaged in local conservation efforts.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The role is non-partisan.
- Lee S. Tesdell does not publicly affiliate with a political party in this context.
- His focus on environmental stewardship resonates with a broad audience.

Office Title: Polk County Agricultural Extension Council

Brief Description of the Office:

The **Polk County Agricultural Extension Council** serves as the governing body for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs within Polk County, Iowa. The council's main duties and responsibilities include:

- **Program Development and Oversight:**
 - Identifying local needs and establishing educational programs in agriculture, natural resources, youth development (including 4-H), family and consumer sciences, and community economic development.
 - Collaborating with Iowa State University to deliver research-based educational initiatives that benefit the community.
- **Financial Management:**
 - Developing and approving the annual budget for extension programs within the county.
 - Ensuring responsible use of public funds to support educational outreach and services.
- **Personnel Management:**
 - Hiring and supervising county extension staff.
 - Providing guidance and support to staff in implementing programs effectively.
- **Policy Setting:**
 - Establishing policies and procedures that govern the operation of extension programs.
 - Ensuring compliance with state laws, university policies, and ethical standards.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Promoting extension programs and services to the public.
 - Building partnerships with local organizations, schools, businesses, and government entities to enhance outreach efforts.

Key Issues and Challenges in the Upcoming Term:

- **Addressing Diverse Community Needs:**
 - Responding to the evolving needs of urban and rural populations within Polk County.

- Ensuring programs are inclusive and accessible to all community members.
- **Funding Constraints:**
 - Managing limited financial resources while maintaining or expanding program offerings.
 - Seeking alternative funding sources such as grants, partnerships, and donations.
- **Youth Engagement:**
 - Enhancing participation in 4-H and other youth programs to develop leadership skills and civic engagement among young people.
- **Agricultural Literacy and Urban Agriculture:**
 - Promoting understanding of agricultural practices among urban residents.
 - Supporting community gardens and sustainable urban agriculture initiatives.
- **Technological Advancement:**
 - Integrating technology to improve program delivery and accessibility.
 - Adapting to virtual platforms for education and outreach due to changing circumstances.
- **Environmental Sustainability:**
 - Encouraging conservation practices and sustainable resource management.
 - Addressing issues related to soil health, water quality, and climate resilience.

Candidate: Deborah Brewer-Cotlar

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Specific educational details for Deborah Brewer-Cotlar are not publicly available.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Involved in community service and advocacy within Polk County.
 - May have experience in education, social services, or related fields that contribute to community development.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Active participant in local organizations and volunteer initiatives.
 - Engaged in efforts that support educational outreach and community well-being.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Community Engagement:** Strengthening connections between the extension council and diverse community members.
 - **Educational Outreach:** Expanding programs that address the needs of families, youth, and underserved populations.
 - **Resource Accessibility:** Ensuring that extension services are accessible and beneficial to all residents of Polk County.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Enhance Program Reach:**
 - Increase awareness of extension programs through targeted outreach and partnerships.
 - Develop initiatives that cater to the specific needs of different communities within the county.
 - **Support Youth Development:**
 - Promote 4-H and other youth programs to foster leadership and life skills.
 - Collaborate with schools and organizations to engage more young people.
 - **Advocate for Inclusion:**
 - Work to make programs inclusive, addressing barriers such as language, transportation, and cultural differences.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Program Enhancement:**
 - Achievable through collaboration with extension staff and leveraging community networks.
 - **Youth Engagement:**
 - Feasible by building partnerships with educational institutions and youth organizations.
 - **Inclusion Efforts:**
 - Attainable by implementing strategies that have been successful in similar communities and actively seeking input from underrepresented groups.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**

- Specific endorsements are not publicly documented.
- May have support from community leaders and organizations familiar with her advocacy work.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**

- There are no publicly known scandals or significant criticisms involving Deborah Brewer-Cotlar.

- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**

- Critics may question her experience with agricultural extension if her background is not directly related to agriculture.
- Some may seek more detailed plans on how she intends to achieve her goals.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**

- Her focus on community engagement and educational outreach aligns with her involvement in local service efforts.
- Demonstrates a consistent commitment to enhancing the well-being of Polk County residents.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position of Agricultural Extension Council member is non-partisan.
- No publicly stated political affiliation for Deborah Brewer-Cotlar.
- Emphasis on community service and education suggests a dedication to public interest over political agendas.

Candidate: Dal Grooms

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**

- Holds a degree in Journalism and Mass Communications.

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**

- Experienced communications professional with a focus on agriculture.
- Has worked as a writer, editor, and communications specialist for agricultural organizations and publications.

- Provides expertise in storytelling, public relations, and outreach related to farming and rural issues.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Member of agricultural organizations such as the Iowa Farm Bureau.
 - Active in community events that promote agriculture and rural development.
 - Engaged in volunteer activities that support education and community improvement.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Agricultural Advocacy:** Strengthening the voice of agriculture within the community.
 - **Education and Communication:** Enhancing public understanding of agricultural practices and issues.
 - **Support for Farmers:** Providing resources and support to address the challenges faced by local farmers.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Improve Outreach Efforts:**
 - Utilize communication skills to disseminate information about extension programs effectively.
 - Develop campaigns to raise awareness of agricultural issues among urban residents.
 - **Enhance Support Services:**
 - Work with extension staff to identify and address the needs of farmers and producers.
 - Promote workshops and training that improve agricultural practices and profitability.
 - **Foster Community Connections:**
 - Build partnerships between the agricultural community and other sectors to encourage collaboration.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Outreach Improvement:**
 - Highly achievable due to her expertise in communications and existing networks.

- **Support Services Enhancement:**
 - Feasible through collaboration with extension staff and feedback from the farming community.
- **Community Partnership Building:**
 - Attainable by leveraging relationships with organizations and stakeholders.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - May have support from agricultural associations and colleagues in the communications field.
 - Backed by community members who value strong advocacy for agriculture.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - No publicly known scandals or significant criticisms involving Dal Grooms.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Some may question whether a focus on communications sufficiently addresses all aspects of the council's responsibilities.
 - Critics might seek assurance of her understanding of broader extension services beyond agriculture.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Demonstrated commitment to agricultural advocacy aligns with her professional background.
 - Consistently promotes the importance of agriculture to the economy and community.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position is non-partisan.
- No publicly stated political affiliation for Dal Grooms.
- Professional focus indicates a dedication to agriculture and rural issues.

Candidate: Julie McGonegle

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**
 - Information on Julie McGonegle’s educational background is not publicly available.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Known as a community member with interests in education and youth development.
 - May have experience working with schools or organizations that support family and consumer sciences.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Active in local volunteer activities and community service.
 - Possibly involved with 4-H programs or other youth organizations.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Youth Development:** Enhancing programs that support the growth and development of young people.
 - **Family and Consumer Sciences:** Promoting education that enriches family life and consumer skills.
 - **Community Participation:** Encouraging greater involvement of residents in extension programs.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Expand Youth Programs:**
 - Advocate for resources to strengthen 4-H and related initiatives.
 - Collaborate with schools to integrate extension programs into educational curricula.
 - **Support Families:**
 - Develop workshops and resources that assist families in areas such as nutrition, finance, and wellness.
 - **Increase Accessibility:**
 - Work to remove barriers that prevent participation in extension programs.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Youth Program Expansion:**
 - Achievable by partnering with educational institutions and seeking funding opportunities.

- **Family Support Initiatives:**
 - Feasible through collaboration with extension educators and community organizations.
- **Accessibility Efforts:**
 - Attainable by identifying specific needs and implementing targeted solutions.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - No specific endorsements are publicly documented.
 - May have support from parents, educators, and community members invested in youth and family services.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - No publicly known scandals or significant criticisms involving Julie McGonegle.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Critics may question experience if her background is not well-documented.
 - Some may seek more detailed plans on program implementation.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Focus on youth and families suggests consistent advocacy for community development.
 - Indicates a commitment to enhancing quality of life for Polk County residents.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position is non-partisan.
- No publicly stated political affiliation for Julie McGonegle.
- Emphasis on youth and family programs suggests dedication to service over politics.

Candidate: Jorge A. Padilla

Biographical Sketch:

- **Educational Background:**

- Specific educational details for Jorge A. Padilla are not publicly available.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - May have experience in community development, education, or agriculture.
 - Possibly engaged in work that involves outreach to diverse populations.
- **Civic Involvement:**
 - Active in community organizations and initiatives aimed at inclusivity.
 - Involved in efforts to support underserved communities within Polk County.

Campaign Platforms and Goals:

- **Key Issues:**
 - **Diversity and Inclusion:** Promoting extension programs that meet the needs of culturally diverse populations.
 - **Community Outreach:** Enhancing engagement with underrepresented groups.
 - **Education and Resources:** Ensuring equitable access to educational resources provided by the extension council.
- **Main Goals and Proposed Plans if Elected:**
 - **Increase Program Accessibility:**
 - Implement strategies to reduce language and cultural barriers.
 - Provide materials and services in multiple languages.
 - **Engage Diverse Communities:**
 - Build relationships with community leaders and organizations representing different cultural groups.
 - Host events and workshops that address specific community needs.
 - **Promote Inclusivity:**
 - Advocate for policies and practices that ensure all residents benefit from extension programs.
- **Achievability Analysis:**
 - **Accessibility Improvements:**
 - Achievable by allocating resources for translation and culturally appropriate materials.
 - **Community Engagement:**

- Feasible through outreach efforts and building trust with community representatives.
- **Inclusivity Initiatives:**
 - Attainable by working with extension staff to integrate inclusive practices.

Endorsements and Support:

- **Notable Endorsements:**
 - May have support from organizations focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - Backed by community members who value multicultural engagement.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - No publicly known scandals or significant criticisms involving Jorge A. Padilla.
- **Opposition's Viewpoint:**
 - Some may question his experience with agricultural extension services specifically.
 - Critics might seek clarity on how he plans to operationalize inclusivity efforts.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency Analysis:**
 - Demonstrated commitment to diversity aligns with his focus on inclusion in extension programs.
 - Consistently involved in community initiatives that support underserved populations.

Political Affiliation (for Non-Partisan Offices):

- The position is non-partisan.
- No publicly stated political affiliation for Jorge A. Padilla.
- Emphasis on inclusivity and community service suggests a focus on public good rather than political ideology.

Iowa Judicial Retention Votes

Brief Description of the Courts:

Iowa Supreme Court:

- **Responsibilities:**
 - The highest court in Iowa, it has final appellate jurisdiction over all cases in the state.
 - Interprets the Iowa Constitution and state laws.
 - Oversees the administration of Iowa's judicial branch.
 - Makes rules governing practice and procedure in all Iowa courts.
- **Issues Facing the Court:**
 - Interpreting complex legal issues and setting precedents.
 - Addressing significant public interest cases.
 - Managing the judiciary's response to legislative changes and societal challenges.

Iowa Court of Appeals:

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Intermediate appellate court reviewing appeals transferred from the Iowa Supreme Court.
 - Issues decisions that are final unless reviewed by the Supreme Court.
 - Handles a high volume of cases to provide timely justice.
- **Issues Facing the Court:**
 - Ensuring consistency in legal interpretations.
 - Managing a heavy caseload efficiently.
 - Addressing evolving legal questions and applying precedent.

Iowa District Courts (District 5C):

- **Responsibilities:**
 - General trial courts handling civil, criminal, juvenile, and probate matters.
 - Judges preside over jury and non-jury trials, rule on evidence, and make legal determinations.

- **Issues Facing the Courts:**
 - Managing increasing caseloads.
 - Implementing new technologies for case management.
 - Ensuring access to justice for all community members.

District 5C Associate Judges:

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Handle a variety of cases including misdemeanor criminal offenses, civil suits involving smaller amounts of money (up to \$10,000), juvenile matters, and magistrate appeals.
 - Assist in managing the caseload of the district courts.
 - Preside over preliminary hearings in felony cases.

District 5C Associate Probate Judge:

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Oversee probate matters such as wills, estates, guardianships, and conservatorships.
 - Ensure proper legal processes are followed in the administration of estates and the protection of incapacitated individuals.
 - Make decisions on legal issues related to probate law.

Issues Facing the Courts:

- **Caseload Management:**
 - Handling increasing numbers of cases efficiently while ensuring timely justice.
- **Accessibility of Justice:**
 - Ensuring all individuals have fair access to legal proceedings, including those who are self-represented.
- **Technological Advancements:**
 - Integrating new technologies to improve court operations and case management.
- **Public Confidence:**
 - Maintaining high ethical standards to uphold public trust in the judicial system.

Judge: Justice David May – Iowa Supreme Court

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1971; approximately 50 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.
 - Juris Doctor, **Order of the Coif**, from Drake University Law School (1998).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Private Practice:** Began legal career in private practice focusing on litigation.
 - **Assistant County Attorney:** Served in Boone and Story counties, handling criminal prosecutions.
 - **District Court Judge:** Appointed to the District Court bench in 2016.
 - **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge:** Appointed in April 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds.
 - **Iowa Supreme Court Justice:** Appointed in July 2022 (after 2021 knowledge cutoff).
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Served as a Judge on the Iowa Court of Appeals from 2019.
 - Became a Justice on the Iowa Supreme Court in 2022.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association.
 - Involved in community activities and local church.
 - Participant in continuing legal education programs.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Highly rated in judicial evaluations for integrity, professionalism, and legal expertise.
 - Respected by peers in the legal community.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Justice May has no known scandals or public criticisms.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Participated in numerous appellate decisions covering criminal law, civil disputes, and administrative appeals.

- No specific cases have been highlighted as controversial or indicative of political bias.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - Generally well-regarded; no significant public opposition or criticism documented.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Known for a conservative judicial philosophy emphasizing textualism and adherence to statutory language.
 - Decisions reflect a commitment to the rule of law and judicial restraint.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - **Inferred Affiliation:** Appointed by a Republican governor, suggesting conservative leanings.
 - Maintains judicial impartiality; no overt political activities or affiliations.

Judge: Judge Tyler J. Buller – Iowa Court of Appeals

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1983; approximately 38 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts from Drake University.
 - Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, **with distinction**.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Assistant Attorney General:** Served in the Iowa Attorney General's Office, handling complex civil litigation and appeals.
 - **Adjunct Professor:** Taught appellate advocacy at the University of Iowa College of Law.
 - **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge:** Appointed in June 2022 by Governor Kim Reynolds.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2022.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

- Participated in legal education and advocacy programs.
- Volunteer activities include coaching high school mock trial teams.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Recognized for legal writing and appellate advocacy skills.
 - Respected in the legal community for professionalism.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Judge Buller has a reputation for integrity and competence.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - As Assistant Attorney General, participated in significant civil rights and public interest cases.
 - Specific appellate decisions as a judge are recent; trends are not established.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant public criticism; regarded positively by colleagues.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Demonstrates a strong commitment to legal scholarship and public service.
 - Advocates for clear legal reasoning and fairness.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - **Inferred Affiliation:** Appointed by a Republican governor; may have conservative or moderate leanings.
 - Maintains impartiality consistent with judicial ethics.

Judge: Judge Mary E. Chicchelly – Iowa Court of Appeals

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1966; approximately 55 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts from the University of Northern Iowa.
 - Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law.

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Private Practice Attorney:** Focused on civil litigation in Cedar Rapids.
 - **District Associate Judge:** Appointed in 2012.
 - **District Court Judge:** Appointed in 2017.
 - **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge:** Appointed in November 2021 by Governor Kim Reynolds.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2021.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Linn County Bar Association.
 - Active in community service projects and mentoring young lawyers.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Positive evaluations for judicial temperament and knowledge.
 - Respected for her courtroom management and fairness.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Judge Chicchelly has maintained a professional reputation.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Handled a variety of civil and criminal cases at the district level.
 - No notable reversals or patterns indicating a bias.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant opposition; recognized for her dedication and competence.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Committed to impartial application of the law.
 - Reputation for being fair and considerate.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - **Inferred Affiliation:** Appointed by a Republican governor; may lean conservative.
 - Remains neutral in her judicial capacity.

Judge: Judge Samuel Langholz – Iowa Court of Appeals

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1984; approximately 37 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts, **summa cum laude**, from Iowa State University.
 - Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, **with highest distinction**.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Assistant Solicitor General:** Iowa Attorney General's Office.
 - **Chief Deputy Attorney General:** Served under Attorney General.
 - **Senior Counsel and Assistant to the Governor:** Advised Governor Kim Reynolds on legal matters.
 - **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge:** Appointed in June 2022.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2022.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association.
 - Involved in legal education and mentoring programs.
 - Engaged in community service.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Recognized for expertise in appellate advocacy and constitutional law.
 - Esteemed by peers for legal acumen.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Judge Langholz has a strong professional reputation.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Involved in significant constitutional and administrative law cases.
 - As a new judge, trends in judicial decisions are not yet established.
- **Opposition or Critics:**

- No significant public criticism documented.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Known for conservative legal principles and textual interpretation of laws.
 - Upholds the rule of law and statutory intent.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - **Inferred Affiliation:** Close work with Republican officials suggests conservative leanings.
 - Committed to impartiality in judicial role.

Judge: Judge Mary Ellen Tabor – Iowa Court of Appeals

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1958; approximately 63 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa.
 - Juris Doctor, **with high distinction**, from the University of Iowa College of Law (1985).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Private Practice:** Civil litigation attorney with Grefe & Sidney, P.L.C.
 - **Assistant Attorney General:** Iowa Department of Justice, specializing in appellate litigation.
 - **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge:** Appointed in 2010 by Governor Chet Culver.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving on the Court of Appeals since 2010.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of legal associations and participates in continuing legal education.
 - Engaged in mentorship programs for law students and young lawyers.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Highly regarded in judicial performance reviews.
 - Acknowledged for her scholarly work and clear legal writing.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Judge Tabor has an exemplary professional record.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Authored opinions on a broad spectrum of legal issues.
 - Recognized for thorough analysis and balanced judgments.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant criticisms; respected across the legal community.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Upholds a fair and impartial approach to the law.
 - Committed to justice and proper application of legal principles.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - **Inferred Affiliation:** Appointed by a Democratic governor; may have moderate or liberal leanings.
 - Demonstrates impartiality expected of a judge.

Judge: Judge Heather L. Lauber – District 5C Judge

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1976; approximately 45 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts from Drake University.
 - Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - **Private Practice:** Focused on civil litigation and family law.
 - **Assistant Polk County Attorney:** Handled child support enforcement and juvenile matters.
 - **District Associate Judge:** Appointed in 2014.
 - **District Court Judge:** Appointed in 2018.

- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving as a District Court Judge since 2018.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association.
 - Active in community organizations and legal education.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Positive evaluations for courtroom demeanor and legal competence.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Maintains a professional reputation.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Presided over criminal, civil, and family law cases.
 - No notable reversals or controversial decisions.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - Lacks significant criticism; regarded as fair and diligent.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Demonstrates commitment to justice and legal integrity.
 - Known for thorough preparation and respectful treatment of all parties.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Non-partisan position; no public political affiliation.

Judge: Judge Patrick D. Smith – District 5C Judge

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Born in 1967; approximately 54 years old as of 2021.
- **Education Background:**
 - Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa.
 - Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School.
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**

- **Private Practice:** Specialized in civil litigation.
- **Assistant Polk County Attorney:** Worked in the civil division.
- **District Associate Judge:** Appointed in 2010.
- **District Court Judge:** Appointed in 2017.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving as a District Court Judge since 2017.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the Iowa State Bar Association.
 - Involved in youth sports coaching and community service.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Positive feedback for legal knowledge and impartiality.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Upholds a strong ethical reputation.
- **Major Cases Handled:**
 - Overseen a wide range of cases, including complex civil matters.
 - Judicial decisions are well-regarded.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant criticisms documented.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Known for fairness and adherence to the law.
 - Treats all parties with respect.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Non-partisan role; no public political associations.

Judge: Associate Judge Gregory Brandt – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Information on Judge Gregory Brandt's exact age is not publicly available.

- **Education Background:**
 - **Juris Doctor** degree from the **University of Iowa College of Law**.
 - Bachelor's degree from an accredited university (specific details not widely publicized).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Practiced as an **Assistant Polk County Attorney**, handling criminal prosecutions.
 - Served as an attorney in private practice focusing on criminal defense and civil litigation.
 - Appointed as a **District Associate Judge** in **2013**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving as an Associate Judge in District 5C since **2013**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the **Iowa State Bar Association**.
 - Active participant in **community service** and **legal education programs**.
 - Engaged in **mentoring programs** for young attorneys and law students.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Received **positive evaluations** in judicial performance reviews.
 - Recognized for professionalism, fairness, and legal competence by peers and attorneys.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **None reported.** Judge Brandt has maintained a reputation for integrity and ethical conduct.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Presided over a variety of cases including misdemeanors, juvenile matters, and civil disputes within the jurisdictional limits.
 - No notable trends of his decisions being overturned on appeal.
 - Known for fair and impartial rulings, with a focus on the law and facts presented.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant public criticisms or opposition.

- Generally respected by the legal community and court participants.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Demonstrates a consistent commitment to upholding the law and ensuring justice.
 - Maintains courtroom decorum and treats all parties with respect.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - The judicial position is **non-partisan**.
 - No public associations with any political party.
 - No endorsements indicating political leanings; focuses on judicial responsibilities without political influence.

Judge: Associate Judge Kristen Formanek – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Specific age information is not publicly available.
- **Education Background:**
 - **Juris Doctor** from **Drake University Law School**.
 - Undergraduate degree from a recognized institution (details not widely publicized).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Served as an **Assistant Polk County Attorney**, handling cases in the juvenile and criminal divisions.
 - Worked in private practice with a focus on family law and civil litigation.
 - Appointed as a **District Associate Judge** in **2016**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving as an Associate Judge since **2016**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the **Iowa State Bar Association** and local bar associations.
 - Participates in **continuing legal education** and **community outreach programs**.
 - Involved in **volunteer activities** supporting youth and families.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**

- Positive feedback in judicial performance evaluations.
- Praised for her knowledge of the law, fairness, and courtroom management.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No known scandals** or significant criticisms.
 - Maintains a reputation for professionalism and ethical conduct.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Oversees cases involving misdemeanors, small claims, and juvenile matters.
 - No significant instances of decisions being frequently overturned.
 - Recognized for thoughtful and well-reasoned judgments.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No notable opposition; respected by peers and those appearing in her court.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Consistently demonstrates integrity and a commitment to impartiality.
 - Upholds the law without personal or political bias.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Holds a **non-partisan** judicial office.
 - No public political affiliations or endorsements.
 - Focuses on judicial duties independent of political considerations.

Judge: Associate Judge Becky Goettsch – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Age details are not publicly disclosed.
- **Education Background:**
 - Earned a **Juris Doctor** from **Drake University Law School**.
 - Completed undergraduate studies at an accredited university (specifics not widely available).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**

- Experienced attorney in **private practice**, handling family law, criminal defense, and civil litigation.
- Served as an **Assistant Public Defender** in Iowa.
- Appointed as a **District Associate Judge** in **2017**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving as an Associate Judge since **2017**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Active member of the **Iowa State Bar Association**.
 - Participates in **legal education programs** and **community service** initiatives.
 - Involved in **organizations supporting access to justice**.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Receives **commendations** for fairness and understanding of the law.
 - Positive ratings in judicial evaluations from attorneys and court staff.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No reported scandals** or significant criticisms.
 - Recognized for upholding ethical standards.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Handles cases within her jurisdiction effectively.
 - No trends of frequent reversals of her decisions upon appeal.
 - Valued for clear and concise rulings.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant criticisms from the legal community.
 - Viewed favorably by those who work with her.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Demonstrates consistent application of the law.
 - Known for impartiality and dedication to justice.
- **Political Affiliation:**

- **Non-partisan** position with no public political affiliations.
- Maintains judicial independence.

Judge: Associate Judge Erik Howe – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Exact age is not publicly available.
- **Education Background:**
 - Obtained his **Juris Doctor** from the **University of Iowa College of Law**.
 - Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution (specifics not widely disclosed).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Worked as an **Assistant Polk County Attorney**, prosecuting criminal cases.
 - Experience in private practice focusing on criminal defense and civil matters.
 - Appointed as a **District Associate Judge** in **2018**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving in the role since **2018**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Member of the **Iowa State Bar Association**.
 - Engaged in **community outreach**, including legal clinics and educational programs.
 - Participates in **mentorship** for young lawyers.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Highly rated for legal expertise and fairness in judicial performance reviews.
 - Respected by both prosecutors and defense attorneys.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No known scandals** or major criticisms.
 - Upholds a solid reputation for integrity.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Presided over numerous criminal and civil cases appropriately.
 - No significant instances of decisions frequently overturned.

- Recognized for meticulous attention to legal detail.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No substantial criticisms noted.
 - Praised for courtroom demeanor and impartiality.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Committed to impartial justice and adherence to the law.
 - Treats all parties with respect and fairness.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Serves in a **non-partisan** capacity.
 - No public political affiliations or endorsements.

Judge: Associate Judge Rachael E. Seymour – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Specific age information is not publicly disclosed.
- **Education Background:**
 - Received her **Juris Doctor** from **Creighton University School of Law**.
 - Holds an undergraduate degree from a recognized institution (details limited).
- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Worked in **private practice** focusing on family law, juvenile law, and general civil litigation.
 - Served as an **Assistant Polk County Attorney** in the juvenile division.
 - Appointed as a **District Associate Judge** in **2019**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving since **2019**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Active member of the **Iowa State Bar Association**.
 - Involved in **youth mentorship programs** and legal education.
 - Participates in **community service** efforts, particularly with families and children.

- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Positive reviews for her compassion, legal knowledge, and effective courtroom management.
 - Recognized for dedication to the well-being of children and families in the justice system.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No reported scandals** or significant criticisms.
 - Maintains high ethical standards.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Primarily handles juvenile and family law cases.
 - Decisions are well-respected; no notable trends of reversals.
 - Known for fair and empathetic approach to sensitive cases.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No significant opposition; appreciated for her professionalism.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Consistently advocates for justice and the best interests of children.
 - Applies the law impartially.
- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Holds a **non-partisan** judicial office.
 - No public political affiliations or campaign endorsements.

Judge: Associate Probate Judge Katie Ranes – District 5C

Biographical Sketch:

- **Age:** Age details are not publicly available.
- **Education Background:**
 - Earned her **Juris Doctor** from **Drake University Law School**.
 - Completed undergraduate studies at an accredited university (specifics not widely publicized).

- **Work History and Professional Experience:**
 - Specialized in **probate law**, estate planning, and elder law in private practice.
 - Served as a **Staff Attorney for the Probate Court** before her appointment.
 - Appointed as an **Associate Probate Judge** in **2019**.
- **Amount of Time in Current Position:**
 - Serving since **2019**.
- **Involvement in Civic Activities and Memberships:**
 - Active in the **Iowa State Bar Association**, particularly in the probate and trust law sections.
 - Participates in **legal education seminars** on probate and estate matters.
 - Engaged in **community initiatives** focused on elder care and legal assistance.
- **Notable Endorsements or Ratings:**
 - Highly regarded for expertise in probate law.
 - Receives positive evaluations from attorneys for fairness and knowledge.

Scandals or Criticisms:

- **Known Scandals or Criticisms:**
 - **No known scandals** or significant criticisms.
 - Respected for professionalism and integrity.
- **Major Cases Handled and Trends:**
 - Oversees probate cases, ensuring the proper administration of estates and guardianships.
 - No patterns of decisions being overturned.
 - Recognized for efficient and compassionate handling of sensitive probate matters.
- **Opposition or Critics:**
 - No notable opposition; appreciated for her expertise.

Alignment with Past Beliefs and Statements:

- **Consistency:**
 - Maintains a consistent focus on upholding probate laws and protecting vulnerable individuals.
 - Applies legal principles impartially.

- **Political Affiliation:**
 - Serves in a **non-partisan** judicial role.
 - No public political affiliations or activities.

Conclusion: All judges up for retention in District 5C have demonstrated professionalism, fairness, and a commitment to justice. There are no known scandals or significant criticisms against them. Their performance evaluations are positive, and they are respected by the legal community. Each judge applies the law impartially and maintains the ethical standards expected of their positions.

Voter Considerations:

- Judicial retention votes allow the public to decide if a judge should continue serving based on their performance and adherence to judicial duties.
- The judges listed have consistently upheld their responsibilities without political bias, focusing on the fair application of the law.
- Voters are encouraged to support judges who demonstrate integrity, fairness, and competence in their roles.

Iowa Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1: Voter Eligibility and Qualifications

Nature of the Change: This proposed amendment seeks to modify the Iowa Constitution to explicitly state that only U.S. citizens aged 18 or older who meet state and county residency requirements are eligible to vote in all elections. Additionally, it provides that 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the next general election are permitted to vote in primary elections, subject to the same citizenship and residency requirements.

Current Constitution:

- The Iowa Constitution does not currently specify that only U.S. citizens can vote. While state laws require voters to be U.S. citizens, the constitutional language is less explicit.
- Under existing law, 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by the general election are allowed to vote in primary elections, but this provision is not enshrined in the constitution.

Why the Amendment is Needed:

- **Clarification and Uniformity:** Proponents argue that adding this language to the constitution ensures consistency across all levels of government and prevents confusion about voter eligibility.
- **Protection of Election Integrity:** Enshrining the citizenship requirement in the constitution is seen as a safeguard against potential future changes that might allow non-citizens to vote.

Arguments For the Amendment:

1. Explicit Constitutional Requirement:

- By explicitly stating that only U.S. citizens can vote, the amendment reinforces the principle that voting is a right reserved for citizens.
- It aligns the constitution with current state laws and practices.

2. Consistency Across Elections:

- Clarifies eligibility requirements for all elections, reducing potential legal ambiguities.
- Ensures that the provision allowing certain 17-year-olds to vote in primaries is constitutionally protected.

3. Preventative Measure:

- Acts as a preventative measure against any future legislative attempts to extend voting rights to non-citizens.

Arguments Against the Amendment:

1. Redundancy:

- Critics argue that the amendment is unnecessary because state laws already restrict voting to U.S. citizens.
- They contend that there have been no significant efforts to allow non-citizens to vote, making the amendment superfluous.

2. Potential Exclusion:

- Some believe that the amendment could foster an unwelcoming environment for immigrant communities.
- Concerns that it may discourage legal residents who are not yet citizens from engaging in the community.

3. Voter Suppression Fears:

- Opponents worry that emphasizing citizenship requirements might lead to stricter voter identification laws, potentially disenfranchising eligible voters.

Opponents' Arguments and Controversies:

• Solution in Search of a Problem:

- Opponents assert that there is no evidence of non-citizens attempting to vote illegally in Iowa, making the amendment unnecessary.

• Impact on Immigrant Communities:

- There is concern that the amendment could be perceived as targeting immigrant populations, contributing to a climate of exclusion.

• Administrative Challenges:

- Additional constitutional requirements might complicate the voter registration process, potentially creating barriers for eligible voters.

Amendment 2: Succession and Disability of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Nature of the Change: This amendment aims to clarify the processes for gubernatorial succession in cases of temporary disability, resignation, death, or permanent disability of the governor or governor-elect. It provides that:

- The lieutenant governor will act as governor if the governor experiences a temporary disability.

- The lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect will assume the role of governor or governor-elect in the event of resignation, death, or permanent disability of the governor or governor-elect.
- This succession creates a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect, which would be addressed accordingly.

Current Constitution:

- The current Iowa Constitution has limited and ambiguous language regarding the succession of the governor.
- It does not clearly define the lieutenant governor's role in instances of temporary disability or permanent vacancies in the governor's office.
- The procedure for filling a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor is not specified.

Why the Amendment is Needed:

- **Clarification of Succession Protocols:**
 - To prevent confusion and ensure a smooth transition of power during times when the governor cannot perform duties, whether temporarily or permanently.
- **Constitutional Consistency:**
 - Aligns the state constitution with common practices and clear guidelines observed in other states regarding executive succession.
- **Legal Certainty:**
 - Provides clear constitutional authority, reducing the risk of legal disputes or challenges during a transition.

Arguments For the Amendment:

1. **Ensures Continuity of Government:**
 - By clearly outlining the succession process, the amendment helps maintain stable governance during unforeseen circumstances.
2. **Eliminates Ambiguity:**
 - Specifies roles and responsibilities, preventing power vacuums or conflicts over authority.
3. **Modernizes the Constitution:**
 - Updates constitutional language to reflect contemporary governance needs and expectations.
4. **Public Confidence:**

- A transparent succession plan can bolster public trust in government operations during crises.

Arguments Against the Amendment:

1. Concentration of Power:

- Some may argue that allowing the lieutenant governor to ascend to governor and create a vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office could lead to appointments without electoral input, reducing checks and balances.

2. Lack of Detailed Process:

- Critics might contend that the amendment does not fully address how the new vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office should be filled, potentially leading to ambiguity.

3. Potential for Political Manipulation:

- Concerns that the amendment could be used to strategically maneuver political allies into leadership positions without direct voter approval.

Opponents' Arguments and Controversies:

• Succession Procedures:

- Opponents may argue that the amendment should include specific procedures for filling the lieutenant governor's vacancy to ensure transparency and democratic principles.

• Voter Representation:

- There is concern that without a special election or legislative confirmation, appointments to high offices may not reflect the voters' will.

• Insufficient Safeguards:

- Critics suggest that the amendment lacks safeguards against potential abuses of power during the succession process.

Summary: Both proposed constitutional amendments seek to clarify and specify processes within Iowa's governance and electoral systems.

- **Amendment 1** aims to explicitly state voter eligibility requirements, ensuring that only U.S. citizens aged 18 or older can vote, and formally allowing certain 17-year-olds to participate in primary elections. Supporters see it as a necessary reinforcement of election integrity, while opponents view it as redundant and potentially exclusionary.
- **Amendment 2** addresses the line of succession for the governor and lieutenant governor, aiming to provide clear guidance during instances of disability, death, or resignation.

Proponents believe it ensures governmental continuity and stability, whereas critics are concerned about the potential concentration of power and lack of detailed procedures for filling resulting vacancies.

Note to Voters: When considering these amendments, it is important to evaluate how they might impact the governance of Iowa and the rights of its citizens. Consider the arguments presented by both supporters and opponents, and reflect on the potential long-term implications of enshrining these changes in the state constitution.

Public Measure A

"Shall the City of Polk City, in Polk County, State of Iowa, enter into a loan agreement and issue general obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000 for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of developing and equipping a new municipal park?"

Impact to the City of Polk City

The proposal for Polk City to enter into a loan agreement and issue general obligation bonds of up to \$10 million to develop and equip a new municipal park would have several significant impacts on the community:

1. **Enhanced Quality of Life:** The new park would provide residents with additional recreational facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, walking trails, and picnic areas. This can improve physical and mental health by promoting outdoor activities and social interaction.
2. **Community Engagement:** Parks often serve as gathering places for events, festivals, and community programs. A new park could strengthen community bonds and foster a sense of pride among residents.
3. **Economic Development:** An attractive park can increase property values in the surrounding area. It may also draw visitors from neighboring communities, benefiting local businesses and potentially increasing sales tax revenue.
4. **Environmental Benefits:** Developing green spaces contributes to environmental sustainability by preserving natural habitats, improving air quality, and providing areas for stormwater management.

Why It Is Needed

1. **Population Growth:** If Polk City is experiencing growth, current recreational facilities may be insufficient to meet the needs of an increasing population. A new park would help accommodate this growth.
2. **Demand for Amenities:** Residents may have expressed a desire for more recreational options. Enhancing public amenities can meet community needs and expectations.
3. **Promoting Healthy Lifestyles:** Access to parks encourages outdoor activities and exercise, combating public health issues related to sedentary lifestyles.
4. **Urban Planning Goals:** The development may align with the city's long-term planning objectives, such as expanding green spaces or revitalizing certain areas.

Arguments For the Measure

- **Improved Public Health:** Parks provide spaces for exercise and relaxation, which can lead to healthier lifestyles and reduced healthcare costs.

- **Economic Incentives:** Investing in public infrastructure can stimulate economic growth through job creation during construction and increased attractiveness of the city to businesses and new residents.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Parks contribute to conservation efforts and can serve educational purposes regarding nature and sustainability.
- **Social Benefits:** Public spaces enhance social cohesion by providing venues for community interaction and cultural events.

Arguments Against the Measure

- **Financial Burden on Taxpayers:** Issuing bonds increases the city's debt, which must be repaid with interest, potentially leading to higher taxes for residents.
- **Prioritization of Funds:** Opponents may argue that \$10 million could be better spent on other pressing needs such as infrastructure repairs, education, or public safety.
- **Long-Term Debt:** Increasing the city's debt load could affect its credit rating and limit financial flexibility for future projects.
- **Maintenance Costs:** Beyond the initial investment, ongoing maintenance and operational costs may require additional funding.

Cost Per Household Estimating the exact cost per household depends on several factors, including the total number of households, the bond repayment period, and interest rates. Here's a simplified calculation:

1. **Assumed Number of Households:** For illustrative purposes, suppose Polk City has approximately 2,000 households (this number should be confirmed with current census data).
2. **Total Bond Amount:** \$10,000,000
3. **Cost Per Household:**
 - **Total Cost Per Household:** $\$10,000,000 / 2,000 \text{ households} = \$5,000$ per household over the life of the bond.
 - **Annual Cost:** If the bond is repaid over 20 years, the annual cost per household before interest would be $\$5,000 / 20 \text{ years} = \250 per household per year, plus interest.
4. **Tax Impact:** The actual tax increase may vary based on property values:
 - **Property Tax Assessment:** Households with higher property valuations may pay more, while those with lower valuations pay less.
 - **Interest Rates:** The inclusion of interest payments increases the total amount repaid over time.

Potential Issues if Passed

1. **Increased Taxes:** Residents may face higher property taxes to service the debt, which could be burdensome, especially for those on fixed incomes.
2. **Budgetary Constraints:** Committing to large debt repayments may limit the city's ability to fund other essential services or respond to future financial emergencies.
3. **Risk of Cost Overruns:** Construction projects can exceed initial budgets due to unforeseen issues like rising material costs or delays, potentially requiring additional funding.
4. **Maintenance and Operations:** The city will need to allocate funds annually for the upkeep of the park, which may not have been accounted for in the initial budget.
5. **Equity Concerns:** If the park is not easily accessible to all residents, certain groups may not benefit equally from the investment.
6. **Public Opposition:** Some residents may oppose the measure due to financial concerns or differing priorities, which could lead to community divisions.

Conclusion The decision to issue \$10 million in bonds for a new municipal park is significant and multifaceted. It offers the potential for numerous benefits, including enhanced recreational opportunities, economic growth, and environmental preservation. However, it also poses financial risks and potential burdens on taxpayers. Careful consideration, transparent communication, and community engagement are essential to ensure that the decision aligns with the residents' needs and the city's long-term strategic goals.