

# Iowa Governor

## THE ISSUES

**DIEDRE**  
**DeJEAR**

DEMOCRAT



**KIM**  
**REYNOLDS**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



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<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Legal. <a href="#">“I pledge to...ensure [Iowans] always have access to the healthcare and reproductive care that they need and deserve.”</a> The Roe v. Wade <a href="#">“ruling is a massive step backwards...it is not the end of the fight.”</a>	Ban. Signed on to a brief calling for overturning Roe v. Wade. Called the decision one of the Supreme Court’s <a href="#">“greatest moments.”</a> <a href="#">“As governor, I won’t rest until every unborn Iowan is protected and respected.”</a>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority?	Yes. <a href="#">“With the very pressing threat of climate change affecting our world, Iowa must move forward as a leader,”</a> including <a href="#">renewable energy jobs.</a>	Mixed. In 2018, said of climate change: <a href="#">“While I think it’s a factor, I think it’s overstated.”</a> Said Iowa is <a href="#">doing its part with wind, ethanol, biodiesel, cellulosic fuels.</a> <a href="#">Her carbon sequestration task force was criticized for excluding environmental organizations.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No. Says <a href="#">public funds should rebuild public schools.</a> Private school <a href="#">vouchers would serve too few students.</a> <a href="#">“Vouchers will not get people to move back to the state, not bring robotics training to students. Not keep teachers in their jobs or in the state.”</a>	Yes. Introduced <a href="#">a 2022 proposal to provide 10,000 families scholarships to pay private-school expenses.</a> Also <a href="#">signed a bill allowing groups trying to set up new charter schools to bypass local school boards.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> How to address teaching the history of race and racism in the United States?	<a href="#">“The problems with our education system have nothing to do with Critical Race Theory.”</a> which is used <a href="#">“as a factor to stoke fear in our parents.”</a>	Signed a law that <a href="#">banned teaching that the U.S. or Iowa is systemically racist or sexist.</a> <a href="#">“I am proud to...promote learning, not discriminatory indoctrination.”</a> <a href="#">“Critical race theory is about labels and stereotypes, not education.”</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?	Yes. <a href="#">“It is time to fully fund our education system at every level, including universal Pre-K and child care, affordable colleges and trade programs.”</a> Proposed doubling Iowa’s 2.5% K-12 funding increase to 5%.	Yes. Supported a 2.5% <a href="#">increase to the state education budget to “ensure that Iowa has the strong public education system necessary to support the success of our students and our state.”</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Mostly tighten. Supports an <a href="#">“environmental justice plan that centers on protecting our rural communities, communities of color, our children and the sick.”</a> <a href="#">“Our landowners need to be in the same room as the farmers, so does Big Ag, so do our educators and our activists and our environmentalists.”</a>	Loosen. Opposed <a href="#">an EPA rule that had expanded the number of waterways under jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.</a> Opposed <a href="#">an SEC rule compelling companies to disclose greenhouse gas emissions.</a> Blocked <a href="#">Iowa from joining a 21-state lawsuit to maintain federal restrictions on coal-fired plants.</a>
<b>GUN RULES</b> Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	More restrictive. <a href="#">Supports 21 as the minimum age for purchasing assault rifles. Would reinstate a permit for purchasing guns and license for carrying a concealed weapon.</a> <a href="#">“Keep your guns and keep people safe. Those things are possible.”</a>	Less restrictive. Signed a <a href="#">2021 law</a> allowing purchase and carry of guns without a permit or background check. Signed a <a href="#">law limiting the types of lawsuits that can be filed against gun and ammunition manufacturers.</a> Announced <a href="#">new spending to make schools more secure; says stricter gun laws are not the answer.</a>

ISSUES	DEJEAR	REYNOLDS
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	Unclear. <a href="#">“Access to quality affordable healthcare and mental health services is imperative,”</a> but <a href="#">“is out of reach for too many, including our rural communities.”</a> Opposed the <a href="#">ban on COVID mask mandates for schools</a> ; supports <a href="#">local control as to whether or not to impose mask and vaccine mandates.</a>	Mixed. Has proposed <a href="#">new appropriations for mental health programs, telehealth, substance abuse programs, and improved access to a self-administered hormonal contraceptive.</a> Iowa has <a href="#">expanded Medicaid under the ACA</a> through the terms of Reynolds and Terry Branstad. Opposed COVID <a href="#">vaccine mandates</a> for health-care workers, & <a href="#">banned mask mandates for schools and businesses.</a>
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	<a href="#">Says Iowa has to do more to create a more welcoming state for immigrants.</a> No position found on DACA.	<a href="#">Blamed a COVID-19 surge on immigrants crossing the Mexican border.</a> Says <a href="#">“we have seen illegal immigration just soar”</a> because of Biden policies. Sent <a href="#">29 state troopers to help with border enforcement at Texas’s request.</a> In 2017 <a href="#">supported rescinding DACA, but also suggested support for a pathway to citizenship.</a>
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Likely easier. Walked the picket line at a UAW John Deere strike, <a href="#">praising the “movement to prioritize workers rights w/ reasonable requests: dignity of work, fair wages, &amp; retirement benefits that allow workers to provide for their families.”</a>	Harder. Supported <a href="#">a 2019 Iowa Supreme Court decision upholding a 2017 law that took away bargaining rights for many Iowa public employees.</a> Supports <a href="#">Iowa’s 1947 Right to Work law, which allows employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union dues.</a>
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. Iowa should make all residents feel welcome <a href="#">“whether urban or rural, or what their background is, including people of color and LGBTQ people.”</a> <a href="#">“The problem is that we don’t have an inclusive government that sees them for who they are. And that’s critical.”</a>	Limit. Signed a 2022 bill <a href="#">prohibiting transgender females from participating in girls high school sports.</a> <a href="#">“Forcing females to compete against males is the opposite of inclusivity and it’s absolutely unfair.”</a> Signed a 2019 bill <a href="#">banning publicly funded insurance from covering transgender surgery.</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	Legal. If marijuana is legalized and taxed, <a href="#">“imagine what resources we can put into education...a paid parental leave program...so when people have babies they don’t fear losing their jobs.”</a>	Ban. <a href="#">“A lot of people start just innocently with recreational marijuana, and it leads to addiction and other problems...I’m just not in favor of recreational marijuana—at all.”</a>
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Keep or raise the state minimum wage from \$7.25? If raise, how much?	Yes. <a href="#">“I want to increase this minimum wage... But it’s not enough to increase the minimum wage. We know we need sustainable wages.”</a> Hasn’t specified a target number for the increase.	Unclear. Says that wages should be <a href="#">“market driven;”</a> the state shouldn’t intervene. In 2017 said <a href="#">she would consider supporting an increase if it wouldn’t hurt job growth.</a>
<b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b> How to address police use of force?	No position found.	Supported <a href="#">bipartisan reforms banning chokeholds and strengthening anti-bias and de-escalation training.</a> Proposed <a href="#">tougher penalties for harassing and assaulting police officers.</a> Would <a href="#">withhold state funding to localities that reduce police budgets.</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	More. Criticized <a href="#">Iowa’s new flat tax as benefiting “the super-rich.”</a> <a href="#">“I support a fair tax plan that uplifts working families.”</a>	Less. Signed bills <a href="#">reducing the corporate tax rate from 12% to 5.5%</a> and introducing <a href="#">a 3.9% flat tax that replaced a progressive income tax and lowered Iowa’s top income tax rate.</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	No. Has not <a href="#">“seen the evidence that substantiates why (Iowa’s new voting) restrictions are in place.”</a> <a href="#">“When it comes down to our most fundamental right to vote, everybody who’s eligible to vote in our state should get a fair shake at it.”</a>	Mixed. Signed a bill <a href="#">cutting the state’s early voting period and closing polls an hour earlier on Election Day.</a> Signed an order <a href="#">restoring the right to vote of non-homicide ex-felons.</a>

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