

# Iowa Senate

## THE ISSUES

**MICHAEL  
FRANKEN**

DEMOCRAT



**CHUCK  
GRASSLEY**

REPUBLICAN



See <a href="#">guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources.	<a href="#">frankenforiowa.com</a>	<a href="#">grassleyworks.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Legal. Overturning Roe v. Wade is <a href="#">“a direct attack on women and 100% unacceptable.”</a> Supports <a href="#">a woman’s right to full autonomy</a> . Opposes limits to abortion such as <a href="#">parental consent or defining fetal viability</a> ; <a href="#">“the woman and her doctor”</a> should decide.	Mostly ban. <a href="#">Voted against</a> a bill prohibiting government restrictions on abortion rights. Supports the overturning of Roe v. Wade as <a href="#">“flawed precedent;”</a> <a href="#">“the unalienable right to life... must be protected.”</a> But calls restricting travel for abortions <a href="#">“unconstitutional.”</a>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	Yes. <a href="#">“Climate change is the most clear and direct threat to the survival of our planet and the future of our children and grandchildren.”</a> Supports <a href="#">a carbon tax</a> , <a href="#">wind and solar power</a> , and <a href="#">“carbon-reduction goals for the farm sector.”</a>	Mixed. Supports <a href="#">biofuels</a> and <a href="#">wind energy tax credits</a> . Sponsored the Growing Climate Solutions Act to <a href="#">encourage carbon trapping on farms</a> . Supports <a href="#">easing regulations on oil and gas production</a> for energy independence.
<b>ECONOMY</b> Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Increase. Would <a href="#">“break up monopolies and deconcentrate agribusiness,”</a> and <a href="#">“advance policies that create equity.”</a> Wants <a href="#">a better electric grid and more funding for public education</a> .	Mixed. Voted for the <a href="#">Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</a> . <a href="#">Voted against</a> the <a href="#">American Rescue Plan</a> stimulus; <a href="#">“it wasn’t a good spend.”</a> <a href="#">Voted against</a> the <a href="#">Inflation Reduction Act</a> , with <a href="#">major public investments</a> ; it will <a href="#">“hurt American agriculture.”</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> How to address the teaching of issues around race and gender identity?	No response found.	<a href="#">Critical race theory is “divisive”</a> and separates <a href="#">“groups of Americans into different degrees of oppressor and oppressed.”</a> The US needs education that is <a href="#">“accurate, honest, unifying, inspiring, and ennobling.”</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Says Iowa can be a <a href="#">“fabulous spot for environmental concerns”</a> by developing wind, solar, and ethanol for electricity. Would <a href="#">“advance environmental justice,”</a> and see <a href="#">“soil and water stewardship...adequately incentivized” in the 2023 farm bill</a> .	Loosen. Sponsored the American Energy Independence Act of 2022 to <a href="#">ease regulations on energy production</a> and pull the US from the Paris Climate Agreement. <a href="#">Voted to repeal the Stream Protection Rule</a> that had protected waterways from coal mining waste.
<b>GUN RULES</b> Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	More. Supports <a href="#">a combination of background checks and gun education</a> used by the US military. <a href="#">“I’m not anti-gun. I’m a gun owner. But I’m a responsible gun owner.”</a> Suggests <a href="#">“fingerprinting a firearm” for ballistics and “tracking it through its life.”</a>	Less. <a href="#">Voted against the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act</a> which <a href="#">expands background checks and funds state-level red-flag laws</a> . Had <a href="#">“specific concerns about safeguarding constitutional due process rights”</a> that prevented him from supporting the bill.
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">“all-encompassing” health care for all Americans</a> . Supports <a href="#">expansion of Medicare</a> to children under 5 and adults over 50. Supports <a href="#">reducing prescription drug prices</a> . Says COVID-19 vaccine mandate for military personnel has <a href="#">saved lives</a> .	Mixed. <a href="#">Has voted to repeal Affordable Care Act</a> . Introduced bills to <a href="#">enhance access to life-saving care for children</a> with complex medical conditions, and <a href="#">lower some prescription drug prices</a> . Opposes <a href="#">“the heavy hand of federal govt mandating the vaccine on private biz.”</a>

ISSUES	FRANKEN	GRASSLEY
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for "DACA" participants brought to the US as children?	Says <a href="#">"Trump's wall is idiotic."</a> Supports <a href="#">redoubling "efforts to increase immigration"</a> and <a href="#">protecting DACA "DREAMers."</a>	<a href="#">Is against</a> Biden's "open borders;" <a href="#">"every one of them" crossing the border is "violating our laws."</a> Supports citizenship for DACA Dreamers. <a href="#">"The kids" can't "be held responsible for" their parents' actions.</a>
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. <a href="#">"Will always stand with teachers and unions"</a> and <a href="#">"UAW (the United Auto Workers) and their workers."</a> Is <a href="#">"a big fan of union rights"</a> and says <a href="#">"This is the time to invest in unions, and we will all be better for it."</a>	Harder. <a href="#">Opposed PRO Act</a> that expands workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain. <a href="#">Co-sponsored National Right-to-Work Act</a> to end, at a national level, the practice of requiring of union membership as a condition of employment.
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. For <a href="#">preserving and expanding "equality"</a> and Iowa's legacy as <a href="#">one of the first states "to legalize gay marriage."</a> Supports the <a href="#">bill</a> to codify same-sex marriage. <a href="#">"It's a God-given right that we should have someone we love as our partner in life. So of course we should codify"</a> same-sex marriage.	Less. <a href="#">Opposes Equality Act</a> that <a href="#">"prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation."</a> In 2015: <a href="#">"Marriage is between one man and one woman."</a> <a href="#">Voted against</a> reauthorizing the <a href="#">Violence Against Women Act</a> in 2013; shelters haven't been shown to refuse services to people <a href="#">"on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity."</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Ban or legal?	Legal. <a href="#">"Remove cannabis as a Schedule controlled substance...and legalize it at the Federal level."</a> Medicinal or "recreational use" of marijuana, controlled like alcohol, is <a href="#">"absolutely fine and well overdue."</a>	Ban. <a href="#">"There is unfortunately not enough research into the impacts of marijuana use in the long term;"</a> supports <a href="#">education and prevention</a> . <a href="#">Sponsored bill</a> to study medical impact. Says recreational use, <a href="#">"particularly for adolescent or pregnant users," can be harmful or addictive.</a>
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Keep or raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour? If raise, how much?	Raise to <a href="#">\$15 per hour</a> . <a href="#">"A family of one" can't "live on minimum wage"</a> today. Says with \$15 minimum wage, <a href="#">"31% of Iowans" would see a boosted pay</a> and <a href="#">"64% of those" are women.</a>	<a href="#">Raise to \$9.75 or \$10.25 to match inflation</a> from the last minimum wage increase in 2007. Says a raise to \$15 could lose <a href="#">1.4 million jobs</a> . <a href="#">Voted against the minimum wage amendment (to \$15 by 2025)</a> in the COVID-19 relief bill.
<b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b> How to address police use of force?	The criminal justice system <a href="#">unfairly penalizes "black and brown communities."</a> But is not <a href="#">"a defund the police person."</a> Called for <a href="#">an investigation into the police officers involved in George Floyd's death.</a>	Opposes <a href="#">defunding the police</a> . Was <a href="#">"outraged"</a> at George Floyd's death, <a href="#">police brutality and racism must be addressed</a> . Co-sponsored bill to <a href="#">encourage ending chokeholds</a> . <a href="#">Opposes</a> federal standards on police conduct.
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes to lower interest. Supports <a href="#">zero interest loans for education</a> . Mixed on forgiveness. <a href="#">"We need to be very careful about loan forgiveness."</a> Cancelling student debt could increase <a href="#">college costs</a> . Supports <a href="#">national service loan forgiveness programs</a> .	No position found on interest. Introduced a <a href="#">bill indexing for inflation the tax deduction on student loan interest</a> . Introduced bills to <a href="#">provide clearer information</a> on future student loan payments. No on loan forgiveness. <a href="#">"Cancelling debt is not the solution."</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	More. Supports <a href="#">capital gains taxes on some assets, and removing the cap on income that is taxed to fund Social Security</a> . Supports the Inflation Reduction Act, <a href="#">with tax increases on corporations</a> . Some billionaires <a href="#">"have not been paying their fair share."</a> <a href="#">"Repeal the top Trump tax breaks."</a>	Less. <a href="#">Voted for the 2017 act</a> that <a href="#">cut the corporate tax from 35 % to 21%</a> . Has supported <a href="#">eliminating federal estate tax</a> . <a href="#">Opposed</a> the <a href="#">American Families Plan</a> , which would increase the top tax rate, close tax loopholes, and stiffen reporting requirements on high-income investments.
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	No. Supports <a href="#">"maximum voter participation."</a> <a href="#">Supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Act</a> , which would require <a href="#">federal pre-clearance from states with a history of voting rights violations, before making voting law changes.</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Voted against</a> the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, saying <a href="#">"It penalizes states for voter ID laws."</a> Says the bill <a href="#">wrongly assumes voting law changes in states lead to "voter suppression."</a> Opposes <a href="#">"federalizing elections."</a>

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