



Rural Power

Iowa's electric
cooperatives

Energizing rural
economic growth

Iowa Rural Power Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates can provide answers via video message, "op-ed" style submission, or another written form of response. Responses will be shared in their entirety with the member-consumers of Iowa's electric cooperatives and posted on www.iaruralpower.org.

Examples of questions most relevant to our members are:

1. How much interaction do you have with electric cooperatives in Iowa?

In my two terms (four years) serving Iowans as their Third District Representative, I have met and worked with employees, members, and representatives of Iowa's electric cooperatives in our offices in Washington, DC and Iowa, as well as on site visits with Iowa's electric cooperatives. I enjoyed the interactions, relationships and friendships with employees, members, and representatives of Iowa's electric cooperatives and I relished the work and successes we accomplished together.

2. How will your energy plans provide affordable and reliable power to rural Iowa?

I support an 'all of the above' energy strategy which does not limit any particular energy source and does allow it for any powering need. By not restricting any energy source, those in need of power are given the choice and freedom in their energy wants and needs. Choice with many power and fueling sources creates markets and competition which brings down prices for consumers and communities. Consistent and robust public funding sources, incentives and flexibility - and not mandates and onerous regulations - gives certainty, confidence, and reliability to those who produce the energy, distribute it, maintain the energy infrastructure, market it, and become the ultimate end user.

3. Iowa's electric cooperatives are successful proponents of renewable energy resources in our state. However, obstacles remain for shifting to a 100% renewable portfolio, such as extreme weather patterns, source intermittency, and limits on battery storage technology. Simply put, how will your energy plan compensate for electricity needs in February when the sun isn't shining, the wind isn't blowing, and battery storage options are limited due to their current performance in colder temperatures?

An 'all of the above' energy strategy from renewable energy sources, to fossil fuels, to nuclear energy, and whatever may be next, will provide the backup and flexibility needed to be able ensure the electricity needs at any given time. Also, incentivizing research, development, and production, and storage through the tax code and providing federal funding can help us build out our energy and fuel sources and develop new ways to increase and maximize energy battery storage technology.

4. Co-ops across the country are able to deliver electric service to rural areas in part due to low-cost financing from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service. Allowing borrowers to refinance RUS debt would help make up for the expected \$10 billion loss nationwide due to COVID-19 and allow essential rural utilities to be a part of the long-term recovery for our members-consumers. It is estimated that \$200 million dollars in savings would be realized in Iowa alone. If elected, would you support or cosponsor the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act (H.R. 7483/S. 4152) to allow borrowers to refinance their RUS loans without penalty?

During my tenure on the House of Representatives's Committee on Appropriations, and in particular with my service on its Subcommittee on Agriculture, I fought hard for and delivered increased annual funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). These are challenging times as we economically climb out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I would not only support the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act, I'd advocate this type of RUS loan refinancing be allowed by rural borrowers in any area when it is designated as a disaster area from any natural disasters, too.

5. Iowa co-ops pride themselves on being champions for their community and leaders in economic development. Through the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG) through the USDA, electric co-ops have helped bring millions of dollars in investment to rural Iowa. How will you work to strengthen the REDLG program in the next Farm Bill and beyond?

Should I be elected by the voters of Iowa's Third Congressional District this November, I will retain my seniority in the U.S. House of Representatives and be reappointed to the Committee on Appropriations in the new 117th Congress. I will ensure for full funding of the REDLG program, and for the next farm bill I will listen to those in Iowa who have taken advantage of and used funds from the REDLG program to see what worked and didn't work in the program. I'd work in a bipartisan fashion to highlight and strengthen what worked, and lead by seeking changes and corrections in what caused problems or roadblocks in not being able to use those REDLG funds in the most useful and effective way. I understand the serious value of the REDLG program and would work to ensure its funding is prioritized and robust.

6. What other ideas on strengthening rural Iowa, such as support for the biofuels industry, are unique to your campaign that would be of interest to electric cooperative member-consumers?

In my tenure in the U.S. Congress, I was a fierce advocate of all renewable fuels and I will continue to do so if elected to serve again this November. I advocated for E15 year round and was in the White House with the President when he announced E15 year round. As a member, I introduced legislation to bring transparency to the small refinery waiver process to ensure the waiver process is not abused and is indeed a hardship. And even with waivers granted, I will work to ensure the amount of gallons to be blended in law are maintained and met. Also, with E15 being able to be used with E10 pumps, I will work to help clear any federal regulatory hurdles slowing this process, and I will advocate for federal funding to help with any infrastructure needs at the local level make this happen swiftly.

Also, when federal regulations and rule makings are proposed, I will bring the Iowa voice of those which may be affected to the table and advocate for and legislate a solution against any one-size-fits-all regulatory approach which may negatively affect the good work Iowa electric cooperatives do.

Also, we need an infrastructure plan which goes beyond just building and maintaining our roads and bridges, and ensures our electrical grid and system is strengthened and maintained. I will ensure the voice and priorities of our electric cooperatives are heard and brought to the table and incorporated into an infrastructure bill. As well, I will work to ensure our communications system is made a priority with a robust broadband deployment plan with a public and private partnership incorporating federal funding and tax incentives to wire up and strengthen rural Iowa.

If elected in November, I will maintain my seniority on the Committee on Appropriations where I will continue be a fierce advocate for the needs and priorities of Iowa by partnering with those - such as our Iowa electric cooperatives - who seek to advocate for and serve our people and communities in rural Iowa, too.

Please email candidate responses to Haley Moon (hmoon@iowarec.org).