



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.

1. How much interaction do you have with electric cooperatives in Iowa?
 - During my time in the Iowa Senate, I've worked hard to always be available and accessible to my constituents, including the rural electric cooperatives. We met regularly to discuss pertinent issues. I created a very close working relationship with my local REC's in my district. I will continue to work side by side with our rural electric cooperatives in Congress to ensure we have policies that keep energy costs low and reduce burdensome regulations.
2. How will your energy plans provide affordable and reliable power to rural Iowa?
 - My approach is pragmatic and results-oriented, taking the best of what we have now and looking towards the future while rejecting extremist policies. It starts with keeping money in Iowa and out of the hands of a bloated, wasteful federal government – allowing companies to spend money hiring additional staff, making facility improvements, increasing efficiency, and innovating without raising prices for the consumer. It also means reducing regulations that help produce innovation and economic development and improve the efficiency and efficacy of future-energy and renewable sources. However, it's essential that we do so gradually and responsibly – we must reject radical plans like the Green New Deal that would devastate our state's capacity to innovate and produce efficient, affordable energy.
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?
 - While working towards increased use of renewable energy is a worthwhile cause, we must continue to have a robust baseload energy plan. It's paramount that we have transmission capabilities to get baseload generation to where it is needed. We also must fight against ideas that further regulate baseload generation like the green new deal that has no thought concerning sustainable energy.

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?
 - COVID-19 has disrupted companies, organizations, and individuals across the country, and flexible response from federal agencies is necessary. It is vital to allow organizations, especially those as vital as energy providers, to have refinance capabilities when it comes to RUS debt. I do support the mission of the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act.
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?
 - It comes down to earning a seat on the Agriculture Committee so I can play a role in authoring the next Farm Bill. Growing up and living my entire life in a small town in the most rural district of Iowa, I'm proud to be a rural economic development champion. I have seen first hand how the REDLG program has been a vital part of growing the rural economy. In Congress, I'll be a strong advocate for this program
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?
 - I'm a champion of ethanol, biofuels, and wind energy. Iowa's Fourth District is one of the nation's leading producers, and in the Iowa Senate, I wrote and passed a bills promoting our ethanol and biofuels industry, which I plan on replicating at the Federal level.

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