



# Rural Power

Iowa's electric  
cooperatives

Energizing rural  
economic growth

## Iowa Rural Power Candidate Questionnaire

***Candidate responses will be shared in their entirety with the member-consumers of Iowa's electric cooperatives and posted on [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).***

### **1. How much interaction have you had or do you currently have with electric cooperatives in your home state?**

During my time as a senator, I supported and was actively engaged on issues relating to rural electric cooperatives. My staff met with representatives from the Delaware Electric Cooperative and kept me informed about issues important to them.

In addition, in the Obama-Biden Administration, we worked with rural electric cooperatives to meet the needs of rural communities.

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

Since the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the federal government has had a critical partnership with rural co-ops to provide affordable and reliable power to rural Americans. As president, I will build on this successful partnership and work together to fully harness clean power.

As president, I will recognize that co-ops are key to electricity delivery in rural America and ensure they are central to my plan to invest \$1.7 trillion into the clean energy economy, so they can continue to deliver the clean, affordable power their members need to drive the economic engines of our economy. I will also modernize our nation's electric grid, making it smarter, more resilient, and ready to meet the changing needs of a net-zero greenhouse-gas-emissions economy.

### **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 and limits on battery storage technology. For example, how will your energy plan compensate for electricity needs in February during a polar vortex (because...Iowa) and the sun isn't shining, the wind isn't blowing, and our limited battery storage options are depleted due to their performance in cold temperatures?**

My plan prioritizes investments in 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure to make the overall grid smarter and more flexible. For example, Iowa has some of the best wind resources in the country and could export that power to neighboring states **if** high voltage DC lines were built. Those exact same lines could import wind and solar electricity during those times when wind and solar electricity aren't available.

As president, I will make major investments in energy research and innovation to ensure that the United States exports the battery technologies that will allow economic long-term storage in the scenario that you raise. There are many promising technologies, such as flow batteries, that could fill

that gap, and my plan will massively increase our investments in research and development so the United States develops those technologies and leads the world in battery technology innovation.

**4. Co-ops are very proud of their role in electrifying America but couldn't have done it without the support from FDR and the Federal Government. Will your energy plan emphasize partnerships with entities like co-ops to implement your vision for the future of electricity delivery in the U.S.?**

Yes. Rural co-ops have a long history of delivering electricity with innovative thinking and through consensus-building and have close relationships with their members. The Obama-Biden Administration partnered with rural electric cooperatives to fund rural infrastructure and work to meet the economic and energy needs of rural communities. Rural co-ops should be the engines of innovation in clean energy that they have been in the electrification of the country. This is exactly the kind of energy we will need during the transition to clean energy across the country. I believe rural co-ops will lead the way.

**5. What other ideas on strengthening rural America are unique to your campaign that would be of interest to electric cooperative member-consumers?**

I developed my plans for [infrastructure](#), [rural America](#), and [climate](#) to ensure that community needs in places like rural Iowa are met with solutions that respect place-based knowledge of local problems and solutions. To be able to access quality, affordable health care, you need proper transportation infrastructure. To be able to succeed in the 21st century economy, you need renewable energy jobs. As president, I will ensure that rural America is healthy and vibrant, and that rural Americans have a pathway to the middle class *in* rural America.

***Please email candidate responses to Haley Moon ([hmoon@iowarec.org](mailto:hmoon@iowarec.org)).***