



UPDATED ADVOCACY STRATEGIES 2020 ELECTION WRAP-UP

The 2020 General Election turned out to be a big surprise compared to the publicly available polling and predictions by both major political parties in the weeks leading up to the election. Iowa was in the spotlight with the election predicted to be competitive at the presidential level, but also for the U.S. Senate race and three out of the state's four congressional districts. The Iowa House of Representatives was also a major target for Democrats looking to break the Republican trifecta in the Statehouse. Overall, Republicans in Iowa far exceeded their own predictions riding a President Trump win in the state. Below is an updated outline of the state's certified results in Iowa and nationally.

In addition to the outline of the state's results, the Legislative Leadership and Committee Chairs have been announced and are outlined below.

PRESIDENT

The race for President of the United States has been called for Former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden by every major media outlet. President Donald Trump continues to utilize legal avenues to challenge results, but thus far, no state outcome has changed following recounts. All states have until December 8, 2020 to certify their results in advance of the Electoral College meeting where the state electors cast their votes for President. Barring a large legal challenge or shift in a state's selected electors, Former Vice President Biden will be formally elected at that time.

In Iowa, President Trump was declared the winner with 53% of the vote compared to Vice President Biden's 45%. This is nearly in line with President Trump's 9% win in Iowa in 2016.

U.S. SENATE

Iowa's U.S. Senate race was in the national spotlight as it could help determine whether Republicans or Democrats controlled the chamber. Incumbent Republican Senator Joni Ernst was up for reelection after serving her first term and was challenged by Democrat businesswoman and former congressional candidate Theresa Greenfield. Throughout the election this race was considered a toss-up, but Senator Ernst tracked well with President Trump's win in the state. Republican Senator Ernst won 52% of the vote compared to 45% for Greenfield.

Nationally, the race for the U.S. Senate majority remains up in the air. Republicans currently hold 50 seats to Democrats' 48 with the two Georgia Senate seats going to a runoff on January 5, 2021 to determine control of the U.S. Senate.

U.S. House of Representatives

Iowa's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives is currently set to have three new members with only incumbent Democrat Cindy Axne winning her reelection campaign in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District. Republicans held onto the 4th Congressional district and flipped the 1st Congressional District. In Iowa's 2nd Congressional District, Republican State Senator Mariannette Miller-Meeks initially led

former Democratic State Senator and Lt. Governor candidate Rita Hart by just 50 votes. Then, recounts were called across the district and Miller-Meeks' lead was reduced to only 6 votes. Miller-Meeks was certified as the winner of this congressional seat by the state canvassing board on November 30. However, as of today the Hart campaign announced that they would challenge the election results by filing a petition with the U.S. House Committee on Administration under the Federal Contested Elections Act.

An overview of the U.S. House races after certification:

IA-01

Incumbent Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer (D-Dubuque) was defeated by State Representative Ashley Hinson (R-Marion) in Iowa's 1st Congressional District, 51.2% to 48.6%.

IA-02

With the retirement of Congressman Dave Loebsack (D –Iowa City), Iowa's 2nd Congressional District became an open, competitive seat. Former State Senator and Lt. Governor candidate Rita Hart (D-Clinton) ran against State Senator and fourth-time IA-02 candidate Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Ottumwa). As discussed above, Miller-Meeks was certified as the winner of this congressional seat with just a 6-vote margin, which flipped this seat from Democrat to Republican. As mentioned above, the Hart campaign is contesting these results by filing a petition with the U.S. House Committee on Administration under the Federal Contested Elections Act.

IA-03

Incumbent Congresswoman Cindy Axne (D-West Des Moines) was declared the winner over former Congressman David Young (R-Van Meter) in a 2016 and 2018 rematch. Axne won 48.9% to Young's 47.5%.

IA-04

State Senator Randy Feenstra (R-Hull) defeated sitting Congressman Steve King (R–Kiron) in the June republican primary to go on to face J.D. Scholten (D-Sioux City) in the General Election. Feenstra was declared the winner over Scholten holding the seat for Republicans. Feenstra won 62.0% to Scholten's 37.8%.

Nationally, there remain a couple U.S. House of Representatives races yet to be called, but Democrats have maintained their majority. The size of that majority has narrowed with Republicans flipping several Democrat-held seats.

IOWA SENATE

Prior to the election, Republicans held a 32-18 majority in the Iowa Senate. Initial results indicate that Republicans will maintain their 31-18 majority as they lost one Republican seat and flipped one Democrat-held seat. Democrats picked up the seat formerly held by Republican Charles Schneider (R-West Des Moines) where Democrat Sarah Trone Garriott defeated Clive Mayor Scott Cirksena (R-Clive). Republicans defeated incumbent Senator Rich Taylor (D-Mt. Pleasant). Republicans and Democrats were able to defend all of their other seats with an incumbent or a retirement. Should State Senator Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Ottumwa) win in Iowa's 2nd Congressional District remain unchallenged, a special election for her State Senate seat will be held. Overall, there will be 8 new senators joining the chamber.

The seven new Republican members include:

Jeff Taylor, District 2, Sioux Center – filled open seat vacated by Senator Randy Feenstra
Craig Steven Williams, District 6, Manning – filled open seat vacated by retiring Senator Mark Segebart
Jesse Greene, District 24, Harcourt – filled open seat vacated by retiring Senator Jerry Behn
Mike Klimesh, District 28, Spillville – filled open seat vacated by retiring Senator Michael Breitbart
Dawn Driscoll, District 38, Williamsburg – filled open seat vacated by retiring Senator Tim Kapucian
Jeff Reichman, District 42, Montrose – defeated Democrat Senator Rich Taylor
Tim Goodwin, District 44, Burlington, filled open seat vacated by retiring Senator Tom Greene

The only new Democratic member is:

Sarah Trone Garriott, District 22, Windsor Heights – flipped open seat formerly held by Senator Charles Schneider

Senate Leadership and Committee Chairs

Senate Republicans have announced their leadership with Majority Leader Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) staying on as leader of the Senate Republican Caucus. Senator Jake Chapman (R-Adel) was elected as Senate President, Senator Brad Zaun (R-Urbandale) was elected President Pro Tempore, and Senator Amy Sinclair (R-Allerton) will stay on as Majority Whip. Senator Chris Cournoyer (R-LeClaire), Senator Carrie Koelker (R-Dyersville), Senator Mark Lofgren (R-Muscatine), and Senator Zach Whiting (R-Spirit Lake) were elected as the 4 Assistant Majority Leaders.

Senate Democrats have also announced their leadership team. Senator Janet Peterson (D-Des Moines) stepped down as Minority Leader following the election and Democrats selected Senator Zach Wahls (D-Coralville) as their new Leader in the Senate. Democrats also reelected Senator Amanda Ragan (D-Mason City) as Minority Whip and 5 Assistant Minority Leaders: Senator Nate Boulton (D-Des Moines), Senator Bill Dotzler (D-Waterloo), Senator Pam Jochum (D-Dubuque), Senator Herman Quirnbach (D-Ames), and Senator Jackie Smith (D-Sioux City).

Senate Republican Leadership also announced the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Legislative Committees which are outlined below. Senate Democrats have not yet released ranking members for these committees; we will share as it becomes available.

Administrative Rules Review

Senator Zach Whiting (R-Spirit Lake) – Vice Chair

Agriculture

Senator Dan Zumbach (R-Ryan) – Chair
Senator Annette Sweeney (R-Alden) – Vice Chair

Appropriations

Senator Tim Kraayenbrink (R-Fort Dodge) – Chair
Senator Mark Lofgren (R-Muscatine) – Vice Chair

Commerce

Senator Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig) – Chair
Senator Carrie Koelker (R-Dyersville) – Vice Chair

Education

Senator Amy Sinclair (R-Allerton) – Chair
Senator Jeff Taylor (R-Sioux Center) – Vice Chair

Ethics

Senator Carrie Koelker (R-Dyersville) – Chair
Senator Jim Carlin (R-Sioux City) – Vice Chair

Government Oversight

Senator Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig) – Chair
Senator Craig Williams (R-Manning) – Vice Chair

Human Resources

Senator Jeff Edler (R-State Center) – Chair
Senator Mark Costello (R-Imogene) – Vice Chair

Judiciary

Senator Brad Zaun (R-Urbandale) – Chair
Senator Julian Garrett (R-Indianola) – Vice Chair

Labor

Senator Zach Whiting (R-Spirit Lake) – Chair
Senator Jesse Green (R-Harcourt) – Vice Chair

Local Government

Senator Tom Shipley (R-Nodaway) – Chair
Senator Mike Klimesh (R-Spillville) – Vice Chair

Natural Resources

Senator Annette Sweeney (R-Alden) – Chair
Senator Dawn Driscoll (R-Williamsburg) – Vice Chair

Rules

Senator Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) – Chair
Senator Jake Chapman (R-Adel) – Vice Chair

State Government

Senator Roby Smith (R-Davenport) – Chair
Senator Chris Cournoyer (R-LeClaire) – Vice Chair

Transportation

Senator Waylon Brown (R-Osage) – Chair
Senator Tom Shipley (R-Nodaway)

Veterans Affairs

Senator Jim Carlin (R-Sioux City) – Chair
Senator Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose) – Vice Chair

Ways and Means

Senator Dan Dawson (R-Council Bluffs) – Chair
Senator Tim Goodwin (R-Burlington) – Vice Chair

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs are as follows:

Administration and Regulation

Senator Dennis Guth (R-Klemme) – Chair

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Senator Ken Rozenboom (R-Oskaloosa) – Chair

Economic Development

Senator Mark Lofgren (R-Muscatine) – Chair

Education

Senator Chris Cournoyer (R-LeClaire) – Chair

Health and Human Services

Senator Mark Costello (R-Imogene) – Chair

Justice Systems

Senator Julian Garrett (R-Indianola) – Chair

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals

Senator Craig Johnson (R-Independence) – Chair

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Prior to the election, the Iowa House stood with 53 Republicans to 47 Democrats. With President Trump's strong performance in Iowa, House Republicans increased their majority to 59 – 41 defeating six Democrat incumbents and winning one open Democrat seat while holding all of their Republican incumbent seats and losing just one open seat. Democrats were only able to flip one open seat from Republicans. Overall, there will be 18 new members joining the Iowa House of Representatives in January.

The 14 new Republican members are:

Dennis Bush, District 3, Cleghorn – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Dan Huseman
Henry Stone, District 7, Forest City– filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Tedd Gassman
Brent Siegrist, District 16, Council Bluffs– filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Mary Ann Hanusa

Carter Nordman, District 19, Adel – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Chris Hagenow
Brooke Boden, District 26, Indianola – defeated Democrat Representative Scott Ourth
Garrett Gobble, District 38, Ankeny – defeated Democrat Representative Heather Matson
Eddie Andrews, District 39, Johnston – defeated Democrat Representative Karin Derry

Shannon Latham, District 54, Sheffield – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Linda Upmeyer
Steven Bradley, District 58, Cascade – defeated Democrat Representative Andy McKean
Chad Ingels, District 64, Randalia – flipped open seat vacated by retiring Representative Bruce Bearinger
Cherilynn Westrich, District 81, Ottumwa – defeated Democrat Representative Mary Gaskill
Martin Graber, District 83, Fort Madison – defeated Democrat Representative Jeff Kurtz
Mark Cisneros, District 91, Muscatine – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Gary Carlson
Charlie McClintock, District 95, Alburnett – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Louis Zumbach

The 4 new Democrat members are:

Steve Hansen, District 14, Sioux City – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Timothy Kacena
Eric Gjerde, District 67, Cedar Rapids – flipped open seat vacated by retiring Representative Ashley Hinson
Sue Cahill, District 71, Marshalltown – filled open seat vacated by retiring Representative Mark Smith
Christina Bohannon, District 85, Iowa City – won Democratic primary against Representative Vicki Lensing and was unopposed in the General Election

House Leadership and Committee Chairs

House Republicans have announced their leadership team with Speaker Pat Grassley (R-New Hartford) and Majority Leader Matt Windschitl (R-Missouri Valley) reelected as leaders of the House Republican Caucus. Representative John Wills (R-Spirit Lake) was reelected as Speaker Pro Tem and Representative Mike Sexton (R-Rockwell City) was reelected as Majority Whip.

House Democrats also announced their leadership team. Representative Todd Prichard (D-Charles City) was reelected as Minority Leader in the House. Democrats also elected Representative Jennifer Konfrst (D-Windsor Heights) as Minority Whip and 4 Assistant Minority Leaders: Representative Brian Meyer (D-Des Moines), Representative Lindsay James (D-Dubuque), Representative Charlie McConkey (D-Council Bluffs), and Representative Eric Gjerde (D-Cedar Rapids).

House Republican Leadership also announced the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Legislative Committees which are outlined below. House Democrats have not yet released ranking members for these committees; we will share as it becomes available.

Administrative Rules Review

Rep. Megan Jones (R-Sioux Rapids) – Chair

Agriculture

Rep. Ross Paustian (R-Walcott) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Chad Ingels (R-Randalia) – Vice Chair

Appropriations

Rep. Gary Mohr (R-Bettendorf) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Shannon Latham (R-Sheffield) – Vice Chair

Commerce

Rep. Shannon Lundgren (R-Peosta) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Mark Cisneros (R- Muscatine) – Vice Chair

Economic Growth

Rep. Ray Sorensen (R-Greenfield) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Henry Stone (R-Forest City) – Vice Chair

Education

Rep. Dustin Hite (R-New Sharon) – Chair
Rep. Skyler Wheeler (R-Orange City) – Vice Chair

Environmental Protection

Rep. Dean Fisher (R-Montour) – Chair
Rep. Tom Moore (R-Griswold) – Vice Chair

Ethics

Rep. Anne Osmundson (R-Volga) – Chair

Government Oversight

Rep. Holly Brink (R-Oskaloosa) – Chair
Rep. Jon Jacobsen (R-Council Bluffs) – Vice Chair

Human Resources

Rep. Ann Meyer (R-Fort Dodge) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Steve Bradley (R-Cascade) – Vice Chair

Information Technology

Rep. Brian Lohse (R-Bondurant) – Chair
Rep. David Sieck (R-Glenwood) – Vice Chair

**Note: This is a new committee that will focus on state technology infrastructure, cyber security, and broadband issues.*

International Relations

Rep. Terry Baxter (R-Garner) – Chair
Rep. Jon Thorup (R-Knoxville) – Vice Chair

Judiciary

Rep. Steve Holt (R-Denison) – Chair
Rep. Stan Gustafson (R-Cumming) – Vice Chair

Labor

Rep. Dave Deyoe (R-Nevada) – Chair
Rep. Jeff Shipley (R-Birmingham) – Vice Chair

Local Government

Rep. Jane Bloomingdale (R-Northwood) – Chair
Rep. Brent Siegrist (R-Council Bluffs) – Vice Chair

Natural Resources

Rep. Rob Bacon (R-Slater) – Chair
Rep. Tom Jeneary (R-Le Mars) – Vice Chair

Public Safety

Rep. Jarad Klein (R-Keota) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Cherielynn Westrich (R-Ottumwa) – Vice Chair

State Government

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Brooke Boden (R-Indianola) – Vice Chair

Transportation

Rep. Brian Best (R-Glidden) – Chair
Rep. Dave Maxwell (R-Gibson) – Vice Chair

Veterans Affairs

Rep. Sandy Salmon (R-Janesville) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Martin Graber (R-Fort Madison) – Vice Chair

Ways & Means

Rep. Lee Hein (R-Monticello) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Carter Nordman (R-Adel) – Vice Chair

The House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs are as follows:

Administration and Regulation Appropriations

Rep. John Landon (R-Ankeny) – Chair
Rep. Michael Bergan (R-Dorchester) – Vice Chair

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Appropriations

Rep. Norlin Mommsen (R-DeWitt) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Dennis Bush (R-Cleghorn) – Vice Chair

Economic Development Appropriations

Rep. Phil Thompson (R-Jefferson) – Chair
Rep. Tom Gerhold (R-Atkins) – Vice Chair

Education Appropriations

Rep. David Kerr (R-Morning Sun) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Garrett Gobble (R-Ankeny) – Vice Chair

Health and Human Services Appropriations

Rep. Joel Fry (R-Osceola) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Eddie Andrews (R-Johnston) – Vice Chair

Justice Systems Appropriations

Rep. Gary Worthan (R-Storm Lake) – Chair
Rep.-Elect Charlie McClintock (R-Alburnett) – Vice Chair

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals

Appropriations

Rep. Jacob Bossman (R-Sioux City) – Chair
Rep. Anne Osmundson (R-Volga) – Vice Chair