

2025 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA



**GREATER DES MOINES
PARTNERSHIP**



Greater Des Moines Partnership

2025 FEDERAL POLICY FEATURED PRIORITIES

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

To preserve a pro-growth, jobs and competitiveness-oriented federal tax environment, The Partnership supports addressing expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

HOUSING

The Partnership supports the expansion of housing options through funding and policies that incentivize communities and employers to invest in new and existing housing, including a Conversion Tax Credit.

CHILD CARE

The Partnership supports increased investment and policy initiatives that expand child care options for families while ensuring long-term stability and growth within the child care workforce to meet demand, including the availability of 7A and 504 microloans to nonprofit child care providers.

IMMIGRATION

The Partnership advocates for a modernized, efficient immigration system to help address critical workforce shortages and drive economic prosperity, including the expansion of the Conrad 30 waiver program.

DESIGNATING U.S. 65 AS AN INTERSTATE

The Partnership supports designating U.S. 65 as an interstate and supporting a federal increase in weight and size limits and exemptions on the corridor.

MISSION

The Greater Des Moines Partnership is the economic and community development organization that serves Greater Des Moines (DSM), Iowa. Together with more than 400 Investors, 12 counties and an affiliate Chamber of Commerce network representing over 6,700 regional business members.

THE PARTNERSHIP DRIVES ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION AND AS ONE REGION.

Through innovation, strategic planning and global collaboration, The Partnership grows opportunity, helps create jobs and promotes the DSM region as the best place to build a business, a career and a future.

PUBLIC POLICY TEAM

- **Jenae Sikkink**, *Senior Vice President of Talent Development and Inclusive Strategies*
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- **Ryan Moon**, *Director of Government Relations and Public Policy*
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GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

- **Government Policy Council Chair**, Daryl Bouwkamp, *Vermeer Corporation*

GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The Government Policy Council (GPC), made up of Partnership Investors and Affiliate Chamber Member organizations, shapes The Partnership's state and federal policy agendas.

- * The Partnership's policy team works with Dentons Davis Brown Law Firm for day-to-day lobbying at the Iowa State Capitol throughout the Legislative Session. Policy events exist as an opportunity to connect Partnership Investors and Members with policymakers, staff and issue experts.

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ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BUSINESS CLIMATE

The Partnership is the regional economic and community development organization and is focused on policies that impact economic growth and the region's business climate. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Preserving a pro-growth, jobs and competitiveness-oriented federal tax environment by addressing expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), namely:
 - Preserving competitive rates for both corporations and pass-through entities.
 - Restoring immediate R&D expensing to retain research and engineering investment.
 - Reinstating immediate 100% expensing of capital equipment purchases.
 - Preserving estate tax exemption thresholds.
 - Preserving international tax reforms.
- Streamlining the government procurement process and increasing private sector business opportunities in the federal market.
- Reauthorization of the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- The SBA's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance and access to capital for small businesses.
- The preservation and protection of state-based regulatory standards in the private insurance market whether through legislation or the rule-making process.
- Legislation to allow life insurers debt investments to receive ordinary tax treatment.
- Enhancing pension and related tax policies to further support retirement security.
- Balancing and reducing the federal budget deficit and long-term debt.
- Maintaining the ability of state and local governments to utilize tax-exempt bonds, re-instituting the ability of state and local governments to advance the refunding of outstanding tax-exempt bonds and opposing elimination or limitations on the exclusion of interest thereon from federal tax.

WORKFORCE

Talent recruitment and retention is a top priority for Partnership Investors, Affiliates and Members, impacting every industry and area of the state. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Policies that increase child care access and affordability.
- Increasing workforce funding for digital skills and on-the-job training.
- Reauthorization of Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Expansion of apprenticeship support by the Department of Labor.
- Redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to support apprenticeship and other work-based learning.
- Incentives for employers to upskill employees and assist with tuition and education loans, along with policies and programs that make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable for all qualified students.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The Partnership is dedicated to building our region's strength in trade and as a destination for global investment. Therefore, The Partnership supports the following policy priorities:

- Pro-growth international trade and investment policies and principles.
- Renewing the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill and streamlining the section 301 exclusions process.
- Refraining from imposing tariffs on raw materials and inputs that may weaken Iowa's production competitiveness.
- Promoting and defending robust Intellectual Property (IP) rules globally, while increasing efforts in the U.S. and abroad.
- Addressing the infrastructure needs of the Iowa National Guard to enable their mission.
- Securing our nation's borders.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

The Partnership supports policies and balanced regulatory practices that ensure energy remains safe, affordable and reliable, while promoting Iowa's renewable energy sources and avoiding directives or cross subsidies. Specifically, this includes:

- Permitting reform and increased coordination with state and local entities in order to accelerate investment and construction of energy, utilities and related infrastructure.
- Protecting in-flight projects and investments by preserving the tax provisions within the Inflation Reduction Act which promote all-of-the-above energy investment to Iowa.
- Sustained levels of research and development funding for energy-related programs through Ames National Laboratory and the greater Department of Energy national laboratory network.

AGRICULTURE

A strong agriculture industry is essential for economic vitality in Iowa. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- U.S. trading partner negotiations and actions that bolster market access and demand for Iowa's farm economy while protecting against market disruption and trade partner retaliation.
- Programs and incentives to promote and assist in research, development and commercialization of biofuels, biotechnology and bio-based materials.
- Passage of a new Farm Bill.
- A strong investment in capacity and competitive agricultural research funding for Iowa State University and the land-grant university system.
- Continuation and expansion of the Source Water Protection program.
- Funding for USDA Rural Development programs.

TRANSPORTATION

The Partnership supports investment in a complete, multimodal transportation system that efficiently moves goods and people, creates jobs and spurs economic growth. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Closing the funding gap for the Des Moines International Airport's Terminal Project.
- Designating U.S. 65/Iowa 5 as an interstate and supporting a federal increase in weight and size limits and exemption on the corridor.
- A stable funding process through the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and an increase in the Passenger Facility Charge.
- Continued federal support for Complete Streets, including increased flexibility to allow multimodal transportation accommodations on streets, roadways and the public right of way.
- Adequate funding for a new DART Operations and Maintenance Facility and HIRTA facility.
- Extending high-speed passenger service to cover Iowa and continuing enhanced federal investment in high-speed passenger rail funding.
- Enactment of an infrastructure investment tax credit for, and opposing the re-regulation of the freight rail industry.
- Continued funding for multipurpose trails and other transportation and recreation programs.
- Increased federal formula funding for transportation in Iowa, along with greater flexibility for local communities in utilizing the funds.
- Continued improvements to the existing Highway Trust Fund.
- Maintaining federal infrastructure programs.
- Policies and programs that ease the introduction and widespread adoption of emerging transportation technologies and a national approach to automated transportation.
- Rural, suburban and urban regional priority transportation and trail projects, identified in collaboration with our regional transportation partners.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Partnership supports investments in the types of infrastructure which multiply the growth potential for businesses, people and communities. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Policies that support broadband infrastructure and avoid over-regulation and preserving and reforming the BEAD program.
- Policies to address cybersecurity threats and attacks through a uniform minimum standard for the notification of consumers after a breach occurs, legislation to create a Systemically Important Critical Infrastructure and a process to facilitate better information flows between the federal government and the private sector.
- Policies that support the ongoing need for housing options.
- Funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program.
- Expanding the flexibility of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program to assist low-income families in emergency housing situations and policies that expedite HUD disaster resources following a natural or human-caused disaster.
- Funding for and flexible use of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).
- Tax credits and other provisions that, when leveraged with additional resources, can be used to reduce the cost of construction and rehabilitation of housing.
- Increased funding for the programs administered by the local Public Housing Authority and simplification of federal regulations, creating more local policies to support the needs of the community.
- Tax incentives for commercial, industrial and residential green building and redevelopment programs that promote and encourage energy efficiency and other environmentally friendly practices.

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SUSTAINABILITY

The Partnership believes that investment in soil and water infrastructure is crucial to a healthy community and the foundation for a strong economy. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Flood mitigation policies and strategies through collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other partner organizations.
- Prioritizing the use of natural infrastructure techniques, such as restored wetlands or restored oxbows installed upstream to slow the flow in the upper reaches of the watershed.
- Policies and funding that further a regional approach with public-private and urban-rural partnerships to address water quality, soil health and water management strategies and goals.
- Financial incentives and continued education to support and expand the implementation of programs designed to minimize the quantity of nutrients and soil entering the Iowa's rivers and streams.
- Ongoing funding for research, prevention, reporting and mitigation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and harmful algal blooms (HABs), including the remediation of PFAS sites affecting water sources.

EDUCATION

The Partnership believes an effective educational system and proven workforce development programs are critical to the quality of life in the region and are leading factors in recruiting business to Iowa. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

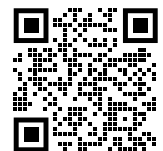
- Increased federal investment in early childhood education programs.
- Increased funding and support for work-based learning programs.
- Adequate funding for programs to recruit, retain and train a high-caliber teaching force.
- College and career planning systems, programs and staffing, along with promotion of methods to encourage K-12 students and families to become informed consumers of all available postsecondary options.
- Policies and programs to make post-secondary education accessible and affordable for all qualified students through significant increases in need-based aid programs.
- Multi-state cooperatives for educational institutions, such as the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) initiative.

About the Federal Policy Agenda

The Partnership's federal policy agenda, along with its state policy agenda, are shaped by the Government Policy Council (GPC). The GPC is made up of Partnership Investors and Affiliate Chamber Member organizations.

For more information about being involved with the GPC, contact:

Ryan Moon, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, rmoon@DSMpartnership.com.



Learn more:
DSMpartnership.com/publicpolicy

IMMIGRATION

The Partnership has consistently supported reforms to the federal immigration process, recognizing the importance and the profound need for talent and the opportunity it provides to support a diverse workforce. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- A modernized immigration system and policies that support the workforce needs of Iowa.
- Expansion of the H-1B Visa Program for highly skilled workers, without the use of a wage ranking system.
- Streamlining the travel visa process and expanding the Visa Waiver program to facilitate business and global commerce.
- Increasing the number of available H-2B Visas and making both H-2A and H-2B programs non-seasonal to realistically account for the needs in agriculture, landscaping, hospitality, construction and other non-agricultural occupations.
- Expansion of the Employment-Based Immigrant Visa Program, including recapturing unused visas from past years and ceasing to count spouses against the total allocation.
- Creating a clear path for foreign-born entrepreneurs to open businesses in the U.S. and to hire U.S. workers.
- Dual intent for international students and codifying access to practical training benefits for F-Visa, M-Visa and J-Visa holders and specifically expanding the “Conrad 30” program.
- Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.
- Funding of the Office of Refugee Resettlement budget at a level that allows local service providers and communities to be prepared to receive new lowans.

HEALTH CARE

A strong health care system is integral to a healthy business ecosystem. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Ensuring health care entities can sustain their not-for-profit status by embracing their full community impact; increasing Medicare reimbursement to cover the cost of care delivery; and defending the 340B drug discount program.
- Growing the health care workforce through innovative pathways for health care education, expansion of virtual care and curbing workplace violence.
- Improving community health by creating reliability around Medicaid reimbursement and access; sustaining the Health Insurance Marketplace; and strengthening maternal care access in rural Iowa.

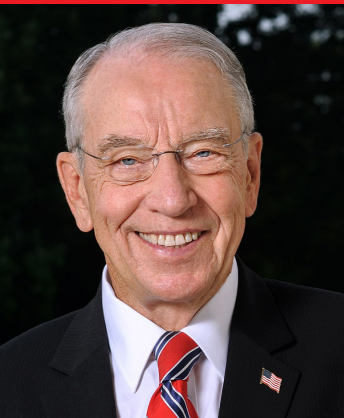
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports investment in arts, culture, heritage and placemaking, recognizing their importance in attracting and retaining a strong workforce, promoting health and wellness and benefiting the local economy. Specifically, this includes:

- Additional federal funding for the Iowa Confluence (ICON) Water Trails.
- Grant funding for regional quality of life placemaking projects.
- Funding for programs and grants to support planning efforts, support for digital arts and creative programs that connect culture and the community.

IOWA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY



REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEES:

- Senate Judiciary Committee (Chair)
 - Immigration, Citizenship and Border Safety Subcommittee
 - Competition Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
 - Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism Subcommittee
 - Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action and Federal Rights Subcommittee
- Joint Committee on Taxation
- Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
 - Commodities, Risk Management and Trade Subcommittee
 - Rural Development and Energy Subcommittee
- Senate Budget Committee
- Senate Finance Committee
 - Taxation and IRS Oversight Subcommittee
 - Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth Subcommittee (Chair)
 - Health Care Subcommittee

Office	Address	Phone
Main	135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	(202) 224-3744
Des Moines	721 Federal Building 210 Walnut St. Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 288-1145
Cedar Rapids	111 7th Ave. S.E. Box 13, Ste. 6800 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	(319) 363-6832
Council Bluffs	2146 27th Ave. Ste. 550 Council Bluffs, IA 51501	(712) 322-7103
Davenport	201 W. 2nd St. Ste. 720 Davenport, IA 52801	(563) 322-4331
Sioux City	120 Federal Building 320 6th St. Sioux City, IA 51101	(712) 233-1860
Waterloo	210 Waterloo Building 531 Commercial St. Waterloo, IA 50701	(319) 232-6657

SENATOR JONI ERNST

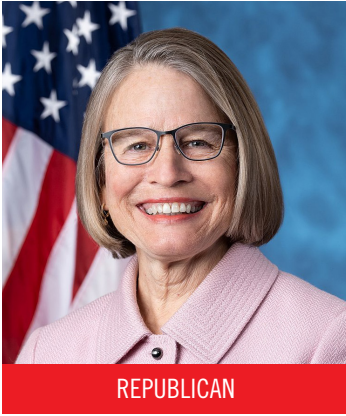


REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEES:

- Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee (Chair)
- Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
 - Commodities, Risk Management and Trade Subcommittee
 - Rural Development and Energy Subcommittee
 - Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics and Research Subcommittee
- Senate Armed Services Committee
 - Airland Subcommittee
 - Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee (Chair)
 - Cybersecurity Subcommittee
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Office	Address	Phone
Main	260 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	(202) 224-3254
Des Moines	733 Federal Building 210 Walnut St. Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 284-4574
Cedar Rapids	111 7th Ave. S.E. Ste. 480 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	(319) 365-4504
Council Bluffs	2146 27th Ave. Ste. 500 Council Bluffs, IA 51501	(712) 352-1167
Davenport	201 W. 2nd St. Ste. 806 Davenport, IA 52801	(563) 322-0677
Sioux City	194 Federal Building 320 6th St. Sioux City, IA 51101	(712) 252-1550



REPUBLICAN

REPRESENTATIVE MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

Iowa's First Congressional District

COMMITTEES:

- House Energy and Commerce Committee
 - Health Subcommittee
 - Energy Subcommittee
 - Environment Subcommittee
- House Veterans Affairs Committee
 - Health Subcommittee (Chair)

Office	Address	Phone
Main	504 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	(202) 225-6576
Davenport	201 W. 2nd St. Ste. 705 Davenport, IA 52801	(563) 232-0930
Indianola	126 N. Howard St. Indianola, IA 50125	(515) 808-6040



REPUBLICAN

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH NUNN

Iowa's Third Congressional District

COMMITTEES:

- House Agriculture Committee
 - General Farm Commodities, Risk Management and Credit Subcommittee
- House Financial Services Committee
 - Capital markets Subcommittee
 - National Security, Illicit Finance and International Financial Institutions Subcommittee (Vice Chair)
 - Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee
- Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Office	Address	Phone
Main	1410 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	(202) 225-5476
Des Moines	400 Locust St. Ste. 250 Des Moines, IA 50309	(515) 400-8180
Creston	208 W. Taylor St. Creston, IA 50801	(641) 220-9093
Ottumwa	223 E. Main St. Ottumwa, IA 52501	(641) 220-9641

REPRESENTATIVE ASHLEY HINSON

Iowa's Second Congressional District

COMMITTEES:

- House Appropriations Committee
 - Homeland Security Subcommittee
 - Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee
- House Select Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party Committee



Office

Address

Phone

Main	2458 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	(202) 225-2911
Cedar Rapids	111 7th Ave. S.E. Ste. 580 Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	(319) 364-2288
Dubuque	1050 Main St. Dubuque, IA 52001	(563) 557-7789
Waterloo	531 Commercial St. Ste. 302 Waterloo, IA 50701	(319) 266-6925

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY FEENSTRA

Iowa's Fourth Congressional District

COMMITTEES:

- House Agriculture Committee
 - Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee
- House Ways and Means Committee
 - Work and Welfare Subcommittee
 - Social Security Subcommittee
 - Tax Subcommittee



Office

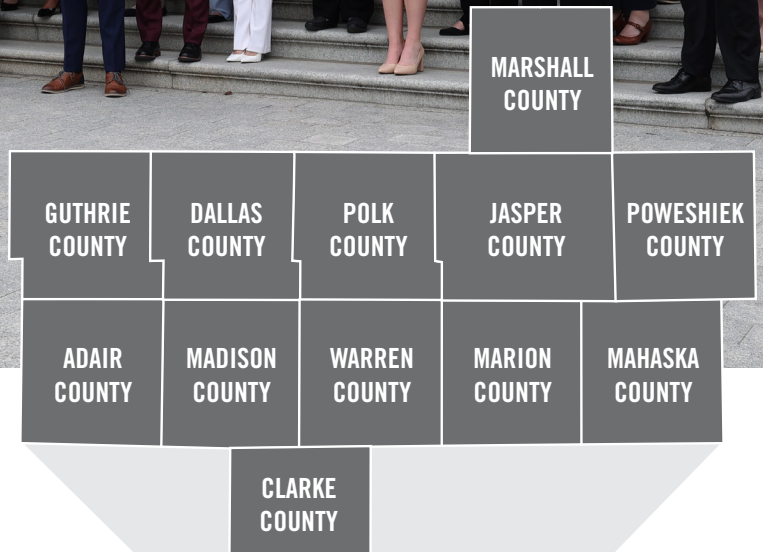
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Fort Dodge	723 Central Ave. Fort Dodge, IA 50501	(515) 302-7060
Sioux City	320 6th St. Room 112, Sioux City, IA 51101	(712) 224-4692



DMDC 2024



Public Policy in DSM USA

The Partnership's Public Policy team engages with local, state and federal officials to create public policy that generates economic growth, business prosperity and talent development in the 12-County Greater Des Moines (DSM) region. The Partnership provides opportunities for its Investors and Members to connect, build relationships and continue dialogue with their elected officials, including during DMDC, the annual Washington, D.C. fly-in trip.



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