

Candidate Statement: Steve McCargar for Iowa House 55

Across the country and here in Iowa state legislatures are increasingly dysfunctional. In states where republicans control one or both legislative houses, the fundamental principle that governments exist to serve the interests of every-day people is under assault. In Iowa pre K-12 public schools, community colleges, and state universities have been denied sufficient state funding necessary to deliver high quality education for our children. Industrial-scale corporate livestock producers are allowed to poison our air, water, soil, and microbial environments with virtually no accountability or consequences. Government functions are routinely privatized in the name of “efficiency”, or “modernization” or “cost-savings”, but experience in other states suggests that our most vulnerable citizens will suffer when mental health care and Medicaid administration are privatized – and that projected tax-payer savings won’t materialize. Amazingly, the State’s power of eminent domain has recently been used for a corporate purpose – building the Bakken pipeline – but in the State House of Representatives, there was no legislative response.

The pattern is unmistakable and predictable. Republican control of Iowa state government leads to an expansion of corporate profits and power, subsidized by Iowa taxpayers’ money. This must stop. All Iowans need state legislators who will put the public interest first at all times. I promise to do just that, and to work for the following legislative initiatives:

- A moratorium on issuing any new permits for CAFO construction in Iowa until all pollution issues can be addressed;
- Clear restrictions on the use of eminent domain for non-public purposes;
- Long-term funding increases for public schools, state universities, and community colleges;
- Restrictions on the use of tax money (tax credits, loans, or other direct subsidies) for economic

development unless the beneficiaries are worker-owned businesses, cooperatives, or Iowa-based companies;

- Re-establishing the administration of Medicaid as a state responsibility;
- Requiring that net-metering pricing policies are followed by Iowa's investor-owned utilities (to protect and create incentives for individuals, businesses and communities wishing to install small-scale solar and wind-power systems);
- A phased increase in Iowa's minimum wage to \$15/hour with a built-in index mechanism for increasing it when inflation goes up;
- Protection of continued state funding for Planned Parenthood's health care services in Iowa.

During my 34 years in Iowa I have served the Decorah area in these ways:

- 25 years as co-manager of Oneota Community Food Co-op
- Founding partner of Hometown Taxi (1987-1994)
- Winneshiek County Supervisor (1991-1992)
- 7 years as Manager of the Winneshiek County Farmers Market (2009 - 2016)
- 6 years as a teacher at Kinderhaus Preschool
- Decades of advocacy for reduced pesticide use on public lands and protection of rural Iowans from the polluting effects of CAFOs across the State.

- Three years as board member for Winneshiek County Protectors, working to keep industrial frac-sand mining out of northeast Iowa.

I look forward to putting my experience and commitment to work in the state legislature on behalf of all Iowans in House District 55. I hope to earn your support.

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