Majorities of Both Iowa Republicans and Democrats Agree on Over 100 Policy Proposals

This sheet shows bipartisan common ground on 102 policy proposals statewide — and on about as many in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts — across 14 issue areas. Most of these proposals were drawn from Congressional legislation and some from the Executive Branch. Iowans also agree that Congress would be more likely to find common ground if it were more influenced by *We the People*. The findings come from the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* Survey Series, conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections. Numbers are the percent of **Republicans** and **Democrats** in support. Questions are abbreviated here — full question wording and more detail are at **vop.org/battlegrounds-iowa**.

THE IOWA COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

102	101	102	105
Iowa statewide	IA-1	IA-2	IA-3

Of the 106 policy questions, a policy is counted as receiving bipartisan support when at least 51% of both Republicans and Democrats take the same position. Medicaid spending is listed twice, but counted once; Role of We the People questions are not counted.

HEALTHCARE COSTS Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	88	90	87	92	88	89	91	88
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	78	81	78	79	76	85	80	80
When a drug is unaffordable and was developed with federal funds, let the government override the patent and license other drug companies to make it	83	79	87	82	78	80	81	84
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	77	91	82	88	75	91	77	93
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people *Also listed under Low-Income Assistance; counted once in the tally.*	62	83	57	86	66	78	62	86
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	79	84	82	81	79	85	73	85
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	76	86	81	89	75	85	74	86
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	69	84	70	84	71	81	72	84
Make it a high priority for the government to ensure that everyone who needs and wants substance-use treatment can get it (very or somewhat high priority)	87	94	84	95	85	93	87	94
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	9		9		9		9	

SOCIAL SECURITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	81	86	84	87	76	86	81	84
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	59	67	64	69	61	64	59	71
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	66	70	63	69	71	72	65	66
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	54	*49*	56	*49*	55	53	54	*50*

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	77	79	74	78	79	82	76	78
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy	66	67	66	68	72	67	62	69
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5		6		5	

FAMILIES & CHILDREN Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Provide $25 billion to states and cities for to create or expand free universal preschool programs	67	87	70	87	67	84	62	88
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	77	88	80	89	74	86	78	87
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	75	80	71	80	79	76	71	83
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	69	78	66	83	74	78	66	78
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4		4		4	

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	80	83	83	83	79	77	79	88
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	63	76	63	76	66	69	63	79
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	62	83	65	84	59	81	65	85
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	72	88	73	87	76	87	72	90
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	78	81	74	79	83	80	77	82
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5		5		5	

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	75	85	78	86	70	80	77	90
…for single mothers above the current $530	57	68	52	69	62	63	57	73
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	85	94	81	96	84	90	89	94
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more people (allowed to increase, keep the same, or decrease) *Also listed under Healthcare Costs; counted once in the tally.*	62	83	57	86	66	78	62	86
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount) *Median Democrat: $15 statewide and IA-1 and IA-3; $13 in IA-2. Median Republican: $12 everywhere.*	92	97	96	99	87	96	92	99
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	72	84	72	82	75	83	71	89

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	77	85	77	84	82	84	74	86
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	68	71	70	72	69	69	71	78
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	8		8		8		8	

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	80	85	83	84	79	86	80	85
Require new AI programs that make critical decisions (e.g. review health insurance claims) to pass a government test to: ensure they follow the law, are unbiased, have security protections	81	82	84	81	78	81	82	87
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	70	74	78	80	66	70	71	73
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	88	90	83	92	86	88	91	92
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	85	85	90	88	80	84	89	88
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	80	82	83	86	72	86	79	79
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	79	84	81	87	79	82	77	85
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	7		7		7		7	

IMMIGRATION Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	92	80	95	80	90	81	93	80
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	68	85	73	87	65	87	69	83
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	76	87	79	86	74	90	80	89
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	80	85	79	84	79	88	79	80
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	73	82	72	81	73	81	77	85
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5		5		5	

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	72	97	79	96	66	98	75	97
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	68	94	70	95	61	92	77	95
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	69	91	68	88	60	94	75	90
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	75	92	74	91	72	91	80	93
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4		4		4	

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	77	97	75	97	83	96	82	96
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	66	96	67	96	71	95	73	95
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	65	92	67	92	56	92	75	92
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has not greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	69	91	74	91	62	94	72	90
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	65	92	68	91	58	92	70	93
Tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	77	91	79	94	72	92	77	91
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	69	87	71	80	63	90	79	89
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	70	94	70	94	69	96	76	92
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	76	92	75	90	76	93	79	92
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	76	89	80	86	67	91	79	89
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	10		10		10		10	

FEDERAL TAXES Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	70	93	73	94	68	95	72	91
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	54	70	54	72	54	69	64	68
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	56	83	59	81	51	87	60	83
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	65	89	63	88	60	92	73	92
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $200,000–$500,000 income from 21% to at least 24% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$145B)	*47*	74	*50*	76	*42*	72	51	79
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $500,000–$1 million income from 25% to at least 28% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$48B)	51	78	*50*	81	*49*	76	55	82
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $1 million+ income from 27% to at least 29% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$73B)	55	81	51	85	55	79	60	87
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	72	87	72	89	69	90	78	87
Apply the estate tax to more inherited wealth, by lowering the tax exemption from $15 million to $5 million (chose between multiple options, including eliminating the tax) (+$17B)	52	69	56	74	53	69	52	70

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	57	81	59	80	*48*	82	66	82
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	*50*	68	*50*	69	53	66	55	72
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	9		8		8		11	

GOVERNMENT REFORM Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	82	89	81	89	82	89	86	90
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	87	88	88	89	79	85	91	89
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	58	69	57	61	58	71	61	71
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	81	82	78	80	80	85	82	85
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	75	76	78	74	68	80	77	79
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	86	92	87	95	83	92	88	92
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6		6		6	

CAMPAIGN FINANCE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	85	91	84	91	84	89	87	91
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	62	68	68	63	53	71	62	71
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	86	91	83	91	82	94	87	91
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	85	84	83	80	84	90	86	85
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	84	88	82	88	80	90	84	89
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	77	81	78	78	69	81	79	84
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6		6		6	

CRIMINAL JUSTICE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	86	96	87	94	85	96	87	97

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	68	87	65	81	74	89	75	89
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	87	94	90	90	83	94	89	94
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	85	94	85	94	90	93	89	92
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	72	88	72	88	67	88	79	87
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	57	77	65	83	51	71	62	82
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	63	82	66	79	59	80	70	86
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	76	90	77	91	75	85	75	92
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	68	78	68	76	72	78	65	79
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	65	74	65	70	63	75	66	74
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	60	64	65	56	55	65	60	67
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	73	84	76	75	64	87	80	86
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	66	85	72	83	63	87	69	89
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13		13		13		13	

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	82	80	80	81	78	82	83	73
Continue to be part of NATO	74	90	79	86	68	92	76	90
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	*49*	78	*47*	81	*46*	78	53	76
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	86	84	91	82	82	85	83	84
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	80	83	80	83	78	87	84	83
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	77	67	80	62	65	70	83	66
Automatically cut off funding for a military action started by the President if Congress does not approve it within 60 days (except in response to a direct attack)	55	85	64	81	51	88	65	86
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	80	93	81	90	75	97	84	91
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	82	92	76	88	84	95	85	94
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	68	82	63	77	67	90	75	80
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	74	92	70	89	73	96	79	91

PROPOSAL	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	70	95	71	94	74	96	77	93
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	81	91	79	89	81	92	82	91
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	12		12		12		13	

THE IOWA COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

102	101	102	105
Iowa statewide	IA-1	IA-2	IA-3

THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

POSITIONS	IOWA		IA-1		IA-2		IA-3	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to find common ground	90	93	90	92	89	91	90	97
…more likely to serve the common good	88	88	92	91	85	86	87	89
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	76	77	76	83	78	67	73	81
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	76	82	77	85	73	74	76	87
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	70	74	66	75	70	69	75	75
Estimated share of the time federal elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (*mean %)*	*38*	*33*	*37*	*33*	*41*	*33*	*37*	*32*

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) as part of the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* series covering 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts.

The 106 policy proposals included in these surveys were chosen because national surveys by PPC and others had found majorities of both Republicans and Democrats in support. The battleground survey series sought to see whether that common ground holds in competitive states and districts. Project partners are PPC, the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. None advocates for policy positions or endorses candidates.

Iowa was surveyed in two waves. Wave 1 (Healthcare, Social Security, Families & Children, Housing, Low-Income Assistance, Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, The Role of *We the People*) was fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026, to 2,000 adults statewide, including 500 each in IA-1, IA-2 and IA-3; confidence intervals range from ±2.9 to 5.9%.

Wave 2 (Abortion & Birth Control, Energy & Environment, Federal Taxes, Government Reform, Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, America's Role in the World) was fielded July 21 – August 3, 2026, to 2,016 adults statewide, including 503 in IA-1, 504 in IA-2 and 502 in IA-3; confidence intervals range from ±2.9 to 6.3%.

Samples were drawn from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata, and Prodege. Samples were pre-stratified and/or weighted to match the adult population of each geography by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income and education). The distributions of partisan affiliation were within expectations based on voter registration for non-leaners or the Cook Partisan Voting Index for leaners, or weighted to be so.

Iowa press releases and questionnaires: **vop.org/battlegrounds-iowa**
All states and districts surveyed: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**