



Rural Power

Iowa's electric cooperatives | Energizing rural economic growth

Rolling deadline

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.

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

During my two terms as Mayor of South Bend, my priority has always been to provide reliable, affordable, safe, and clean electricity to the city's residents. While South Bend is served by an IOU, the rural electric coops in Indiana, like the Coops in Iowa, are an important part of our community and share these goals.

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

My administration will invest more than \$750 billion in renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment, which will fund and incentivize energy deployment that is reliable, affordable, and clean. Iowa has been a leader in the deployment of renewable energy, particularly wind, and this plan will continue to keep rural Iowans with an increased supply of reliable renewable energy. We will also invest in climate and disaster resilience and create Regional Resilience Hubs to support rural Iowans in developing strategies that ensure electric grid reliability in the face of natural disasters.

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?

I plan to invest \$200 billion in federal renewable energy research to accelerate the development of advanced storage and battery technologies that enable us to use energy from wind and solar on a 24-hour basis. This will help us to transition off fuels like natural gas and nuclear power. We will also fix the electricity markets so that electricity can be easily traded within states and across regions. After this reform, when the wind is blowing in Iowa, it can be sold into other states--and when it isn't, Iowans can still ensure the reliability of their grid.

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. My plans emphasize involvement by regional and local entities like co-ops. I envision co-ops being a key thought partner in my Regional Resilience Hubs, where businesses, academia, utilities, and community leaders can work together to prepare for the effects of climate change. I will also provide co-ops with funding through the Department of Energy, EPA, Federal Communications Commission, and

National Science Foundation to develop innovative approaches for energy delivery. Finally, co-ops can be a key participant in Regional Innovation Clusters to support rural business and entrepreneurs. I plan to provide up to \$500 million in federal funds to develop and support a national network of 1,000 clusters.

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

My plan to support the rural economy, "[Our Commitment to America's Heartland: Unleashing the Potential of Rural America](#)," will help rural America grow and thrive. My administration will provide \$200 million to support local and state governments in regional economic development initiatives. We will invest in a \$80 billion Internet for All initiative, in which co-ops can play a key role in ensuring that broadband is delivered to all consumers, and reinvigorate funding for antitrust enforcement to ensure a level playing field for small businesses. In addition, we will dramatically expand access to apprenticeships, so an opportunity in a growing industry is available within 30 miles of every American. We will incentivize companies to offer paid internships to students from underrepresented backgrounds who normally may not have access to them. Finally, my plan includes concrete goals to reduce teacher shortages and increase college completion rates in rural areas.

Please email candidate responses to Haley Moon (hmoon@iowarec.org).