

Iowa Advisory Committee

These business, faith, military, and community leaders believe that Iowa benefits when America leads in the world through investments in development and diplomacy.

Co-Chairs

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U.S. Senate, (1985-2015)

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12th Ambassador to China, (2017-2020)
Governor (2011-2017, 1983-1999)

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Iowa Legislature
State Representative

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Blessman International
Founder and CEO

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Iowa Legislature
State Representative

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Vermeer Corporation
Sr. Director Int'l Business Development
& Gov't Affairs
Iowa District Export Council
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AGS/H&K International
Global Business Development Manager

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Brownell's, Inc
CEO

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First Community Trust
Vice President

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DexterApache Holdings
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Iowa Federation of Republican Women
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International Traders of Iowa
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Veteran, U.S. Air Force

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Mayor

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Iowa Catholic Conference
Executive Director

Amy Alice Chastain
Global Ties Iowa
Executive Director

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U.S. Embassy Beijing
Former Chief of Staff
Iowa Legislature
State Representative (1993-1997)
Branstad Churchill Group
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U.S. Department of Commerce
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Dan Culhane
Ames Regional Economic Alliance
President & CEO

Cary Darrah
Greater Cedar Valley Alliance & Chamber
President & CEO

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Cemen Tech, Inc
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Stellar Industries
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Des Moines Area Community College
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Iowa Cattlemen's Association
CEO

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Mayor

Rick Dickinson
Greater Dubuque Development
Corporation
President & CEO

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City of Hiawatha
Mayor
Captain, U.S. Army Reserves

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T. Dunbar Consulting
Project Specialist and Owner

Hon. John Edwards
City of Clive
Mayor

Brig. Gen. Robert Felderman*
U.S. Army (ret.)

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Iowa City Foreign Relations Council
(ICFRC)
University of Iowa
Executive Director
Lecturer - International Studies

David Gleiser
Hawkeye Delivery
CEO

Jason Gordon
Terracon
Client Development Manager

Beth Grabau
Veterans In Agriculture
Executive Director

Hon. Joel Greer
City of Marshalltown
Mayor

Patricia Grote
Iowa International Center
Executive Director

Molly Grover
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

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Iowa Legislature
State Representative (2011-2023)

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City of Waterloo
Mayor

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Consulate of the Republic of Kosovo in
Des Moines
Staff Member

Iowa Advisory Committee

Peter Hemken

Strategy Development Partners, LLC
Founder & President

Joe Henry

League of United Latin American
Citizens of Iowa
Political Director

Craig Hill

Iowa Farm Bureau
Former President

Hon. Pam Jochum

Iowa Legislature
State Senator (2009-2023)

Patty Judge

Lieutenant Governor of Iowa (2007 -
2011)

Hon. Timothy Kacena*

Iowa Legislature
State Representative (2019-2021)

Peggy Kerr

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Honorary Consul

Gage Kent

Kent Corporation
Former Chairman & CEO

Jim Kersten

Golden Dome Strategies
President

Brad Kinsinger

Kirkwood Community College
Dean

Hon. Mary Kramer

United States Ambassador
(2004-2006)

Craig Lang

Prairie Strategy Group
President

Hon. Tom Latham

U.S. House of Representatives
(1995-2015)

Kirk Leeds

Iowa Soybean Association
CEO

Lloyd Le Page

BioCV Inc.
President

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Link Strategies
Owner

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Black Hills Energy
Government Affairs Manager
Former State Delegate (2003-2012)

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Drake University
President

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Senior VP Finance & Administration

Hon. Charlie McClintock

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Dr. Andy McGuire

Iowa Democratic Party
Former Chair (2015-2017)

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Siouxland Chamber of Commerce
The Siouxland Initiative
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Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance
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Vice President for External Relations &
Senior Advisor to the President

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Iowa Rural Development Council
Executive Director

Shabbaz Ahmed Merchant

Merchant Investments
Chairman and CEO

Kurt Meyer

Americans for Democratic Action
Chair, National Executive Committee

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City of Dubuque
City Manager

Charles Montgomery

MidAmerican Energy Company
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Dave Mulcahy

MABSCO
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Western Iowa Tech Community College
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Jason Neises

Community Foundation of Greater
Dubuque
Community Development Coordinator

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Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Executive Director

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Linn County Democratic Party
Chairman

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City of Cedar Rapids
Mayor

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Iowa League of Cities
General Counsel and Director of
Government Affairs

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State of Iowa
Secretary of State

Ravi Patel

Hawkeye Hotels
President

Kathy Pearson

Kaas Employment Services
Owner

Greg Piklapp

Ames Regional Economic Alliance
Director

Kyle Poorman

World Food Prize
Director, International Dialogues

Henny Ohr

EMBARC Iowa
Executive Director

Bishop Richard Pates

Diocese of Des Moines
Bishop Emeritus

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

World Food Prize Federation
President Emeritus

Michael Ralston

Iowa Association of Business & Industry
Former President (Ret.)

Iowa Advisory Committee

Amber Rodgers

Iowa Economic Development Authority
Global Business Team Lead

Michael Ross

State of Iowa
Deputy Secretary of State

Hon. Rob Sand

State of Iowa
State Auditor

Ryan J. Sauer

Iowa Corn
Vice President of Market Development

Hon. J.D. Scholten

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Greater Des Moines Committee on
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Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition
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City of Sioux City
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Barbra Solberg

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Public Policy Strategist

John Sorensen, CAE

Iowa Bankers Association
Former President & CEO (Ret.)

Kevin Stiles

North Central Poultry Association &
Iowa Egg Council
CEO & Executive Director

Myron Stine

Stine Seed Company
President

LTC, Ret, Bernie Stone*

Bunker Labs Des Moines Chapter
Founder
Strategic Scout Consulting
President

Nora Tobin

Self-Help International
Executive Director

Hon. Russ Trimble

City of West Des Moines
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Mittera Group
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Linn County Board of Supervisors
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Western Iowa Tech Community College
Government Relations and Special
Projects Coordinator

Hon. Susie Weinacht

Iowa Board of Parole
Board Member
City of Cedar Rapids
Council Member At-Large (2014-2019)

Peter Welch*

Military Officers Association of America,
Northeast Iowa Chapter
Former President

Bob Wersen*

Interpower Corporation
President
U.S. Army Reserves

Dr. Wendy Wintersteen

Iowa State University
President

Sherill Whisenand

Greater Des Moines Sister Cities
Chairman

** Indicates Veteran of the
U.S. Armed Forces*

As of July 21st, 2025