

Iowa Senate



THE ISSUES

JONI ERNST



REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

THERESA GREENFIELD



DEMOCRAT

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ABORTION Ban or highly restrict?	Ban. Has supported an amendment to declare a fetus a person . Asked Supreme Court to reconsider Roe v. Wade .	Legal. “Protect reproductive freedom.” “Defend every woman’s constitutional right to make her own health care decisions.”
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT Support Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Repeal. “Obamacare is not sustainable in Iowa and we have to act.” Supports continued coverage for pre-existing conditions while replacing ACA.	Support. “I’ll protect the Affordable Care Act — including the Medicaid expansion helping our community hospitals stay open — and strengthen it.”
CAMPAIGN FINANCE Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	Unclear. Voted against Democratic bill requiring increased disclosure of political funders.	Yes. Get rid of “secret, unlimited cash flooding our elections through dark money groups.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat?	No. “I think there is probably a contribution ... [by humans, but] ... if we wipe all industry off the face of the Earth, our climate is still going to change.”	Yes. Advocates “urgent climate action.” “Climate change is getting worse. We’ve seen it in extensive floods that destroy our fields and wash away parts of our cities.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Address as a top priority by taxing or limiting output of greenhouse gases? Support government subsidies for renewable energy?	Mixed. Voted to uphold new EPA rule on carbon emissions for power plants that repealed the 2015 Clean Power Plan . Has supported federal funding for wind energy job training and more biofuel use .	Yes. “Will fight for good-paying clean energy jobs and defend and strengthen our environmental laws that are under attack.” Supports expanded renewable fuel market .
COVID-19 Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?	Yes. “I think the president is stepping forward.” Praised vaccine investments and support of food supply chain . Said doctors may be exaggerating numbers of COVID-related deaths to secure higher reimbursements .	No. “It’s unacceptable that politicians in Washington ignored warning signs and downplayed COVID-19 to the public.” Need to “dramatically” ramp up manufacturing and distribution of vital medical supplies, support rural hospitals with help of military .
COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE Support administration’s economic response to coronavirus pandemic?	Unclear. Supports direct payments, tax credits for caregivers of adult dependents. Helped secure \$383 million for Iowa hospitals and medical centers through CARES Act. Opposed paid sick leave.	No. Politicians bailed out big corporate donors and opposed paid sick leave . Prioritize “urgent economic relief to working families and small businesses,” not large companies. Expand benefits for laid-off workers.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Co-sponsored act providing tax credits for contributions to scholarship funds that could be used for private school tuition .	Likely no. Invest in our kids, teachers and public schools, so “we all do better.” “Put teachers and students first, not profits.”
ENVIRONMENT Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Loosen. Supported Trump rollback of rule expanding Clean Water Act . Voted against funding for acquiring land conservation sites .	Tighten. Wants to “strengthen our environmental laws that are under attack from the corporate special interests.”

ISSUES	ERNST (R)	GREENFIELD (D)
FINANCIAL REGULATION Tighten or loosen regulation of banks and credit card companies?	Loosen. Voted to prevent financial consumers from joining class action suits . Increase congressional control of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau .	No position found.
GAY RIGHTS Support same-sex marriage?	No recent position found. Saw marriage as “between one man and one woman.” Would support constitutional ban .	Yes. Supports Equality Act, to “prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.”
GUN CONTROL Enact more restrictive gun legislation?	No. “I do not believe stricter gun control for law-abiding citizens is the solution.”	Yes. Supports expanded background checks, funding gun violence research and keeping guns away from domestic abusers.
IMMIGRATION Create path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the U.S. as children? Support border walls and reducing immigration?	Mixed. Co-sponsored legislation with path for DACA participants in exchange for border wall funding and decreases in legal immigration . Opposes overall amnesty .	Supports DREAM Act for DACA participants and keeping families together . Wants a plan that’s “tough on workplace enforcement” along with “more technology and security on the border.”
IMPEACHMENT Support Trump’s impeachment?	No. Voted to acquit Trump . Opposed calling of witnesses.	Yes. Would have voted guilty ; wrong “to pressure a foreign government to investigate a political opponent.”
IRAN Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	No. Voted against joint resolution restricting action against Iran without congressional authorization .	No position found.
LABOR Support “right to work” laws, prohibiting unions from mandating dues for workers they represent?	Yes. Co-sponsored National Right to Work Act bill .	No. Supports PRO Act, “which would strengthen workers’ rights.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	No recent position found. Has opposed a federal minimum wage . As of 2014, “\$7.25 is appropriate for Iowa.”	Yes. Calls \$7.25 minimum wage “an abomination” ; seeks a “living wage.”
PLANNED PARENTHOOD Support Planned Parenthood receiving public funds for non-abortion care?	No. Opposes all federal funding of Planned Parenthood .	Yes. Opposes “shutting down Planned Parenthood,” which serves “a crucial part of our population.”
SAUDI ARABIA Support blocking arms sales to Saudi Arabia?	No. Voted against Senate resolution blocking sale .	No position found.
SOCIAL SECURITY Partly privatize Social Security or raise retirement age to stabilize program?	Open to privatization as “an option.” Congress needs “honest conversation” behind closed doors about sustaining the program.	Opposes privatization . Social Security allowed her to raise her two sons after her husband died in a workplace accident.
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lower interest or forgiveness on student loans?	Unclear. Voted to block Betsy DeVos rule limiting debt relief for defrauded students .	Yes. Supports loan refinancing, some debt forgiveness, debt-free community college .
SUPREME COURT Support Brett Kavanaugh nomination?	Voted to confirm Brett Kavanaugh, “a highly qualified justice.” Would confirm Trump nominee even if Trump lost election .	No position found. Has highlighted Ernst’s support for court overturning <i>Roe v. Wade</i> , and criticized court’s <i>Citizens United</i> decision.
TAXES Support \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	Yes. Voted for 2017 tax cuts .	No. Called the tax law “a windfall for the wealthy.”

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