

U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson launches Senate bid

By Robin Opsahl
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(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson spoke to business owners and community members at the Greater Des Moines Partnership as part of the organization's candidate forum series Oct. 16, 2024.

U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson announced her candidacy for U.S. Senate Tuesday, hours after U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst publicly announced she would not run for reelection in 2026.

In a statement announcing her run, Hinson aligned herself with President Donald Trump, saying she will be the president's "strongest ally" in the Senate and will work to support his agenda on issues like immigration and border security, supporting Iowa agriculture and "returning common sense to classrooms."

"The America First agenda is working for Iowans," Hinson said. "I'm running for Senate because there's more work to do, and I am prepared to win and deliver."

Hinson, currently representing Iowa's 2nd Congressional District, has been considered a top GOP contender for the U.S. Senate seat amid speculation and reports on Ernst leaving the race. Ernst officially said she would not run for reelection Tuesday, saying it was "no easy decision" to not seek another term but that she planned to focus and "give back" to her family.

In her announcement to run for the spot, the Republican representative thanked Ernst for her military and public service.

"Service defines Senator Joni Ernst

— from serving her country in uniform to fiercely fighting for Iowans in the U.S. Senate," Hinson said. "Her story — from Red

Oak to the Senate, is a powerful example of the American dream. Our country and state are better off because of Joni's selfless service — I lead a heartfelt thank you from every Iowan."

There are two other Republicans who are also campaigning to become the GOP Senate nominee — former state lawmaker Jim Carlin and Joshua Smith, who previously ran as a Libertarian candidate for the state Senate.

Multiple Republican U.S. Senators, including Katie Britt of Alabama, Jim Banks of Indiana and Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma endorsed Hinson as she entered the race.

"She's proudly pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, and is working hard to cut the long-unchecked waste, fraud, and abuse that's run rampant in Washington," Banks said in a statement. "There is no doubt she is the conservative fighter we need in the Senate to advance President Trump's agenda and keep America on the right path."

Hinson has represented northeast Iowa in the U.S. House for three terms since she defeated incumbent U.S. Rep. Abby Finkenauer, a Democrat, in the 2020 election. Before her time in Congress, Hinson worked as a TV news anchor for Cedar Rapids' KCRG, in addition to serving in the Iowa House.

Her move to run for Senate means the 2nd Congressional District will be without a Republican incumbent. Multiple Democrats — state Rep. Lindsay James, D-Dubuque, Clint Twedt-Ball, the founder of the nonprofit Matthew 25 and Kathy Dolter, the former dean of nursing at Kirkwood Community College — have announced their campaigns, but there are currently no Republicans who have entered the field.

Though the 2nd Congressional District is rated as a "solid Republican" seat by the Cook Political Report heading into 2026, Katie Smith, a spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said Hinson shifted to the U.S. Senate race as "her re-election prospects are doomed because Northeast Iowans see that she is more focused on serving billionaires than working for them."

"Hinson knows what we know: there's change coming in Iowa, Democrats will

compete aggressively to flip this seat, and we will win because Iowans are ready to elect someone who actually puts them first," Smith said.

But House Republicans' campaign arm, the National Republican Congressional Committee, argued Iowans will elect the eventual GOP nominee in Iowa's 2nd Congressional District.

"This is simple: Iowa voters trust Republicans to deliver real, commonsense results and have no interest in the Democrats' radical agenda," NRCC Spokeswoman Emily Tuttle said in a statement. "This seat will stay red."

Democrat Bob Krause joins Democratic primary for U.S. Senate

Iowa Democrat Bob Krause has also entered the race for U.S. Senate, ending his campaign for Iowa's 1st Congressional District.

Krause, the president of the Veterans National Recovery Center and a former state representative, made a video Monday announcing his bid to become the 2026 Democratic nominee for Iowa's U.S. Senate seat. He is joining a crowded primary field — state Sen. Zach Wahls, D-Coralville, Rep. Josh Turek, D-Council Bluffs, Des Moines School Board Chair Jackie Norris and former Knoxville Chamber of Commerce Director Nathan Sage have also announced their campaigns for the position.

But Krause said he was the best candidate for the job because of his background in the state legislature, his work as a regional representative for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in former President Jimmy Carter's administration and his military experience.

"For 28 and a half years in the military, I pledged to defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic," Krause said in the video. "Today I see movements towards the ignoring of the Constitution, and I want to change that."

Krause has run for Senate multiple times before — he sought to become the Democratic nominee in 2010, 2016 and 2022 — though he withdrew from the Democratic primary in 2022 after failing to gather enough signatures to make it onto the ballot. Krause said in a statement he is coming into the race with a "robust network of supporters across the state" from previous election cycles.

In May, Krause announced he was running for Iowa's 1st Congressional District, currently represented by U.S. Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks. In a statement Monday, Krause said he was withdrawing from this race and endorsing Democrat Christina Bohannon for the Democratic nomination.

Bohannon, a former Iowa House member and University of Iowa law professor, was the 1st District Democratic nominee in 2024, a race she lost to Miller-Meeks with 47% of the vote to the incumbent's 53% after requesting a vote recount. She announced she would run for the position again in June. Krause said in a statement Bohannon has "run before, possesses a strong work ethic and enjoys exceptional name recognition."

Travis Terrell, a patient access specialist at University of Iowa Health Care, is also running to become the 1st District Democratic nominee, campaigning as a progressive candidate.

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Harvest

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National Agricultural Statistics Service, reported that the oat harvest in Iowa was "virtually complete" and farmers were nearly complete with their third cutting of alfalfa hay, with just 13% remaining.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said farmers will be busy this month bailing hay, chopping silage and "beginning to gear up for harvest."

"Now is also a great time to plan for seeding cover crops and adding other conservation practices to fields after harvest," Naig said in a statement.

Naig also noted the cool, dry conditions across the state that led to a "gor-

geous holiday weekend."

According to State Climatologist Justin Glisan, the state average temperature for the reporting period was 65 degrees Fahrenheit, which was more than 6 degrees below normal temperatures for the period.

Several areas reported temperatures as low as 40 degrees during the period.

While some eastern areas of the state had a couple inches of rain, the state average for the week was less than two-tenths of an inch, while the normal is 0.88 inch.

Despite the less-than-an-inch of rain the past several reporting periods, soil moisture conditions remain

adequate to surplus. Across the state, topsoil moisture conditions were 78% adequate and 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were similar with 79% adequate and 13% surplus.

Soil conditions were driest in the southwest and southeast regions of the state. In those regions, around 30% of topsoil moisture was short, according to the report.

According to the seven-day precipitation forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the majority of the state is forecast to receive less than half an inch of rain this week.

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Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS August 25th, 2025

The special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 2:14 by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Chassity Musfeldt, Chris Swensen, Ben Linde, and Dalton Morrison.

Motion- Grabill Second- Hansen to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. Attorney Swensen presented the 28E agreement between Audubon and Carroll County for Information Technology Relief which will cover Audubon County in the event the current IT Director is absent. Motion- Grabill Second- Hansen to approve the 28E agreement and Resolution 2025-50 as follows. Vote-all in favor.

RESOLUTION NO 2025-50

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A 28E AGREEMENT FOR RELIEF SERVICES FOR AUDUBON COUNTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Carroll County and Audubon County wish to establish a working mechanism to provide Audubon County's Information Technology Department with relief services as needed;

WHEREAS, Carroll County and Audubon County wish to establish an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 28E, known as Audubon-Carroll County Information Technology Relief Service Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AUDUBON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Agreement known as the Audubon-Carroll County Information Technology Relief Service Agreement, a copy of which is attached, is approved.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Audubon County on this 25th day of August, 2025.

/s/Heath Hansen, Chair — Audubon County Board of Supervisors

Attested: /s/Chassity Musfeldt — Audubon County Auditor/Designee

IT Director Linde introduced Dalton Morrison from Carroll County who will be available to help while Linde is on vacation. Auditor Clerk Musfeldt will email the signed agreement to Morrison and he will have the Carroll County Board of Supervisors review/approve at next week's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, September 5, 2025)

Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt
Audubon County Auditor Clerk

Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS August 26th, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Don Mosinski, Chassity Musfeldt, Jared Hershberger, Gabe Goldberg, Mitch Rydl, Mike Blum, Tiffany Henkle, and Jotham Arber.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve and sign the letter of support for the Region XII COG Housing Grant. Vote-all in favor.

Public comment was opened at 9:15 am. Jared Hershberger with APEX Wind introduced colleague Gabe Goldberg. Hershberger said APEX will be hosting a landowner supper tonight in Exira at the Event Center. At the dinner, they will be giving project updates, talk about the MET poles being placed to collect data, and talk about new Federal updates.

Simmering Corey recently sent Supervisors an email with outstanding questions on the recodification of the County Ordinances. Supervisors reviewed and discussed the list. A phone call was made to Jennifer Movall with Simmering Corey to get clarification on the questions asked. Chairman Hansen recorded responses on the list and said he will get them sent over to the company following today's meeting. More discussion will be held next week.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads maintenance and construction updates. Supervisors reviewed the plans for an upcoming bridge project. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the bridge replacement project plans for GR16. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the final payment to Henningson Construction for the Brayton F65 HMA resurfacing project. Vote-all in favor. Rydl would like to have the 28E with Brayton updated. A meeting will be held with the City of Brayton in the next few weeks to discuss the repayment plan to Audubon County. Crews have been busy maintaining and blading roads, doing bridge maintenance on F32, fixing secondary ditches, and ditch cleaning on Lark Ave South of Exira.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the corrected 2025-48 resolution for the as-needed Jailer/dispatcher to correct the hourly wage amount as follows. Vote-all in favor.

Resolution 2025-48 Correction

Be it hereby resolved by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that Camryn Helvie change her status from full-time to as-needed starting August 16, 2025. This position will follow the Union Contract for an as-needed employee. The hourly wage will be \$25.51 per hour and follow the Union Contract for pay increases as set.

Ayes: Hansen, Mosinski & Grabill Nays: None

/s/Heath Hansen

Audubon County Board of Supervisor's Chairperson

The Fixed Asset Policy and County Vehicle Policy were reviewed and will be revised for approval at another meeting. Supervisors discussed the stipulations on working remotely for the IT Director position. They will be drafting a policy for approval on this topic at next week's meeting. Planning & Zoning Director Tiffany Henkle spoke to the Supervisors about the current open/unfilled positions on the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment commissions. There are currently two open positions on Planning & Zoning and one open position on the Board of Adjustments. Supervisors discussed getting the word out to the Public to see if there was any interest to get those filled sooner than later. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$339,944.71 and published in a separate publication at the end of the month. Vote-all in favor.

Jotham Arber brought the meeting to give recent Public Health updates. They had a very successful health fair at the Audubon School this year and had over 152 people stop by. They will be doing health fairs for other schools in the area as well. There has been a lot of interest in rehabilitating existing wells, so they will be busy completing those that qualify for rehabilitation this fall. There will be an upcoming exercise with the State for Emergency Preparedness.

Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the DNR MMP Annual Update/Change for Amelia- Clark Family Farms #65543. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:41pm.

/s/Heath Hansen

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, September 5, 2025)

Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt

Audubon County Auditor Clerk