

Candidates sought for 2025 city and school elections

Cherokee County has several seats up for the City-School Election on November 4, 2025.

Nominations for open seats can be filed between August 25 and September 18. See all key dates and deadlines at www.sos.iowa.gov.

All nominations must be turned into the respective School Central Office or City Hall.

Nomination papers for mayor and city council seats are available at City Hall and at the County Auditor's Office.

City candidate information:

City candidates must obtain signatures of qualified electors who reside within city limits. It is always recommended to get more than required.

Aurelia – 10 signatures required

•Cherokee – 25 signatures required (For offices that are elected by ward, signers must live within ward.)

•Cleghorn – 10 signatures required

•Larrabee – 10 signatures required

•Marcus – 10 signatures required

•Meriden – 10 signatures required

•Quimby – 10 signatures required

•Washta – 10 signatures required

Current City seats up for election:

•Aurelia Mayor (two-year term) 3 Council Members at Large

•Cherokee Mayor (four-year term) Council Member Ward 2 Council Member at Large

•Cleghorn 2 Council Members at Large

•Larrabee Mayor (four-year term) 3 Council Members at Large

•Marcus Mayor (two-year term) 2 Council Members at Large

•Meriden Mayor (two-year term) 2 Council Members at Large 1 Council Member at Large to fill a vacancy (two-year term)

•Quimby Mayor (two-year term) 3 Council Members at Large

•Washta Mayor (two-year term) 3 Council Members at Large 2 Council Members at Large to fill a vacancy (two-year term)

City position terms

All city positions are elected for four-year terms, unless

otherwise noted above, with elections taking place in odd-numbered years.

School board information

Nomination papers for school board seats are available at the School's Central Office and at the County Auditor's Office.

School board candidates must obtain signatures of qualified electors who reside within the school district. It is always recommended to get more than required.

•Cherokee Community School District – 43 signatures required

•Marcus Meriden Cleghorn Community School District – 20 signatures required

Current School Board seats up for election:

•Cherokee Community School District – 2 Director at Large Seats

•Marcus Meriden Cleghorn Community School District – 2 Director at Large Seats

School board terms

All school board members are elected for four-year terms, with elections taking place in odd-numbered years.

For more information

For more information, contact the County Auditor's Office at (712) 225-6705.

Help stop state destruction of Iowa Historical Society materials

State's current plan could disappear generations worth of Iowa historical treasures

Concerned Iowans across the state have launched the SAVE IOWA HISTORY coalition, calling on state leaders to stop reckless removal of one-of-a-kind historical records and artifacts from the State Historical Society's Iowa City Research Center.

Founded in 1857, the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) "preserves and provides access to Iowa's historical resources," and Iowa State Code requires Iowa to maintain SHSI facilities in Des Moines and Iowa City to fulfill this mission.

This summer, Iowa's governor announced plans to close SHSI's Iowa City Research Center, without prior notice or input from Iowans or stakeholders including SHSI's Board, staff, or partner institutions.

SHSI was placed under the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) when Governor Reynolds reorganized state government in 2022, and state appropriations to SHSI have continued to decline, compromising the institution's mission.

Now the state is moving ahead with the building closure plan, but without a good plan to preserve and maintain access to the enormous, irreplaceable collections currently housed there.

Because Des Moines SHSI facilities lack space to take in materials from Iowa City, fragile archival materials could end up warehoused indefinitely in unspecified locations.

Whereas current SHSI facilities are specially built and staffed by trained librarians to keep materials safe in case of floods, fires, or natural disasters, the state has offered no guarantee of safe relocation for SHSI materials, posing the risk that disaster could destroy in a few hours what it has taken Iowans almost two hundred years to build.

While placing invaluable materials at risk, the building closure plan also creates major new costs for moving, warehousing, and building demolition that could far exceed any claimed short-term savings.

Iowa history preserved in SHSI collections ranges from hundred-year-old small-town municipal records to family photo collections, letters, Civil War diaries, recordings of oral history interviews, local newspapers, records of Iowa civic and religious organizations, and much more.

SHSI is obligated to provide these resources to researchers, students, genealogists, reporters, and anyone else interested in Iowa history.

Closure of Iowa City's Research Center would cut Iowans off from access to a large share of their own history, including decades' worth of collections donated to the state by Iowa families and organizations with the promise they would remain available to future generations.

Save Iowa History invites Iowans to:

- Sign the statewide Save Iowa History petition, calling on state leaders to reverse the decision to close the SHSI Iowa City Research Center
- Express concerns to state legislators and the following key decision-makers:
 - §State Archivist Anthony Jahn: anthony.jahn@iowa.gov, 515-666-9144
 - §SHSI Administrator Valerie Van Kooten: valerie.vankooten@iowa.gov, 515-281-8749
 - §Director of Administrative Services Adam Steen: adam.steen@iowa.gov, 515-725-2205.
- Governor Kim Reynolds: kimberly.reynolds@iowa.gov, 515-281-5211.
- Attend upcoming Save Iowa History events, starting with a "Reverse the Decision Rally" to take place 1-3 pm, Saturday, August 23, at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City.

BEI achieves rare double honor

SPIRIT LAKE, IA - BEI has been recognized with PSMJ Resources, Inc.'s 2025 Circle of Excellence Award for an eighth consecutive year, cementing its position among the nation's top-performing architecture and engineering firms. In a rare additional honor, BEI was also named to the exclusive Platinum Circle of Excellence, which honors the firms who have achieved the Circle of Excellence for 4 of the past 5 years.

The Circle of Excellence celebrates companies that demonstrate exceptional performance across critical business metrics including sustainable growth, employee retention, overhead management, cash flow, profitability, and business development. The Platinum Circle of Excellence represents the highest tier of recognition within this already elite group.

"While some may chase vanity metrics like rapid growth or sheer size, the firms on our Best Managed list have mastered what truly matters—the fundamentals that separate sustainable high performance from short-sighted or superficial growth" says PSMJ President Gregory Hart. "These award-winning firms don't just excel; they redefine excellence in financial and operational management. They've cracked the code to extraordinary performance, moving with purpose while others hesitate, executing with precision while others stumble, and daring to innovate while others client to convention."

A Legacy of Excellence and Community Impact

Since President Brad M. Beck founded BEI in 2001, the firm has built an exceptional reputation throughout Northwest and Central Iowa by staying true to its core purpose: building relationships, bettering communities, and creating opportunities.

BEI's comprehensive professional design services span civil engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, and land surveying. However, the company's philosophy extends far beyond project delivery – each engagement represents an investment in the future of the communities they serve.

The firm's consistent recognition in PSMJ's Circle of Excellence – now spanning eight years – demonstrates BEI's ability to maintain high standards while fostering sustainable growth and meaningful community development.

For more information about BEI and its community-focused approach, visit www.beck-engineering.net.

State Fair Straw Poll shows 2026 election preferences

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate today announced the results of the unscientific Iowa State Fair Straw Poll.

The poll, which closed Sunday at 8pm, allowed fairgoers to cast their preference for candidates for the 2026 gubernatorial, senatorial, and congressional races.

More than 2,000 fairgoers participated in the 2025 state fair straw poll, using tablets at the Iowa Secretary of State's booth in the Varied Industries Building to select their preferred candidates.

Fairgoers were asked to choose their preferred candidates for the 2026 Primary Election and to vote for their preferred candidate to represent their respective political party in the 2026 General Election.

Secretary Pate emphasized that the poll serves a larger purpose beyond measuring candidate preferences.

"While historically, the straw poll has been a good indicator of where Iowa voters stand in terms of the upcoming election, the real goal of the straw poll is to encourage Iowans to participate in our election process," said Secretary Pate. "We have a City-School election coming up on November 4. Local elections matter. This is the time to truly make your voices heard and have an impact on your local communities. November will be here before we know it – and it's never too early to make your plan to vote."

Below are percentage totals for gubernatorial, senatorial, and congressional votes cast throughout the 11 days of the 2025 Iowa State Fair.

Candidates featured on the straw poll ballots were identified by their respective political parties.

REPUBLICANS

Governor

- Eddie Andrews won with 38.93% and 647 votes
- Brad Sherman (28.7%), 477 votes
- Randy Feenstra (27.38%), 455 votes
- Mile Bousselot (4.99%), 83 votes

U.S. Senate

- Joni Ernst won with 61.37% and 977 votes
- Jim Carlin (33.04%), 526 votes
- Joshua Smith (5.59%), 89 votes

Congressional District 1:

- Mariannette Miller-Meeks won with 54.96% and 216 votes
- David Pautsch (45.04%), 177 votes

Congressional District 2

- Ashley Hinson won with 100% and 183 votes

Congressional District 3

- Zach Nunn won with 100% and 744 votes

Congressional District 4

- Matt Windschitl won with 37.56% and 80 votes
- Kyle Larsen (23.47%), 50 votes
- Chris McGowan (23%), 49 votes
- Ryan Rhodes (15.96%), 34 votes

DEMOCRATS

Governor

- Rob Sand won with 86.96% and 600 votes
- Julie Stauch (13.04%), 90 votes

U.S. Senate

- Zach Wahls won with 30.24% and 189 votes
- J.D. Scholten (29.76%), 186 votes
- Jackie Norris (23.84%), 149 votes
- Nathan Sage (15.2%), 95 votes

Congressional District 1:

- Christina Bohannon won with 64.89% and 85 votes
- Travis Terrell (21.37%), 28 votes
- Taylor Wettach (9.92%), 13 votes
- Bob Krause (3.82%), 5 votes

Congressional District 2

- Lindsay James won with 47.27% and 26 votes
- Kathryn Dolter (34.55%), 19 votes
- Clint Twedt-Ball (18.18%), 10 votes

Congressional District 3

- Jennifer Konfrst won with 51.12% and 182 votes
- Sarah Trone Garriot (39.33%), 140 votes
- Xavier Carrigan (9.55%), 34 votes

Congressional District 4

- Stephanie Steiner won with 66.67% and 48 votes
- Ashley WolfTornabane (33.33%), 24 votes

Secretary Pate also polled fairgoers on their favorite Iowa State Fair foods and rides and the most iconic part of the fair.

The butter cow was named the most iconic part of the state fair, receiving 36% of votes (810 total).

The corndog was the top choice for fair food, receiving 36% of votes (799 total). Pork chop on a stick closely followed, receiving 32% of votes (703 total).

The Sky Glider easily took top place for favorite fair ride, receiving nearly 50% of votes (999 total).

All results are unscientific and unofficial. Fairgoers who visited the booth could also register to vote for the upcoming election and learn about various programs from Secretary Pate's Elections, Business Services, and Safe at Home Divisions.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 with Bryan Petersen, Cheryl Ellis, Dave Skou, Ray Mullins II and Shane Bellefy present. Madeline Combs, Chronicle Times, represented the press. Tony Puffett, Tyler Hahn, Chuck Stubbe, Elias Toshiro, Justin Wills, Les Beck, Gary Von Ahsen, Ben Metcalf, George Wittgraf, Ramona Nitz, Karin Cedar, Neils Lundsgaard, Ned Lundsgaard, John Nitz, Stephanie Zarr, Steve Zarr, Kelly Puhrmann, Thomas Bean, Laura Jones and Stu Hogg were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Mullins, Ellis, Bellefy, Skou, Petersen; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Bellefy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Mullins to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Skou to approve the claims for payment as presented. Motion carried. A complete listing is available for review in the County Auditor's office.

Claims Approved August 12, 2025: AgState Fuel 19,090.52 Ahlers & Cooney PC Serv 1,200.00 Alliant Energy Serv 10727 Allied Time USA Inc. Supp 24.00 Alpha Wireless Comm Co. Serv 3,396.95 Ascendance Trucks Midwest LLC Parts 996.45 Aurelia Municipal Utility Serv 79.18 Blaine's Culligan Supp 91.90 Boji Portable Toilets Inc Serv 200.00 Bomgaars Supp 179.00 Calhoun Burns Associates, Inc Serv 7278.50 Campbell Supply Co Parts 123.60 Carroll Construction Supply Parts 90.00 Central Bank Supp 2,370.33

Cherokee Chronicle Times Pub 38704 Cherokee County Conservation Trailer 4,000.00 Cherokee Co. Secondary Roads Fuel 2,243.47 Cherokee County Solid Waste Serv 46.35 Cherokee Regional Medical Ctr Health Serv 22.00 Cherokee Regional Medical Ctr Contract 4,110.06 Cherokee Rural Water Serv 260.90 Cherokee State Bank Flex/Merp Flex/ Self Fund 6,570.40 Christensen Brothers Projects 279,271.48 City of Cherokee Serv 1,437.56 City of Marcus Serv 29.20 City of Meriden Serv 25.00 City of Quimby Serv 66.00 CJ Cooper & Associates Serv 235.00 CML Telephone Coop Assn Serv 1,614.52 Country Tire & Service, Inc Serv 617.89 Crawford County Sheriff Fees 40.83 Croell Inc Pmt#7FAve 586,907.32 Dearborn Life Insurance Co Life Ins 1,301.71 Div of Criminal Investigation Register 85.00 DoorPro Serv 140.00 Doel M Ehrig Reimb 257.13 Elan Financial Services Supp 376.38 Everttek, Inc Serv 400.00 Fareway Groceries 2,576.52 Fareway Commissary Supp 56.32 Fast Lane Motor Parts LLC Supp 11736 Fisch Funeral Home & Monument Serv 900.00 FORCE America Distributing Parts 296.68 GCC Alliance Concrete Co, Inc. Concrete 10,550.00 Kristine L Glienke Travel Reimb 2,115.74 GovConnection, Inc Supp 1,744.63 Hallett Materials Gravel 884.00 Interstate Battery Parts 597.28 Iowa Department of Revenue Sales Tax 164.50

IA Lakes Regional Water Serv 180.74 ISAA Secretary-Treasurer Fee 150.00 Iowa State Assoc of Counties Fees 535.00 Jack's Uniforms & Equip Clothing 12.00 JJSS,LLC Jim's Sewer Service Serv 210.00 Lynne Lauck Serv 84.00 Lawson Products Inc Parts 14.16 Loughlin Law Firm Fees 75.00 Mail Services, LLC Postage 684.74 Marco Technologies LLC Serv 363.97 Martin Marietta Materials Supp 3,018.64 Matheson Tri-Gas Inc Supp 457.84 McDyer Tools LLC Serv 5,154.00 Mid-American Energy Serv 5,126.33 Midwest Alarm Company, Inc. Serv 850.00 Midwest Lubricants, LLC Supp 275.00 Midwest Wheel Companies Parts 93.88 Ashley Miller Serv 2,100.00 Motor Parts Sales Parts 197.91 Maria E Murillo-Tellez Reimb 176.00 Nelson Electric Serv 374.80 New Century FS Fuel 7,229.52 Northside Tire Six Tires 10,046.52 Nuvera Serv 64.00 O'Reilly Auto Parts Supp 25.10 One Office Solution Supp 200.64 RJ Thomas Mtg. Co. Inc. Supp 240.00 Point C Self Fund Admin Fees Admin Fees 621.50 Point C Health COE Caf Admin Fees 75.00 Record Management Systems Inc Serv 106.47 Rees Mack Sales & Service Parts 511.16 Robertson Implement Co Inc Supp 97.00 Jennifer Ann Ryen Serv 744.00 Sanitary Services Inc Serv 893.40 Schmillen Construction Inc Serv 44,187.27 SEAT Treasurer Dues 900.00 Siouxland District Health Dept Serv 100.00 Solutions Inc Harris Serv 441.90 Jacob Spieler Well Closure 562.36

Barb Steward Serv 300.00 T Mobile Serv 132.34 Thompson Propane & Supplies Supp 6,140.36 Titan Machinery Parts 193.80 Triple C Pest Control Serv 80.00 Truck Center Companies East Parts 575.09 Valley Veterinary Center Fees 380.96 Veenstra & Kimm Inc Serv 223.50 Verizon Wireless Serv 1,715.87 Vestis Uniforms 185.24 Visual Edge IT Inc./Counsel Serv 463.69 Grand Total 1,043,247.67

Chairman Petersen asked for comments from the public. Ramona Nitz, Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman, provided an update on the slough bill process for landowners to apply for the tax exempt status and stated that the State of Iowa is now getting involved. Nitz will report back as more information becomes available.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Ellis to open a Public Hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Petersen read a summary of the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance as published with full copies of the ordinance available to those in attendance.

Written comments were received from Les Beck, Legal Representative for Tyr Energy Development (TED) Renewables, and Justin Wills, TED Renewables. Several comments were received from those in attendance. The supervisors considered each of the comments and noted areas in the draft ordinance to be revised. Chairman Petersen will meet with County Attorney Ryan Kolpin to prepare an updated draft of the proposed solar ordinance and make the document available to the public prior to the second reading. The supervisors thanked those in attendance for their comments.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Ellis to close the Public Hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Bellefy to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2025-01 Solar Energy Systems and to schedule the second reading on August 19, 2025. Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried.

Kelly Puhrmann, County Engineer, presented utility permits for consideration.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Skou to approve an underground construction on county right of way application for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Section 36 of Sheridan Township. Motion carried.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Ellis to approve an underground construction on county right of way application for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Sections 13 and 14 of Tilden Township. Motion carried.

Puhrmann provided an update on activities in the Secondary Roads Department.

Bellefy reported on a monthly department meeting where managers requested an amendment to the county personnel policy to increase the maximum camp hours from 80 hours to 120 hours. No action was taken.

The supervisors reviewed the current 28E Agreement for the Cherokee County Sanitary Landfill.

Motion by Bellefy, seconded by Ellis to appoint Ray Mullins as the Cherokee County Supervisor representative on the Cherokee County Sanitary Landfill with Dave Skou continuing as an Alternate and Gary Lundquist in an ad hoc advisory position. Motion carried.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Skou to approve Resolution #2025-17 to Designate Voting Representatives for

the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC). Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Skou to approve Resolution #2025-18 Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant Agreement between Enhance Iowa Board and Cherokee County Conservation Board of Cherokee County, Iowa. Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Bellefy, seconded by Mullins to acknowledge a \$20.00 per hour wage authorization for Emily Ankenman, Part-Time Emergency Management Agency/Environmental Health Assistant, effective July 31, 2025 as previously approved by the Cherokee County Board of Health and Emergency Management Commission. Motion carried. It was also noted that Justin Pritts, as Administrator of the Medical Examiner Investigator program, has designated Ankenman as Manager of the MEI program with a \$500 monthly stipend to be paid from the Medical Examiner's budget in the county's general fund.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Ellis to approve a separation of employment and \$313.12 final payout of hours worked for Rebecca Schmidt, Part-Time Jailer/Dispatcher, effective July 31, 2025. Motion carried.

The supervisors provided committee reports and reviewed meeting schedules.

There being no further business, Chairman Petersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Bellefy to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

All board agendas and minutes are available online at cherokeecounty.iowa.gov.

Bryan Petersen, Chairman
Attest: Kris Glienke, County Auditor (C708-22/L#312)