

New candidates enter the race for Iowa’s 4th Congressional District

President Chris McGowan, who announced his campaign in late June.

Larsen said in a campaign launch video he is running on a campaign platform of “faith, family, farm” — the issues he said are most important to voters in the 4th District, the district covering much of northwest Iowa.

“I also do appraise work for farm families all over the great state of Iowa, where I have listened and learned the frustrations farm families are facing every single day,” Larsen said. “I am running for Congress to put an end to the career politicians who are corrupting our politics.”

The Republican is an Iowa State University alumnus who runs a pig and row crop business in Humboldt, where he lives with his wife and two children. He has previously served as president of the Humboldt County Farm Bureau Board.

Larsen said he would want to serve on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and use his experience as a third-generation farmer to ensure that Iowa farmers’ interests are represented in Washington.

“You will see many candi-

dates come through the door and say they love our farmers, but they can’t come close to understanding the stress every family goes through putting the crop in every year,” Larsen said. “These candidates will never understand how it feels at the end of a rough year or a drought and you’re scrambling to pay your bills and financially prepare for the next season.”

Feenstra had announced an “exploratory” committee for governor after Gov. Kim Reynolds said she will not seek reelection in 2026. Feenstra has represented Iowa’s 4th District since 2021, when he won against incumbent former U.S. Rep. Steve King in the longtime conservative stronghold.

While there are multiple Republicans competing for the seat — which is regularly ranked as a “safe Republican” House race by political forecasters — there was a period when no Democrats were running for the position. Democrat Ryan Melton, who ran against Feenstra in 2022 and 2024, suspended his campaign in June because of issues related to his family and career.

But last week, a new Democratic contender entered the

race. Ashley WolfTornabane, a Democrat from Storm Lake, announced her campaign earlier in July. On her page on the donation site ActBlue, WolfTornabane, said if elected, she would work on issues like funding education, advocating for LGBTQ+ individuals and people from other marginalized populations and creating a “feasible pathway to citizenship for our immigrant neighbors.”

WolfTornabane, a stay-at-home mother, also said she supports raising the minimum wage and a “health care for all” system.

Hunters in 2024 saw Iowa’s second-highest pheasant harvest since 2007

sources shows an estimated 460,000 roosters were bagged

DNR, said there were more than 77,400 hunters chasing pheasants in 2024, which was fewer than the 83,600 hunters in 2023.

Of the other pheasant-hunting states, only South Dakota had higher 2024 bags and hunters with 1.3 million roosters harvested by about 140,200 hunters.

Historic records of Iowa pheasant seasons show similarly high hunting years as recent as 1995. Populations have declined since then due to “catastrophic” weather years from 2007-2011 and fewer acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, which provides needed habitat for the birds.

According to 2024 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the CRP program, 1.67 million acres were enrolled in the

program that pays farmers to convert marginal cropland to grasslands.

That means there’s less pheasant habitat today than in 1995, when over 2 million acres were enrolled in CRP and hunters bagged more than 1.4 million roosters. But it’s better than some years in Iowa’s 100-year pheasant hunting history.

Squirrel, rabbit harvest increases

The department also shared figures for other small game in 2024. Quail hunters harvested 27,500 birds, which was 2,700 fewer than 2023. Rabbit harvests in 2024 increased by 13% from 2023, with an estimated 77,000 harvested. Squirrel hunting also increased in 2024 and hunters bagged more than 124,300, which was 32% higher than 2023 figures.

Like the other bird hunting categories, mourning dove harvests were also down slightly from 2023 harvests, with an estimated 143,000 doves bagged.

In August, DNR staff will drive down thousands of miles of gravel roads at dawn to count female pheasants, or hens, as they move their broods out of the dew to dry off. These figures will give the department an idea of pheasant populations going into the 2025 pheasant season, which kicks off Oct. 18 for youth hunters.

“Overall we had a really good fall and are looking forward to this year’s August roadside survey to see where the bird numbers are ahead of the 2025 season,” Bogenschutz said in a statement.

The roadside survey results are typically released to the

public in September, but early predictors show pheasant populations might benefit from the state’s “fourth least snowy” winter in 138 years, according to DNR.

The department reported in June there were sightings of early nesting in regions around the state, which usually means there will be a higher numbers of pheasant chicks.

Bogenschutz said early nesting, combined with favorable weather predictions, could mean higher pheasant populations and therefore hunting abilities for the 2025 season.

DNR and Iowa Pheasants Forever created a “hard card” hunting and fishing license with a pheasant print for hunters to celebrate the 2025, centennial season of the sport.

Upcoming learning opportunity for Iowa schools to focus on high-quality mathematics instruction

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Iowa schools can now register to attend an upcoming professional learning opportunity focused on the goals of House File 784, which prioritizes high-quality instruction in early numeracy.

The Build Math Minds – The Flexibility Formula learning series supports teachers in helping all students develop a strong foundation in number sense. Developed by nationally recognized mathematics educator Christina Tondevoid, the series focuses on strengthening mathematics instruction by building fluency and deepening conceptual understanding among educators.

“Through Build Math Minds, we can support Iowa teachers with opportunities

to learn evidence-based practices for high-quality mathematics instruction,” said April Pforts, mathematics education program consultant for the Iowa Department of Education. “These learning opportunities will assist teachers in the classroom as they help students strengthen their skills in mathematics and open doors to new learning possibilities.”

Registration for the Build

Math Minds learning opportunity is now open for Iowa school districts. School districts must designate one point-of-contact to complete the registration for their district’s participation.

This learning opportunity is a part of the state’s comprehensive approach to ensuring that all Iowa students develop strong mathematics foundations. Additional information

on the Build Math Minds professional development opportunity, including session dates, will be released at a later date. .

To learn more about math initiatives in Iowa, visit the Department’s webpage on mathematics instruction. Questions regarding the upcoming learning sessions can be directed to April Pforts at april.pforts@iowa.gov

Welcome back, TeachIowa!

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

TeachIowa is back! Effective July 1, all Iowa school districts, public charter schools and Area Education Agencies must return to the TeachIowa platform for open job postings. Schools and AEAs are no longer required to use the IowaWORKS system.

Through TeachIowa,

schools and AEAs can recruit high-quality candidates through a nationally accessible job board that specially promotes teaching and school-related positions. Employers can easily access and organize a pool of potential candidate resumes and applicant information through the TeachIowa platform. Additionally, applicants can filter their job search based on location, endorsement/authorization levels and grade levels, among others.

“As a result of feedback from schools across the state, TeachIowa is back as Iowa’s official platform for education job posts,” said Stephanie Langstraat, education program consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. “TeachIowa provides opportunities for schools and AEAs

to maximize their recruitment efforts and find highly qualified candidates from across the country.”

All schools and AEAs must be registered in TeachIowa to access the system and job board. Any district or AEA that does not have an account can register now. It may take up to 7-10 days to activate the registration.

Iowa Code 84A.6 establishes TeachIowa as the centralized job posting platform for education in Iowa. TeachIowa is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education and administered by PowerSchool, a contracted vendor. Schools and AEAs do not need to be individually contracted with PowerSchool to use the TeachIowa platform and job recruitment resources.

Additional information on TeachIowa can be found on the Department’s Education Jobs webpage.

Specific questions regarding the TeachIowa job posting platform can be directed to Stephanie Langstraat at stephanie.langstraat@iowa.gov.

Notice of Intent to Fill Vacancy for the Office of Webster County Recorder by Appointment

(Fort Dodge, Iowa, July 14, 2025) – The Board of Supervisors of Webster County, Iowa, hereby give notice pursuant to Iowa Code Section §69.14A of its intent to fill a vacancy for the office of Webster County Recorder by appointment. The appointment shall be for the period of time from date of appointment to December 31, 2026, unless a special election is called as provided in Iowa Code Section 69.14A. The Webster County Board of Supervisors will meet to appoint the County Recorder position at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Applicants should submit a cover letter & resume to the Webster County Auditor’s office by email at auditor@webstercountyia.gov, by mail at 701 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, by applying online through the Webster County application website at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/webstercountyia/jobs/5006078/webster-county-recorder>, or by dropping them off in the Auditor’s Office on the second floor of the Webster County Courthouse. The deadline to submit the required paperwork is 4:00PM on Friday, July 25, 2025.

You are further notified that the electors of Webster County have the right to file a petition requiring the vacancy be filled by special election. Said petition must be filed with the County Auditor within 14 days after the first publication (July 14) of this notice or within 14 days after the appointment is made, and said petition shall contain signatures of eligible electors of the county equal in number to at least ten percent of the votes cast in Webster County for the office of President of the United States in the November 2024 election.

For further details, see Iowa Code Section §69.14A and §331.306 or contact the Auditor’s office at 515.573.7175. Dated this 14th day of July 2025.

Niki Conrad, Chair of the Webster County Board of Supervisors

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