



# *Iowa* Influencers



Iowa Republicans did well in the November elections, but the truth is, politics in the state couldn't be any more even. It sends one Democrat and one Republican to the U.S. Senate. Its U.S. House delegation is split three to two, with Democrats holding the extra seat. And Democrats hold the state Senate, while Republicans hold the state House and the governorship.

This year, things will get even more interesting, as Republicans hoping to challenge President Obama will make increasingly frequent visits to Iowa to lay the groundwork for the state's first-in-the-nation presidential nominating caucuses next year.

History has shown that a famous name doesn't bring a free pass and that a candidate needs to finish at least third or fourth on caucus night to continue a serious national campaign. The process puts Iowa at the center of the political world every four years and makes the state's leading political activists among the most influential in the nation. Our list of the most influential political players in the Hawkeye State, with an emphasis on insiders, follows.

# Top 10 Democrats

---

## **Jerry Crawford**

The Des Moines lawyer is Iowa's best-connected Democrat and has led campaigns for Michael Dukakis, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, John Kerry, and Hillary Clinton. A close friend of former Governor and current Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Crawford raises money quickly and quietly.

## **Danny Homan**

The president of Council 61 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) has more clout than any other labor leader in Iowa, holding sway over the state's elected Democratic Party officials in Washington and Des Moines.

## **Mike Gronstal**

The state Senate majority leader is working to hold off a new Republican governor and new Republican majority in the state House, particularly on the issue of gay marriage, which the Iowa Supreme Court ruled legal in 2009. He is the chief protector of the Democratic Party's agenda in Iowa.

## **Tom Harkin**

Iowa's junior U.S. Senator from Cumming served ten years in the U.S. House before being elected to the Senate in 1984. A close ally of labor, he gave up

the chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee in 2009 to become head of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions panel. He has been called the "800-pound gorilla" of the Iowa Democratic Party.

## **Bill Knapp**

A longtime Des Moines area businessman and philanthropist, Knapp has helped fund the campaign of virtually every Iowa Democratic candidate for Congress and governor in the last three decades. Knapp's wife, Susan, is also active in Democratic Party politics.

## **Sue Dvorsky**

The veteran Iowa City special education teacher became head of the Iowa Democratic Party last summer. Iowa's three Democrats in the U.S. House kept their seats in the November election, but the state House went to the Republicans, and the Democratic governor was ousted. Dvorsky pledges to "build on the lessons learned" in 2010.

## **Bruce Braley**

He represents Iowa's 1st congressional district and held off a tough challenge last fall. A lawyer from Waterloo, he is widely believed to be interested in eventually running for governor or the Senate if Harkin doesn't run in 2014.

## **Tom Vilsack**

The current U.S. secretary of agriculture served two terms as Iowa's governor, made a brief run for president in 2008, and then became the national co-chair of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Vilsack's cabinet position has taken him to Washington, but he continues to stay close to Democratic Party politics in Iowa.

## **Marcia Nichols**

As legislative and political director of AFSCME in Iowa, Nichols is a powerful lobbying force with both the congressional and legislative delegations. She also has made an effort to reach out to rural areas in the state to help push labor—and Democratic—agendas in traditionally Republican strongholds.

## **Jeff Link**

Head of Link Strategies in Des Moines, the best Democratic Party-connected political consulting and advertising firm in Iowa. Link has managed successful campaigns for Sen. Harkin and managed the 2000 Gore-Lieberman campaign in Iowa. He was also a media consultant to the Obama presidential campaign, coordinating paid media and polling in seven states.



## Top 10 Republicans

### Terry Branstad

Iowa's longest-serving governor when he left public life twelve years ago is back in office for a fifth term after easily defeating incumbent Democrat Chet Culver last November. He is likely to be coy when presidential candidates come calling, but he hasn't ruled out the possibility of offering an endorsement.

### Bob Vander Plaats

A fundamentalist Christian from northwest Iowa, Vander Plaats headed the successful 2010 effort that led to voters' ousting three Iowa Supreme Court justices as retribution for the court's unanimous decision legalizing same-sex marriage. A three-time unsuccessful candidate for governor who chaired Mike Huckabee's 2008 winning caucus effort in Iowa, he now heads the Iowa FAMILY Leader organization.

### Charles Grassley

The state's longtime senior U.S. senator, overwhelmingly re-elected last November, is famous for his unpredictability. He might endorse a presidential candidate in Iowa or, just as likely, stay out of the biggest political story of the year. Grassley seems more interested in legislating than being a kingmaker.

### Kraig Paulsen

The new state House speaker is a champion of lower taxes. A Cedar Rapids lawyer who works for a large trucking company, Paulsen endorsed Fred Thompson during the 2008 caucus campaign. Then-Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty attended a fundraising event for him last year in Cedar Rapids, perhaps angling for support in 2012.

### Steve King

The Iowan Democrats love to hate as represented Republican-rich Western Iowa in the U.S. House since 2003. King is among the most vocal members of Congress on immigration and the federal



debt and will be courted by conservative presidential candidates. He won't be shy about offering an endorsement.

### Ed Failor, Jr.

President of Iowans for Tax Relief, a 50,000-plus-member organization that likely will be even more influential in the upcoming caucuses than it was in 2008. The widespread demand for fiscal responsibility in government would make any presidential candidate welcome Failor's support.

### Bruce Rastetter

The head of Hawkeye Renewables is a leader in Iowa's politically powerful ethanol industry. He is also founder of the conservative American Future Fund and has raised millions of dollars for Republican candidates. Rastetter was the largest contributor to Branstad's 2010 campaign and is said to have considered challenging Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin.

### Steve Scheffler

Leader of the Iowa Faith and Freedom

Coalition and a Republican National Committee member, Scheffler has worked to make the party stronger by brokering peace between Iowa's social and fiscal conservatives. His organization hosted five potential 2012 presidential candidates at a Des Moines-area event in early March.

### Doug Gross

A Des Moines lawyer and close friend and adviser to Gov. Branstad, Gross lost his own 2002 race for governor. A fiscal conservative and top organizer, he isn't reluctant to lecture social conservatives about the need to back Republican candidates who may not be "pure" on every issue.

### David Roederer

Another friend of Branstad, Roederer headed the returning governor's transition team and heads the state's Department of Management. Like Gross, he is a respected strategist and skilled organizer.

## Other Democrats

### Leonard Boswell

Represents Des Moines and central Iowa in Congress. He is often described as a moderate “Blue Dog” Democrat and has voted with Republicans on taxes and military issues. Recently, he has been a reliable supporter of his party’s leadership initiatives, including health-care reform. The seventy-seven-year-old Boswell says he plans to run for a ninth term in 2012, but Iowa is losing a House seat through reapportionment, which may force him into a district with a Republican incumbent. He may also face a challenge from within his party.

### Christie Vilsack

Based in Des Moines, the wife of Agriculture Secretary and former Gov. Tom Vilsack is popular in Iowa largely because of her efforts on literacy and visits to every public library in the state. It’s no secret she is interested in a run for Congress, which could pit her against Boswell in a primary.

### Andy McGuire

The Des Moines physician has tended to play the role of political supporter, but she came close to seeking office in 2006, when gubernatorial candidate Mike Blouin selected her as his running mate for the general election—before the primary, which he lost. She also has expressed interest in running for Congress.

### Kevin McCarthy

From Des Moines, the new state House minority leader is tasked with leading the opposition to an emboldened Republican majority. McCarthy says he will work with Republicans on keeping the budget in line, but vows to remain true to Democratic Party principles. He may have the most difficult job in the Capitol.

### Mark Daley

Based in West Des Moines, he was Iowa Democratic Party communications director during the 2004 caucus



campaign. He then went on to work for Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) before setting up shop in Iowa as a consultant. Daley, thirty-three, was Hillary Clinton’s top Iowa caucus campaign press aide before taking lead roles in the Boswell and Roxanne Conlin campaigns in 2008 and 2010.

### Matt McCoy

A state senator from Des Moines, he is the first openly gay member of the Iowa Legislature. He chairs the Senate’s transportation committee and is becoming a chief defender of legalized same-sex marriage in Iowa. He has called for advertiser boycotts of conservative radio hosts who have criticized the Iowa Supreme Court’s ruling and the gay lifestyle.

### Norm Sterzenbach

He has been the Iowa Democratic Party’s executive director since 2008. The thirty-five-year-old, highly organized leader knows virtually all key Democrats in Iowa and has an unequalled knowledge of party rules and complicated concepts such as delegate apportionment and caucus viability.

### Roxanne Conlin

A Des Moines lawyer, she has been a Democratic Party candidate, contributor, and activist for more than thirty years. She was the party’s state chair, its nominee for governor in 1982, U.S. attorney, the first female head of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and a candidate for U.S. Senate in 2010.

### Matt Paul

A former radio and television reporter, Paul worked in city government in Cedar Rapids before moving to Des Moines in 1998 to serve as Gov. Vilsack’s press secretary and communications director. He is now with the powerful Link Strategies firm in Des Moines.

### Bonnie Campbell

The former Iowa attorney general and head of the Violence Against Women office in the Clinton administration is a recent addition to Link Strategies. Campbell, an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1994, was married to the late Ed Campbell, a longtime force in Iowa politics.

### Sarah Swisher

Known for her grassroots organizing skills, Swisher is a former vice chair of the Iowa Democratic Party and, until last year, served as political director for the Iowa Service Employees International Union. She won a seat on the Iowa City school board in 2009.

### Betty Brim-Hunter

Based in Des Moines, she is political director of the Iowa AFL-CIO and vice chair of the Polk County Democratic Party. She is married to State Rep. Bruce Hunter.

### Rob Tully

A West Des Moines lawyer and Dubuque native, Tully is former Iowa Democratic Party chair and ran unsuccessfully for Congress. He headed the

John Edwards 2008 Iowa campaign and chaired Iowans For Responsible Government, which worked against the 2010 Republican candidate for governor.

## **Sandy Opstvedt**

A multitalented organizer and political advisor, she is president of the Iowa conference of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a Democratic National Committee member.

## **Dave Loeb sack**

The Mount Vernon college professor surprised political observers in 2006 when he knocked off a Republican who had served in Congress for thirty years. He held off a tough challenge last year and is comfortably settling into representing Iowa's 2nd congressional district, which includes Cedar Rapids, where he was seen as the most helpful elected official in Washington after the 2008 flood.

## **Chet Culver**

The son of former U.S. Sen. John Culver was defeated last year after serving one term as governor, brought down by challenges including a struggling economy, rising unemployment, and some of the worst natural disasters the state had ever seen. He angered Republicans after his election loss by agreeing to \$200 million in pay increases over the next two years to workers represented by AFSCME.

## **Mari Culver**

The well-liked former first lady is known for her political independence and showed it in 2007, when she endorsed John Edwards ahead of the caucuses despite her husband's insistence on remaining neutral. A lawyer who grew up in Dubuque, she said it was "a stain on the history of Iowa" when voters ousted three Iowa Supreme Court justices who were part of a unanimous opinion allowing gay marriage in Iowa.

## **Harry Bookey**

A Des Moines entrepreneur and real estate developer, Bookey is courted by national Democratic Party powers, par-

ticularly during the presidential nomination process. He was close to the campaigns of Gary Hart, Paul Simon, and Bill Bradley and was among the first in Iowa to back John Kerry's 2004 campaign. He was a large and early donor to President Obama's 2008 caucus campaign.

## **Peggy Huppert**

A lobbyist for the Iowa office of the American Cancer Society, she has successfully advocated tougher anti-tobacco legislation. A former co-chair of the Polk County Democratic Party, she took a leave of absence from the Cancer Society job last year to work as finance director for Culver's unsuccessful re-election bid.

## **Sally Pederson**

The lieutenant governor under Vilsack and a former Iowa Democratic Party chair, Pederson is close to party leaders in Iowa and around the country. She is working with former Republican Lt. Gov. Joy Corning to preserve Iowa's judicial selection process, which is under scrutiny following the Supreme Court's ruling legalizing same-sex marriage.

## **Patty Judge**

As lieutenant governor under Culver, Judge handled many tough tasks, including leading efforts to help communities recover from floods and tornadoes. A Southern Iowa farmer, nurse, and former state legislator, she was a leading supporter of John Kerry in 2004.

## **Scott Brennan**

A Des Moines lawyer and former aide to Sen. Harkin, Brennan was chair of the Iowa Democratic Party during the 2008 caucuses and was a "super delegate" to the party's national convention that year. He helped form Iowans for Fair and Impartial Courts, which unsuccessfully tried to prevent the voters' 2010 ousting of three Supreme Court justices.

## **Richard Machacek**

A farmer from Winthrop in northeast Iowa, Machacek is a former Democratic

National Committee member. He is seen as a steady, savvy consensus builder.

## **Ako-Abdul Samad**

A member of the Iowa Legislature since 2007, Samad is founder and chief executive officer of the nonprofit Creative Visions Human Development Institute, an organization that works to enhance the lives of the inner-city poor.

## **Tom Henderson**

The Des Moines lawyer and Polk County Democratic Party chair has become more widely known due to his frequent appearances as a television analyst.

## **Donn Stanley**

The Des Moines native is head of the revenue division of the Iowa attorney general's office. A twenty-five-year veteran of Democratic campaigns, Stanley took a leave of absence from the attorney general's office last year to manage Culver's struggling, and ultimately unsuccessful, re-election campaign.

## **Carolyn Jensen**

Jensen wields significant power as executive director of One Iowa, a newly created organization devoted to protecting gay marriage rights. Virtually every candidate for state office is asked his or her position on gay marriage. Jensen and One Iowa will make sure Democrats have support and information when they answer.

## **Jan Bauer**

The longtime Story County Democratic Party chair was an early supporter and organizer for Obama. She is key to the party's success in the Democrat-rich county that is home to Iowa State University.

## **Linda Langston**

Based in Cedar Rapids, Langston is chair of the Board of Supervisors in Linn County, the state's second-most populous county. She is also president of the National Democratic County Officials organization and a member of the Democratic National Committee.

### Ed Fallon

A former state legislator and unsuccessful candidate for governor and Congress, Fallon holds the party to its values and recently accused the state's Democratic leaders of "selling their souls" to corporate interests. While not the best-liked Democrat in Iowa, he is tolerated and grudgingly respected.

### Michael Gartner

The owner of the Iowa Cubs minor league baseball team is a former NBC News president who was publisher and editor of both the *Des Moines Register* and *Ames Tribune*. A reliable contributor to federal and state candidates, he is close to former Gov. Vilsack.

### Kim Motl

The Fort Dodge-based Motl is a former Webster County Democratic Party chair. She is considered one of Iowa's hardest working and most reliable leaders at the local level. She served on the county's board of supervisors before narrowly losing a 2010 re-election bid.

### Kay Halloran

A former Cedar Rapids mayor, Halloran served in the Iowa Legislature before returning to her eastern Iowa law practice. She was elected mayor in 2007, a year before a massive flood inundated the entire downtown and a large residential area of Iowa's second-largest city. She worked with the congressional delegation from both political parties to begin the city's rebuilding efforts.

### Bill Dotzler

Based in Waterloo, Dotzler was a state co-chair for Hillary Clinton's campaign and is serving his third term in the state Senate, where he is an

assistant majority leader. Before entering politics, he was a machine operator at the John Deere manufacturing facility in Waterloo and has close ties to labor unions.

### Tim LaPointe

A Mason City lawyer, LaPointe has been active in party politics since graduating from law school in 1990. He is among the first Iowa Democrats to be courted when the presidential caucuses loom.

### Ken Sagar

The treasurer of the Iowa Democratic Party, he is president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, which has about 100,000 members. He is considered a hardworking, shoe-leather guy who gets union members to the polls.

### George Appleby

The Des Moines lawyer has been an effective lobbyist for over two decades, particularly on healthcare issues.

### Ned and Frank Chiodo

Father and son, they head a powerful south-side Des Moines Italian-American family. Their businesses are professional golf (Ned), lobbying (Frank), and politics (both). Their family and friends can—and have—swung elections.

### John Cacciatore

The Des Moines political pro has worked for Harkin, Vilsack, Boswell, Gronstal, and the Iowa Democratic Party. He knows everybody, and that makes him an effective lobbyist and advocate.

**PolicyWorks**<sup>®</sup>  
ADVOCACY • STRATEGY • CONSULTANCY

YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS.  
WE'VE GOT TWO INFLUENTIAL VOICES TO GET IT DONE.

**John Cacciatore and Robert Haus.**

Two of the Most Influential Voices in Iowa.

They have over 50 years of combined experience in high-profile campaigns, corporate public affairs, and lobbying. Whether it's Iowa, the Midwest, or Washington, DC...our team can lend their voices so your business is heard.

For more information:  
visit [www.policyworksllc.com](http://www.policyworksllc.com), or call 866-518-0209

## Other Republicans

### Matt Strawn

The state GOP chair relishes the attention the state's Republicans will receive as the presidential nomination process begins. He is a champion fundraiser and helped recruit many of the candidates whose 2010 victories brought Republicans control of the Iowa House.

### Chuck Hurley

The head of the Iowa Family Policy Center was a key organizer in the ousting of three Iowa Supreme Court justices who had joined a unanimous decision to allow same-sex marriage. Look for him to be among the first to endorse a presidential candidate.

### Matt Schultz

The Des Moines native, former Council Bluffs city councilman and church missionary is Iowa's new secretary of state. Schultz is the one Republican who managed to oust a Democratic department head in November. Just thirty-one, he has the background and personality to be a serious player in the Iowa GOP for many years to come.

### Chuck Larson, Jr.

An Iraq War veteran, former legislator, and former state Republican Party chair, Larson had a reputation as a hard-charging, no-compromise conservative, but friends, and even former political enemies, say he has mellowed. A partner in LS2g, a bipartisan West Des Moines public relations and advertising firm, he has recently worked with former Minnesota Gov. Pawlenty.

### Karen Slifka

A co-owner with Larson of the LS2g public relations firm and an advisor to Branstad, Slifka was Midwest political director for George W. Bush's 2004 campaign. With Larson, she has an early connection to a possible Pawlenty candidacy.

### Becky Beach

The granddaughter of former Republican National Committee Chairwoman



Mary Louise Smith has been a friend and advisor to both former presidents Bush. She is not a public person, but she is likely to hear from any serious presidential candidate who wants to compete in Iowa.

### Richard Schwarm

A past state party chair and former law partner and close friend of Branstad, the Lake Mills-based Schwarm knows every Iowa Republican worth knowing.

### Darrell Kearney

The state party's former finance director stepped down last year to take the same position with the party organization in the state's largest county, Polk. A director and secretary of the American Future Fund, he has worked with Republican presidential campaigns in Iowa since Reagan's in 1980.

### Paul McKinley

The state Senate Republican leader from Chariton opted against a run for governor when Branstad re-entered politics. McKinley is now opposing a smaller Democratic Party majority in the Senate.

### Ryan Rhodes

The young chairman of the Iowa Tea Party Patriots will be popular with presidential campaigns intent on winning the

support of the upstart political movement. However, his organization will not formally endorse a candidate prior to the caucuses.

### Linda Upmeyer

The first female state House majority leader is a cardiology nurse and Sunday school teacher who owns and operates a farm in northern Iowa with her husband. A longtime friend of former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Upmeyer has been connecting Gingrich with Iowans she thinks could help him do well in the caucuses.

### Kent Sorenson

The staunchly conservative Indianola businessman and state senator is combative and has quickly become a presence in Iowa politics. Presidential candidates will be sure to meet him when they visit the state.

### Tom Latham

The popular congressman and an owner of his family's seed corn business quietly represents a meandering district and will become more prominent with Republican control of the House. A close friend of U.S. House Speaker John Boehner, Latham is not flamboyant, but he will be on any presidential candidate's "call list."

### **Jeff Lamberti**

Managing partner of an Ankeny law firm, Lamberti is part of the family that founded Casey's General Stores, Iowa's largest convenience store chain. A former state legislator who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2006, he has transitioned to working effectively as a behind-the-scenes activist and fundraiser.

### **Kim Reynolds**

The new lieutenant governor, from Osceola, elected to the state Senate in 2008, was a surprise choice as Branstad's running mate. The governor likely will take some time choosing a presidential candidate, if he does so at all. A Reynolds endorsement would almost certainly come with a nod from the boss.

### **Eric Woolson**

Owner of The Concept Works, a West Des Moines public relations firm, Woolson was George W. Bush's Iowa communications director in the 2000 caucuses and then managed Mike Huckabee's winning 2008 caucus campaign. Two-for-two, plus being the Grassley campaign's top press person last year, makes him a go-to guy for any Republican campaign. Will reportedly work for Pawlenty's 2012 campaign.

### **Kim Pearson**

The winner of a state House seat last

November, Pearson urged that impeachment proceedings be brought against the four remaining members of the Iowa Supreme Court who ruled same-sex marriage legal. She is quickly becoming a champion of the state's Christian fundamentalists, who demonstrated their political power in helping Mike Huckabee win the 2008 caucuses.

### **Craig Robinson**

Robinson was the state GOP's political director before becoming editor of *TheIowaRepublican.com*—an important resource for potential presidential campaigns and for Republicans in a state with few conservative print media voices.

### **Jeff Boeyink**

Branstad's campaign manager is now the governor's chief of staff. A skilled organizer and manager, Boeyink served until last year as the state Republican Party's executive director. Earlier he was president of Iowans for Tax Relief.

### **Christian Fong**

The Cedar Rapids business executive impressed Iowans with his life story and command of the issues during a brief run for governor in 2010. Fong is a political moderate and founder of *Generation Iowa*, an organization of young Iowans that helps create a vision for the future.

### **Brenna Findley**

Findley's home-schooling background and the fact that she paid her way through college and law school working on farms and cleaning houses impresses conservatives. The former chief of staff to Rep. King, Findley lost her bid to become attorney general and is working as Branstad's legal counsel.

### **Shane Vander Hart**

A youth minister, educator, and advisor to juvenile offenders, Vander Hart is poised to help the campaign of the right conservative Christian candidate. He runs a website that is popular with young fundamentalists.

### **Nick Ryan**

A founder of the American Future Fund, Ryan is a Des Moines lawyer who has worked with former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) on his possible presidential run.

### **John Smith**

Head of a trucking firm in Cedar Rapids, Smith is a major Republican donor and well connected in state government. Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett and state House Speaker Kraig Paulsen both work for Smith's firm.

### **Marlys Popma**

A longtime activist and fundraiser for conservative candidates, Popma is best



known for her work on Right to Life issues. She is affiliated with Capitol Resources, a fundraising firm in rural Brooklyn, Iowa.

## Tim Albrecht

Just thirty-three, the governor's communications director has plenty of experience in campaigns. He worked for Mitt Romney in Iowa in 2008 and most recently operated TheBeanWalker.com, a political news aggregator.

## Nicole Schlinger

President and founder of Capitol Resources, the Brooklyn, Iowa-based fundraising organization that has raked in \$50 million for party candidates. She is a former finance director of the Iowa Republican Party.

## Brian Kennedy

A Bettendorf lawyer, he is a past candidate for Congress and a onetime political director of the Republican Governors Association. A former state Republican chair, he has held top positions in the presidential campaigns of Lamar Alexander and Elizabeth Dole.

## David Kochel

A former director of the state GOP, Kochel is the founder of Red Wave Mobile, a public affairs business in Des Moines. He is one of the most experienced caucus operatives in Iowa.

## Chuck Laudner

Based in Rockford, Laudner is another former executive director of the Iowa GOP and has gained respect from conservatives for his work with Vander Plaats on the successful effort to oust the three Supreme Court justices. He formerly was a top staffer for Rep. Steve King.

## Steve Grubbs

The owner of Victory Enterprises in Davenport, which bills itself as the "Midwest's largest political consulting and polling firm." A former state party chair, Grubbs began working on presidential campaigns as a college student.

## Kim Lehman

A member of the Republican National Committee who served a decade with the Iowa Right to Life organization. Lehman ruffled feathers last summer by suggesting President Obama is a Muslim and questioned the anti-abortion commitment of an Iowa Republican candidate for Congress. She is affiliated with the John Paul II Stem Cell Research Institute in Iowa City.

## Bob Haus

A strategist and advertising executive, he recently took a senior position at PolicyWorks, a Des Moines public affairs company.

## Sandy Greiner

The state senator is president of the American Future Fund, which has channeled large amounts of money to conservative candidates in recent years.

## Judy Davidson

The head of the Scott County Republican Party led a big party resurgence there in 2010. The one-time GOP stronghold had swung to Democrats over the last few decades, but Davidson's hard work is paying off in Iowa's third-most populated county.

## Bill Northey

Iowa's secretary of agriculture is a low-key fourth-generation farmer who is popular throughout the state—particularly in heavily Republican western Iowa where farms and small towns dominate the landscape.

## Mark Lundberg

The party chair in Sioux County, probably the most Republican county in Iowa. That makes it a great place for GOP presidential candidates, and Lundberg is excited about what's to come. He has spoken favorably about Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Sen. John Thune (R-SD), and former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, all from states that border Iowa.

## Wes Enos

A member of the Polk County GOP Central Committee from Bondurant, Enos


lost his run for state Senate, but is gaining a reputation as a thoughtful political operative.

## Dean Kleckner

Formerly head of the powerful Iowa Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau, he now leads the Truth About Trade and Technology organization that promotes free trade and agricultural biotechnology.

## Gary Kirke

The wealthy West Des Moines businessman sold the insurance company he founded and now dabbles in casinos and politics. He occasionally sends a few dollars to Democrats because it's good business, but he is a major donor to Republican candidates around the country.



Influence.

When it comes to influence, we know what we're doing.

**Telephone Services**  
Persuasion/GOTV  
Patch throughs  
Fundraising

**Fundraising**  
Major donor recruitment  
Finance events

**Event Management**  
Private gatherings  
Large scale events/logistics

**888-722-4704**  
Visit us online at:  
[www.campaign-headquarters.com](http://www.campaign-headquarters.com)

Congratulations to Nicole Schlinger and Marlys Popma on being named Influential Iowans.