



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

(PLEASE PRINT)

Candidate Name: Shannon Lundgren

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Position Seeking: State Representative, House District 65 (Incumbent)

Candidate signature: *Shannon L. Lundgren* 9/23/2022

Please limit your response to 50 words per question

1. Do you have any previous legislative experience? If so, please explain.

Yes No YES

Explain: I was elected in 2016 to represent House District 57 in the Iowa House. I have served as the Chair of the House Health Policy Committee and currently serve as the House Commerce Chair. I am seeking my 4th term in the Iowa House.

2. Do you/have you ever owned a business? If yes, please explain.

Yes No YES

Explain: My family and I own and operate Trackside Bar & Grill in Peosta. We have been in business since 2006. We also own and operate Lone Palm Travel, LLC. Our agency has been in operation since 2018.

3. If elected, what would be your top three legislative priorities & why?

1. Continue to Lower Income Taxes and focus on finding ways to lower property taxes – it is important to ensure that our State is competitive in recruiting and retaining businesses as well as allowing Iowans to keep more of their money to spend it the way they see fit.
2. Ensure that Consumers and businesses are protected against increasing energy rates – With a Green Initiative being pushed by the current Federal Administration, we are seeing rapidly increasing rates due to less domestic production and clean energy infrastructure that doesn't exist nationally. Domestic production keeps rates lower for Americans. Although we can't control some of these initiatives, we do have some control through the Iowa Utilities Board.
3. I want to protect Iowa businesses, especially small businesses against the misguided ESG (Environmental Social Governance) scoring process. An organization's ESG score is, simply put, a numerical measure of how it is perceived to be performing on a wide range of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) topics. ESG Scores, in my opinion, are an unfair practice designed to stifle capitalism. ESG scores can impact businesses if lenders are forced to use their ESG scores when deciding which projects to loan money to. It could also impact interstate and international commerce, shutting out privately owned businesses from expanding their markets. ESG Scores are based on perceived performance as stated above.

4. What is your position on the use of Tax Increment Financing?

Support Oppose Support

Explain: This is a great tool in a community toolbox to help cities and towns attract new businesses and amenities and allow those communities to grow.

For the following questions, please keep your answers to 200 words or less.

5. Workforce is the number one issue facing the business community. Whether that's retaining current talent, attracting new talent to the area, or developing the pipeline businesses are struggling in Iowa. How do you plan to invest in talent attraction, development, and retention in your role if (re)elected?

I believe that the state plays a role in offering tools to businesses and communities to address their specific workforce issues. Iowa has invested in the Last Dollar scholarships to the tune of over 23 million dollars to cover tuition for students enrolled in community and private college programs that target high-demand jobs. We also continue to support the Employer Innovation Fund to help communities invest in initiatives that address local workforce issues. We continue to reduce barriers in occupational licensing making Iowa a less burdensome state to advance in a career.

6. Higher education, whether a four-year degree, two-year degree, or certificate program can help professionals meet the needs of employers and attain higher wages. Developing talent and connecting that talent to local jobs is critical – but we must provide high-quality educational opportunities for that pipeline to exist and grow. How will you support higher education, including the private colleges, in Dubuque County?

As stated above, I have supported educational initiatives that improve our workforce and talent pools. Our community and private colleges are adapting their curriculum to help fill high-need jobs in our state. Ensuring that we continue to support and fund programs like the Last Dollar Scholar and the Iowa Tuition Grant will be imperative moving forward.

7. Transportation, Childcare, and Housing are significant barriers to employment. How would you seek to address issues in access to childcare, attainable housing, and effective/efficient transportation in your role?

We have been working with Iowa Workforce Development to ensure that our state is well Equipped to assist dislocated or underemployed workers with wrap-around services to reduce the barriers to employment. We are integrating IWD with other state departments so that all barriers can be reduced including housing, appropriate work clothing, child care, and transportation as well as education.

8. Air service is crucial to maintaining the Dubuque region's access to the global marketplace. Air service assists in the attraction and retention of businesses and employees in our area. How do you see the State playing a role in restoring and protecting air service in Dubuque?

Although I support Dubuque Air Service, especially in my role as a Travel Agent, I feel that many factors impacted the departure of Americans. I experience this daily with flight changes for my clients who are flying American. One of the largest issues is the lack of pilots and flight attendants. Just like other American sectors of business, we are all suffering from workforce issues. I also feel that the lack of competition in the Dubuque market made it less affordable for the average traveler to utilize our airport. Rates were more competitive in surrounding cities. I am open to working on finding solutions for our market with our federal legislators.

9. Tax increment financing is one of the most important, and valuable tools for local government to partner with private businesses to create economic growth and development. What is your philosophy on TIF and will you actively work to protect TIF in its current form?

I have always publically supported TIF and will continue to do so.

10. Incentives are a key piece of the puzzle when it comes to attracting new business investment into the state. What can we do to protect current incentives and is there anything you would like to change or see expanded beyond what currently exists?

I am in favor of incentives if they benefit our communities, however, I think the state needs to do a better job of insuring that the incentives are used properly and that they use incentives is fulfilling their end goal. When the state provides incentives, they are using the taxpayer's dollar and they should be held accountable.

11. The state of Iowa recently passed changes to Iowa's tax law, lowering the individual and pass-through rate to 3.9% by 2026 and the corporate tax rate to 5.5% over an undefined period of time. What is your opinion of the tax reform package and will you fight to protect it?

I voted in favor of Iowa's tax reform and believe it is best when individuals and businesses can spend their own money the way they see fit. I am looking forward to looking at other ways to lower the tax rates and ideally get to an individual tax rate of 0%. That would be remarkable and go a long way to maintain and grow the population which would have a great impact on our economy.

12. What is your approach to regulation? The Chamber advocates for the government to approach business with a light-touch focused on regulating bad actors while holding others harmless.

I completely align with the Chamber on this issue. I am of the mindset that less government will foster better innovation from the private sector.

13. What would you like to see the Chamber working on over the coming years?

As a business member, I appreciate the work the chamber has done on our behalf. I appreciate the new level of engagement that has come in recent years. We need to continue to make Iowa a better place to do business and appreciate the advocacy for better Medical Malpractice Insurance and other Tort reform issues.