Iowa 2026 General Election Results & Recap

Major Takeaways

Iowa Democrats won the governor's office, a U.S. Senate seat, three of four U.S. House seats and the attorney general's office on Tuesday, the party's broadest statewide showing since 2006. Republicans kept both chambers of the Legislature, the secretary of state and agriculture offices, and appear to have approved a constitutional limit on income tax increases. The result is divided government, a Republican Legislature without a two-thirds majority, and an electorate that split its tickets across party lines.

Balance of Power

Chamber	Entering Nov. 3	Current leaders	Republican two-thirds?
Iowa House (100)	66 R, 33 D, 1 vacant (67–33 as elected in 2024)	**56 R, 44 D** (11 flips recorded)	No. Needs 67; Republicans won 67 in 2024.
Iowa Senate (50)	32 R, 17 D, 1 vacant (R-held seat)	**32 R, 18 D**	No. Needs 34.
U.S. House delegation (4)	4 R, 0 D	**3 D, 1 R**	Not applicable
U.S. Senate delegation (2)	2 R, 0 D	**1 R, 1 D**	Not applicable
Statewide executive offices (6)	5 R, 1 D	**3 D, 3 R**	Not applicable

Statewide and Federal Results

Office	Winner or current leader	Margin	Prior party	Change	Status
U.S. Senate (open)	**Josh Turek (D)**	D +4.1	R	**Flip to D**	AP call
U.S. House IA-1	**Christina Bohannan (D)**	D +9.2	R	**Flip to D**	AP call
U.S. House IA-2 (open)	**Lindsay James (D)**	D +4.0	R	**Flip to D**	AP call
U.S. House IA-3	**Sarah Trone Garriott (D)**	D +7.3	R	**Flip to D**	AP call

Office	Winner or current leader	Margin	Prior party	Change	Status
U.S. House IA-4 (open)	**Chris McGowan (R)**	R +18.1	R	R hold	AP call
Governor (open)	**Rob Sand (D)**	D +11.0	R	**Flip to D**	AP call
Attorney General	**Nate Willems (D)**	D +1.8	R	**Flip to D**	Bird conceded
Secretary of State	**Paul Pate (R)**	R +6.4	R	R hold	Winner recorded
Sec. of Agriculture	**Mike Naig (R)**	R +5.5	R	R hold	Winner recorded
Auditor (open)	**Taylor Wettach (D)**	D +0.5	D	D hold	Winner recorded
Treasurer	**Roby Smith (R)**	R +0.7	R	R hold	Winner recorded

Most consequential outcomes

- **Governor and U.S. Senate flip.** Republicans lose the governorship they have held since 2011 and a U.S. Senate seat.
- **The veto now matters.** Republicans fall short of two-thirds in both chambers, so a Sand veto holds unless Democrats join an override.
- **Attorney General flip.** Nate Willems won on wage theft and corporate and environmental enforcement. That changes state enforcement posture regardless of who controls the Legislature.
- **Amendment 1.** Income tax increases will require 67 House and 34 Senate votes, a constraint that outlasts any one election.

Federal Races

Iowa's congressional delegation went from entirely Republican to three Democrats and one Republican in the House, with one Democrat and one Republican in the Senate. The last time Democrats won three of Iowa's four House seats was 2018.

U.S. Senate: Josh Turek (D) defeats Ashley Hinson (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Josh Turek	Democratic	**686,486**	**50.4%**
Ashley Hinson	Republican	630,615	46.3%
Thomas Laehn	Libertarian	42,052	3.1%
Write-in		1,686	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**55,871**	**4.1 pts**

IA-1: Christina Bohannan (D) defeats Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Christina Bohannan	Democratic	**182,396**	**52.7%**
Mariannette Miller-Meeks (inc.)	Republican	150,471	43.5%
Michael Bridgford	No party	12,603	3.6%
Write-in		356	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**31,925**	**9.2 pts**

IA-2: Lindsay James (D) defeats Joe Mitchell (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Lindsay James	Democratic	**171,484**	**49.5%**
Joe Mitchell	Republican	157,722	45.5%
Rick Stewart	Libertarian	9,500	2.7%
Dave Bushaw	No party	7,469	2.2%
Write-in		226	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**13,762**	**4.0 pts**

IA-3: Sarah Trone Garriott (D) defeats Rep. Zach Nunn (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Sarah Trone Garriott	Democratic	**189,217**	**53.5%**
Zach Nunn (inc.)	Republican	163,441	46.2%
Write-in		869	0.2%
Margin (top two)		**25,776**	**7.3 pts**

IA-4: Chris McGowan (R) defeats Dave Dawson (D)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Chris McGowan	Republican	**178,845**	**59.0%**
Dave Dawson	Democratic	123,940	40.9%
Write-in		352	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**54,905**	**18.1 pts**

Statewide Offices

In 2022, Reynolds won 58.0%–39.5% (R +18.5). Sand's margin represents a 29.5-point move. His 757,326 votes exceed Harris' 2024 total (707,278) in a lower-turnout year. Lahn's 607,415 trail Trump's total by 319,604.

Governor: Rob Sand (D) defeats Zach Lahn (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Rob Sand / Dave Muhlbauer	Democratic	**757,326**	**55.4%**
Zach Lahn / Derek Wulf	Republican	607,415	44.4%
Write-in		1,775	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**149,911**	**11.0 pts**

Attorney General: Nate Willems (D) defeats Brenna Bird (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Nate Willems	Democratic	**681,097**	**50.8%**
Brenna Bird (inc.)	Republican	657,405	49.1%
Write-in		1,527	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**23,692**	**1.8 pts**

Secretary of Agriculture: Mike Naig (R) defeats Chris Jones (D)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Mike Naig (inc.)	Republican	**701,882**	**52.7%**
Chris Jones	Democratic	629,249	47.2%
Write-in		1,185	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**72,633**	**5.5 pts**

State Auditor: Taylor Wettach (D) defeats Chris Cournoyer (R)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Taylor Wettach	Democratic	**666,632**	**50.2%**
Chris Cournoyer	Republican	660,159	49.7%
Write-in		1,375	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**6,473**	**0.5 pts**

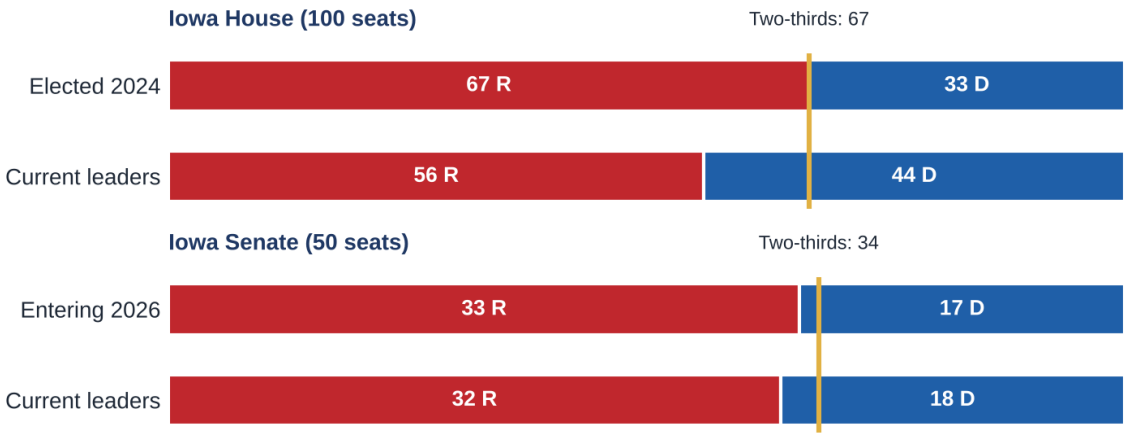
State Treasurer: Roby Smith (R) defeats John Norwood (D)

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Roby Smith (inc.)	Republican	**664,948**	**50.3%**
John Norwood	Democratic	655,763	49.6%
Write-in		1,321	0.1%
Margin (top two)		**9,185**	**0.7 pts**

Iowa Legislature

Republicans keep majorities in both chambers but lose the House supermajority they won in 2024. The Senate supermajority, already broken in 2025 special elections, was not restored.

Chamber balance against the two-thirds line



Measure	House	Senate	Note
Seats on the ballot	100	25 (odd)	19 R and 6 D holdovers not up in the Senate
Contested / unopposed	71 / 29	19 / 6	Includes no-party opponents
Republican seats flipped to Democrats	11	2	
Democratic seats flipped to Republicans	0	1	
Republican seats retained	56	12	Includes leaders in uncalled races
Democratic seats retained	33	10	
Open seats that changed party	HD-43	SD-21	Both R to D
Incumbents recorded as defeated	9 R, 0 D	1 D (Zimmer)	

School Bond Referendums

27 school districts had a bond referendum on the ballot this fall, but only 10 districts received the required 60% of yes votes to pass.

Total Number of Referendums	27
Number of Referendums Passed	10
Amount Passed	$215,400,000
Number of Referendums Failed	17
Amount Failed	$355,600,000
Number of Referendums With Yes Votes Between 50-60%	8

What Does This All Mean?

Voters did not hand either party a mandate, but they did end a decade of unified Republican government and gave Democrats statewide power. This seems to be a demand for balance as well as change.

Voters ushered in an era of divided government in Iowa, which means:

- **Veto leverage:** With 56 House Republicans and 32 in the Senate, Sand can sustain vetoes with his own party, so bills must be negotiated earlier.
- **Confirmations:** Senate confirmation requires two-thirds, or 34 votes. Sand will need Republican votes for nominees, as Gov. Reynolds came to need Democratic ones.
- **Executive branch changes:** Rules, guidance and enforcement can shift without legislation.

Impact on Education

- **Director of Department of Education:** Sand will nominate a new director, giving education an opportunity to have a more cooperative relationship with the DE; watch to see if Senate Republicans help Sand confirm his nominee.
- **Education savings accounts:** Sand wants income limits restored; Republicans who built the program will want a trade. The new state auditor (race not called yet) will have a more cooperative DE to work on auditing the ESA program.
- **School Aid:** This will be the earliest pressure point. Sand said during the campaign that he wants 5%. Given the $1 billion shortfall, expect House and Senate Republicans to resist that. Watch to see if they can negotiate between 0% and 5%.
- **House Education Committee:** Several members of the committee lost their re-election effort: Gehlbach, Gustoff, and Weldon. Plus, there are several vacancies due to retirements or running for the Senate. The committee likely gets smaller since ratios are generally based on the overall House ratio of Republicans and Democrats. The Gehlbach loss also impacts the education budget subcommittee.
- **Senate Education Committee:** Watch to see if Senate Majority Leader Mike Klimesh reworks chairs and members of the committee. Expect little overall change.