



# Candidate Immigration Question Guide

2018 Election ~ August 2018

We've got questions.

*Engaging with candidates is as important as holding elected officials accountable once they are elected. Help us get them on record in the coming months. Town halls and local events are an opportunity to lift our concerns for members of Congress and within our communities. For an overview of "How to Bird-Dog" visit: [www.afsc.org/birddogging](http://www.afsc.org/birddogging)*

*Let us know how it went! Contact us at [afscdesm@afsc.org](mailto:afscdesm@afsc.org) or at 515-274-4851 to file your report back!*

## **State Level Candidates:**

### **1. Repeal SF481**

**Question:** SF481 pushes local law enforcement to comply with federal immigration policies and punishes cities and counties that take steps to protect their immigrant residents. This law encourages discrimination and makes our communities less safe. Will you support repealing SF481 in order to limit collaboration between the federal immigration agency, ICE, and local police?

### **2. Statewide standards for U-Visa certifications**

**Question:** Federal law allows that victims of crime may apply for immigration status when they cooperate with local police in solving crimes. Will you support creating statewide standards for certifying these U-Visa applications?

### **3. Accountability & Transparency for ICE**

**Question:** Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers have been found to be unconstitutional, ICE often engages in blatantly abusive practices like racial profiling and ICE uses misleading "administrative warrants" instead of judicially reviewed warrants to persecute immigrants in Iowa. Will you work to hold ICE accountable in Iowa by limiting any future contracts with the agency and local departments and by requiring public review of any current contracts?

### **4. Driver's licenses for all eligible drivers in Iowa**

**Question:** Iowa roads are safer when everyone is tested, licensed and insured. Will you support legislation that would allow eligible immigrant drivers in Iowa to access driver's licenses?

### **5. Funding for English Language Learner programs**

**Question:** Iowa has seen a five-fold increase in the number of enrolled English Language Learner (ELL) students in the past 20 years. Will you support giving these students and their teachers the

tools they need to succeed in school by supporting additional funding for ELL programs around the state?

**6. Scale back “English-only” rules**

**Question:** Iowa has a rich history of welcoming newcomers and is proud of our immigrant heritage. Will you support legislation that would provide commonsense solutions for facilitating newcomers’ involvement with government agencies, such as forms and applications in common languages?

**7. Tuition equity for all Iowans**

**Question:** Thousands of Iowans immigrated to Iowa at a young age, have graduated from Iowa high schools and meet residency requirements for in-state tuition at public universities and colleges. Will you support tuition-equity legislation so that DREAMers and DACA recipients are eligible for state scholarships and financial aid?

**Federal Level Candidates:**

**1. Updating U.S. Immigration Law**

**Question:** Immigrant communities have seen increased targeting under the Trump administration through the ending of DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of various countries. The majority of Iowans support a path to citizenship. Will you support immigration reform that provides permanent protections for DACA and TPS recipients, provides a road to citizenship, protects workers and keeps families together?

**2. Abolishing ICE**

**Question:** Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a relatively new federal agency with an egregious track record of abuse and lack of accountability and oversight. Its bloated budget supports racial profiling, family separation and harsh detention methods. Its enforcement operations have destroyed local economies in Iowa. Will you support abolishing ICE?

*How did it go? Let us know how the candidate responded to your questions. Contact us at [afscdesm@afsc.org](mailto:afscdesm@afsc.org) 515-274-4851.*

**Join us!**

*Together we can build a more welcoming state and country! AFSC is a non-partisan, issues based organization. We work to educate candidates and communities across the political spectrum in order to change the systems and narratives that oppress communities. We believe that together we can organize to make real, lasting change.*

*Support AFSC of Iowa and help make this change possible.*

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