

HATCH

for

GOVERNOR

WORKING FOR WORKING IOWANS

Leadership to Build Iowa's Middle-Class

Jack Hatch for Governor

December 2013

“I believe growing the number of working middle-class Iowa families is the top job of any Governor, and I will make it the No. 1 priority in my administration.” - Jack Hatch

Introduction

Iowa should be a high-wage state. Right now we're a very low-wage state, consistently ranking among the bottom 10 states for private industry hourly wages. [<http://thegazette.com/2010/05/03/iowa-in-nations-bottom-10-for-average-wages-south-dakota-remains-lowest/>].

Iowa is also one of the top-ten states for families in which both parents work outside the home. [IA has 9th highest percentage of people working multiple jobs; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012.]

Governor Branstad's mismanagement of job creation, including his decision to hand over a quarter-billion dollars to an Egyptian company in exchange for 165 jobs, hasn't improved Iowa's position.

None of this is new for the Governor. Iowa stagnation has been Branstad's strategy for more than 30 years.

When Branstad ran for this current term as Governor, he said he would create 200,000 new jobs, increase family income by 25 percent, and increase the state's population. As he enters the fourth year of his term he's been an utter failure. He's created less than 48,000 jobs -- more than three-fourths of the jobs he said he would bring to Iowa went somewhere else. And even if an Iowan can get one of the new jobs, the wages are so low it takes multiple jobs to get by.

But jobs aren't the only failure. Iowa family income has grown less than 4 percent. Our state's population is stagnant. Branstad has a perfect track record of failure. Iowans know we can and must do better than the status quo.

Throughout his 22-year legislative career, Sen. Jack Hatch has been ranked among the top Iowa legislators when it comes to voting with Iowa workers. When it comes to fighting to build the middle class, no one can compete with Hatch. For example, Sen. Hatch has a lifetime voting record of 94 percent with the Iowa Federation of Labor, and in recent legislative sessions that record is 100 percent. It's an unsurpassed record of fighting for Iowa workers.

Sen. Hatch is providing a specific plan with ideas that will put the state government back on the side of workers.

Building the Middle Class in a Hatch Administration

When it comes to building a bigger middle class and improving the quality of life for families in our low-wage state, Jack Hatch will be a tireless advocate as Governor. In his first term, Hatch will take the following steps to support Iowa workers:

- **Minimum Wage.** Iowans have been working too hard for too little for too long. One of the first bills Jack Hatch will sign as Governor will be an increase in the minimum wage to match the bill Sen. Harkin has proposed in Congress. Hatch will propose an Iowa minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour.
- **State of Iowa Projects.** The State of Iowa has a responsibility to be an example employer. As Governor, Hatch will fight for a prevailing wage law for the workers on Iowa's public construction projects. Asking contractors to pay a prevailing wage will operate as an upward pull on wages throughout the region in which the project is being built. More money into the pockets of workers on those projects means more spending into the economy, which help's Iowa's economy.
 - Hatch also will use his executive power to encourage Project Labor Agreements. These agreements ensure competition, quality craftsmanship and a more reliable labor source. Gov. Hatch will sign an executive order requiring PLAs on public projects with a total construction cost exceeding \$25 million, and will include Regents institutions. Paying for the best possible quality on projects will mean a stronger economy and will ensure the State of Iowa gets the best bang for the taxpayer buck.
 - Hatch will prioritize the expansion of the scope of the bargaining for public workers. He'll fight for a law that expands that would grant public sector workers the right to bargain over the same issues granted by the National Labor Relations Act.

- **Employe Health Care.** Access to a decent health insurance plan is one of the most important employee benefits. But there are still companies whose strategy relies on exploiting workers and forcing them onto government programs for health care. This is wrong. Hatch will fight to require large employers like Wal-Mart, who offer inadequate or no employee health care coverage, to pay into a new state fund to help cover costs they inflict on state-funded health care programs like Medicaid. If they can't pay their employees enough to lift them off of state health care plans, they should pay part of the cost.
- **Worker-Friendly State Government.** Hatch will finally change Chapters 731 and 20 to allow public and private employees, should they choose, to negotiate a fair-share agreement. Hatch will put money in the budget to increase the IOSHA budget so the agency can hire additional inspectors and industrial hygienists to help ensure Iowans health and safety on the job. Hatch also will make the formula for unemployment compensation more worker-friendly so more Iowans who are unemployed through no fault of their own are eligible for benefits. And, Hatch will make it a priority to allow injured workers in this state to choose their own medical providers.
- **Good Public Jobs.** Hatch will absolutely oppose privatization of state, county and municipal government services. The largest savings in taking a state enterprise private is in labor costs. For many years, conservatives have fought to create public services at lower wages and worse working conditions while generating profit for their campaign contributors who want to profit from formerly public services. Jack Hatch will keep quality public jobs public, while emphasizing efficiency and outcomes for state employees.

<i>Conclusion</i>

Jack Hatch will be a Governor who prioritizes the budgets of families at Iowa's kitchen tables and never stops working to increase wages and spur investment in good jobs so that Iowa's economic growth is built on a solid foundation. In a Hatch administration, Iowa will build the middle class.

###