

Who should I vote for?

I love that question. Every time an election day rolls around I get asked by family, friends, friends of friends, employees and colleagues “Who should I vote for?”, They may not respect my opinion on any other subject at any other time of year but when it comes to voting they suddenly think I’m a genius. As an average person, I love answering that question. I pass out lists for folks to take into the polling place with them so they don’t even need to remember much. As a self confessed news junkie I am familiar with the issues and the players. I know the folks elected to represent me on a first name basis. I lobby in both Des Moines and Washington D.C. every year. For those that think that politics is just a really long four letter word, knowing someone like me is helpful.

As a member of the Legislative Committee of ABATE of Iowa and as the MRF Rep for the State of Iowa I try not to say anything partial to any one political party as both organizations are non partisan. I personally vote for the person and not the party but once you have a title it’s easy for folks to accuse you of speaking for the organization.

However . . . I do plan and participate in the Lobby trip to DC every year. I have met with both of our Iowa Senators and numerous Iowa Congressmen in Washington over the last six years while representing you. I have tried to put together a chart of what they have done or not done for us. I have included all seven of the current players whether they are up for reelection or not. In the spirit of fairness I have only included the last two years since that is when Congressmen Braley and Loeb sack took office. This is all from my personal experience.

	Senator Harkin	Senator Grassley	Congressman Braley	Congressman Loeb sack	Congressman Boswell	Congressman Latham	Congressman King
Met with us 3/2007	Photo Op Breakfast Only	Speaker - phone	YES	Staff Only	YES	YES	NO
Met with us 11/2007 ¹	NO	Staff Only	Staff Only	Staff Only	YES	Yes, had staff take us to Capitol in order to keep mtg	No. Mtg w/staff only. Spoke with King in hallway
Met with us 2/2008	Photo Op Breakfast Only	Staff Only	Yes	Staff Only	NO	YES	No. Mtg w/staff only. Spoke with King in hallway
Wrote Letter to NTSB	NO	YES, Called ABATE of Iowa office to get our opinion	NO - felt it was State issue	NO	YES	YES	YES

Wrote Letter RE Mary Peters ²	NO	NO but did send cover letter over our letters.	NO	NO	NO, but willing if necessary	NO, but willing if necessary	NO, but willing if necessary
Signed on to HIPPA ³	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

¹ This was a short notice trip regarding NTSB and there were emergency votes in Congress

² All offices felt Mary Peters' suggestion fell on deaf ears. Some volunteered to write letters if they were needed.

³ Senate expected to pass with unanimous consent once passed in House

If you would like any more detailed information on any part of this chart please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Cain

“Perhaps our Congress will be exalted on a high gallows” Abraham Clark – signed Declaration of Independence 8/6/1776