



Campaign Leadership Team

Leading the “McGowan for Iowa” team are a number of experienced campaign operatives representing a broad array of political, operational, and issue expertise from Iowa’s 4th Congressional District.

Sam Clovis – Serving as President Donald Trump’s National Co-Chair and Policy Advisor in 2016, Clovis (USAF Retired) will serve as McGowan’s Campaign Chair and Senior Policy Advisor. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Sam also earned his MBA, as well as his doctorate in public administration. An F-16 fighter pilot who rose to the rank of colonel, Clovis retired as the Inspector General of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the United States Space Command. Turning his focus to education, Sam became a professor at Morningside College in Sioux City. The former host of “Impact with Sam Clovis” on KSCJ radio in Sioux City, he became one of President Trump’s most influential and relied upon campaign advisors and strategists.

Brian Miller – The former Wing Commander of the 185th Air Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard in Sioux City, Col. Miller (IAANG Retired) served in uniform for over three decades flying the A-7, F-16, and KC-135 aircraft. Miller rounded out his career serving as the Vice Commander of the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force in Afghanistan in 2010–2011. He was second in command for the 8,500 Airmen and all United States Air Force aircraft deployed in Afghanistan. In 2016, Brian was President Trump’s Iowa Co-Chair. An entrepreneur and small business owner, Miller is the founder of the Northern Plains Meat Company and will serve as a campaign advisor to McGowan on national security, military affairs, and veterans’ issues.

Chris Hupke – A Cherokee, Iowa native, Hupke is a seasoned campaign operative with extensive experience in both Iowa and South Dakota. A veteran of grassroots movements and political campaigns, Hupke first mobilized values-based voters in 2004 during the John Thune versus Tom Daschle senate campaign. In 2015, Chris joined President Trump as his Field Director for the 4th Congressional District leading up to the Iowa caucuses. Hupke served as Campaign Manager for Governor Kristi Noem’s re-election in South Dakota in 2022 and has joined the “McGowan for Iowa” team as a Senior Political Strategist with his primary focus on ground operations and outreach in the 4th District.

Mike Thom – A graduate of Iowa State University and a native of Cambridge, Iowa in the 4th Congressional District, Thom is the founder and president of the 515 Group, a national political consulting firm. Mike served as the Political Director for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) during the 2022 and 2024 campaign cycles, playing a key role in Republicans winning back the U.S. House and retaining the majority. Thom oversaw a budget exceeding \$100 million and managed a 60-person staff responsible for candidate recruitment, incumbent retention, paid media efforts, research, data analysis, and polling. Under Thom’s leadership, the NRCC launched its first-ever national field program, embedding 40 staffers in key congressional districts across the country. Thom will serve as the campaign’s General Consultant.

Katie Delzell – An experienced campaign and not-for-profit fundraising executive, Delzell is the Founder and CEO of Beacon Consulting. Originally from Sioux City, she began her political consulting career working on presidential campaigns in Iowa. Katie has worked as a PAC fundraiser, Deputy Finance Director for a presidential super PAC, Finance Director on a US Senate race, Director of Development at the Congressional Leadership Fund, and Finance Director for Whip Steve Scalise (LA-01) before opening Beacon Consulting in December 2020. She served as National Finance Advisor to Speaker Mike Johnson in the last election cycle, and the Speaker’s political priorities remain a key client of Beacon’s today. Beacon also continues to consult with super PACs, 501c4s, 501c3s, and advises several major donors on their giving. Delzell will lead fundraising initiatives for the “McGowan for Iowa” campaign.