

Voter Resource Guide

2025

Special Election (HD 78)



Candidates

House District 78

[Angel Ramirez \(D\)](#)

[Bernie Hayues \(R\)](#)

This Voter Resource Guide is intended to assist you with your decision-making process and was designed to be a resource to help make voting as easiest as possible for you. In the Voter Toolkit below, you can find your polling location, information on how to vote early, register to vote and much more.

It's your opportunity to be heard, to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in the policies that affect the future of our community.

Election Day is 4/29. But that is the first day to vote, it is actually the last! Voters in HD78 can vote early now at the Linn County Auditor's Office in SW Cedar Rapids. Polls are open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day through Saturday, April 26.

Important Dates & Deadlines

- ***To confirm you reside in HD78, click here.***
- ***To confirm you are registered to vote, click here.***
- ***To register to vote, click here.***
- ***To view your ballot, click here.***
- ***To update your voter registration or register online, click here.***
- ***To find your Election Day polling place, click here.***
- ***For important dates and deadlines, click here.***

This message is paid for by the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, 501 First St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. The executive director of the Economic Alliance is Doug Neumann. This message is not authorized by any candidate, candidate's committee or ballot issue committee.

***Economic Alliance contact information:
319.398.5317
EconomicAlliance@cedarrrapids.org***



★ Angel Ramirez (D)

25 years old
Peace Facilitator with Kids First Law Center at McKinley STEAM Academy; Executive Director of Our Future, a nonprofit that keeps emerging leaders in our community

What do you hope to accomplish during your term in office and how will it benefit the business community?

As a Peace Facilitator working daily in Cedar Rapids schools, I've seen how our community's challenges and opportunities are interconnected. During my term, I will focus on priorities that directly benefit our community.

- Champion workforce development initiatives that create stronger pathways between our educational institutions and employers. By bringing together schools, Kirkwood Community College, and businesses, we can develop training programs that prepare students for available jobs while addressing our workforce shortage.
- Work to increase access to affordable childcare, which is both a family issue and an economic one. When parents have reliable childcare, businesses benefit from a more stable, productive workforce and increased labor participation.
- Advocate for infrastructure investments that support business growth while improving community quality of life, making Cedar Rapids more attractive for both talent retention and business recruitment.

When I saw talented young people leaving Iowa, I co-founded Our Future—a paid fellowship program that equips emerging leaders with tools to become advocates for justice, sustainability, and equity in our community. This is economic development in action: we invest in people facing barriers by providing livable wages, mentorship, and professional connections, turning brain drain into local innovation. Our fellows become the business leaders, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals Cedar Rapids needs to thrive.

My approach centers on relationship-building and finding common ground—skills I use every day helping students

resolve conflicts. I'll bring these same skills to Des Moines to ensure Cedar Rapids receives its fair share of resources and attention.

Promoting bipartisanship and collaboration and encouraging our elected officials to work toward solutions is important to Economic Alliance members.

What is your approach in working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions to reach consensus? Please provide examples.

Conflict resolution is my profession. As a Kids First Peace Facilitator at McKinley STEAM Academy, I spend every day bringing together students with different perspectives to find common ground and workable solutions.

My approach begins by listening—truly understanding others' concerns and priorities. I've found beneath opposing positions often lie shared interests. For example, when working with students in conflict, I focus on identifying their underlying needs rather than their stated demands, which frequently reveals common ground and resolution.

In the legislature, I would bring stakeholders together early in the policy development process, before positions harden. I believe the best legislation comes from inclusive conversations that consider multiple perspectives.

I'll always be willing to work across the aisle on solutions that benefit Cedar Rapids families. When disagreements arise, I'll focus on our shared interest in community prosperity rather than partisan differences—just as I help students find paths forward despite their differences every day. ★

More Info

ramirezforiowa@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/RamirezForIowa
[@RamirezForIowa](https://www.instagram.com/RamirezForIowa)
www.ramirezforiowa.com



★ Bernie Hayes (R)

70 years old
Retired, formerly Flight Control Systems/Certification Engineer for Rockwell Collins

What do you hope to accomplish during your term in office and how will it benefit the business community?

In Iowa, there are endowment funds (Endow Iowa Tax Credit, 20024) that benefit the needs of local communities, nonprofits, and charitable organizations. Why would not the state of Iowa establish an endowment fund that could be used to directly benefit Iowa citizens in a multiplicity of ways? How about an endowment fund (statewide or local community) that could be used to defray the need for property tax or utility cost increases? How about using it to supplement infrastructure renewal, reduce licensing fees, protect natural resources, and lower some health care costs and services? Having worked with individuals and families needing assistance, I would propose a restructuring of the manner in which monetary support is provided. Typically, assistance funds are reduced or suddenly removed as an individual gains more income (exceeding some assistance threshold). Rather than removing the support, driving the recipient to stay (forever) on assistance, why not gradually reduce it, encouraging self sufficiency. And lastly, I have proposed before the Cedar Rapids City Council that several communities in Iowa have gambling casinos. What if we were different, given the history of innovation that is our heritage. I believe that if we pursue the building of a virtual reality venue, a holodeck (as in Star Trek), "they will come". It would present a myriad of opportunities for entertainment, teaching, training, research, simulation, and marketing.

Promoting bipartisanship and collaboration and encouraging our elected officials to work toward solutions is important to Economic Alliance members. What is your approach in working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions to reach consensus? Please provide examples.

My approach is that we need to "come to the table" and explore where we may have areas of agreement and consensus. Depending on the issue(s), it can require some "out of the box" thinking and certainly some willingness to make accommodations and concessions. As an employee of Rockwell Collins, working with both customers and regulatory agencies, I have encountered ample instances of working through "opposing views" to be able to arrive at a unified point. ★

More Info

Hayes4IAHouse@gmail.com
facebook.com/edward.b.hayes
linncountygop.org



www.cedarrapids.org