

Jan 31, 2022

Ryan Melton Announces His Democratic Candidacy for Iowa's Fourth Congressional District

Nevada, Iowa — Ryan Melton, of Nevada, Iowa, announced he is running on the Democratic ticket for Iowa's Fourth Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives. He entered the race because now more than ever, we need to protect our democracy. He will run on a "Putting People First" platform. His goal is to reduce or eliminate controllable stressors we face at all phases of life to foster a district of content, supported, financially independent Iowans that can participate in our democratic processes without restriction.

"Not only are our democratic values at risk, we are faced with a slate of Republicans determined to block so many efforts that would make our lives better," Melton said. "Most Americans support major planks of my platform, as they know action in those spaces is sorely needed. For example, recent polling shows seventy-one percent of voters want Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and seventy-six percent want increased funding for Medicaid home care for seniors. Sixty-eight percent of Americans also agree we need more funding for affordable housing. Yet, Congressional inaction has persisted."

(Morning Consult/Politico poll as reported by FiveThirtyEight.

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/americans-like-whats-in-the-build-back-better-act-theyre-lukewarm-on-the-bill-itself/>)

Melton also pointed out that rural hospitals across the nation are closing down or are at risk of closing, including nearly twenty percent of rural Iowa hospitals.

(2020 report of the Iowa Hospital Association.)

<https://www.ihaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CAH-CAF-position-paper-FINAL-V2.pdf>) "To save our rural hospitals, we need more affordable, accessible health care that allows us to see the doctors we want, in our own communities," he said.

Iowa also has educational gaps impacting Iowa families that Melton wants to solve. "Iowa once had the nation's top-rated education system, and we can again by increasing funding to rural communities and underserved metro school districts," Melton said, noting that Iowa ranks 35th in per-pupil funding and 37th in teacher starting pay nationally.

<https://www.nea.org/resource-library/teacher-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank>

"We can do better," Melton said, "and we can assure success for all by providing affordable, accessible child care and preschool on one end of the spectrum, and free community college and more affordable public university and trade school education on the other end."

Another priority of his platform calls for a living wage for all Iowans. "Six in ten Americans favor a \$15 federal minimum wage. Iowans are a compassionate people—a result I believe is rooted in our agricultural heritage where neighbor helps neighbor—and they want their neighbors who are often on the front lines of service to have lives of dignity."

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/22/most-americans-support-a-15-federal-minimum-wage/>

“As a Representative of the Fourth Congressional District, I want to work with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to get things done for the people of Iowa,” Melton said.

Ryan Melton works at Nationwide (Des Moines), serving in a leadership role managing high-performing teams of insurance professionals. He holds a BS in History and Political Science from Iowa State University and an MA in US History from Kansas University. He lives in Nevada, Iowa, where he and his wife, Laura, are raising two boys, ages 16 and three.

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Contact info:

MeltonforIowa.com

melton4iowa@gmail.com

Press availability: Usually in the mornings before 11:30 am, or just about any time on Sundays and Mondays.