

**JASON**  
**MENKE**  
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**EMBARGO UNTIL 3 P.M. CST, TUES. OCT. 10, 2023**

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## **Menke Announces Candidacy for Iowa House Seat**

***Urbandale CSD board member running to prioritize  
public education, reproductive freedom***

Urbandale, Iowa (Oct. 10, 2023) – Today, Urbandale school board director Jason Menke announced his candidacy for the Iowa House of Representatives in District 44. The Democrat, a 30-year resident of Urbandale, is focused on providing more financial support for public education in Iowa and adopting economic and social policies that work for Iowans at every income level.

“We’re at a tipping point in Iowa,” Menke said. “The extreme policies adopted by the legislature in the last two years are devastating to public schools and the communities they serve. K-12 education used to be an economic engine for the state. We’re losing accountability of public tax money to private and for-profit interests with the voucher bill. It must be repealed, and we need lawmakers who recognize the value and importance of fully funded community schools.”

Menke also recognizes there are other significant issues that need to be addressed, including:

- Protecting the reproductive rights of Iowa women
- Adopting social and health policies that improve the lives of everyone, and don’t ostracize marginalized, vulnerable Iowans
- Advancing economic policies that allow Iowa’s small business climate to flourish while protecting the interests of its workforce

The 53-year-old grew up in Perry, before moving to Urbandale in 1993. He is a graduate of Drake University, where he received his B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication – Public Relations. His professional career has taken him into several industries critical to Iowa’s economy. He has worked in health care, insurance and financial services, higher education, and currently works in agriculture.

“My priority will always be the people of District 44,” Menke emphasized, “but if we’re going to be successful in our efforts to reject extreme policies that only benefit private interests, we need to have Democratic lawmakers who have meaningful conversations with Iowans in other parts of the state. We must convince Iowans who don’t live in large cities that our values and vision are Iowa’s best way forward. I have the experience and ability to move those ideas and ideals forward.”

*MORE*

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The house seat in District 44 will be open next November. John Forbes, the district's current representative, announced earlier this year his candidacy for Polk County Supervisor in the 2024 election.

His community involvement has been heavily focused on youth education and development. He is a former Cub Scout and Scout leader and past president of the Urbandale Performing Arts Booster Club.

Menke and his wife, Tamara, have three children: Andrew, a University of Northern Iowa graduate; Carter, an Urbandale High School senior and future Iowa State University student; and Kennedy, also an Urbandale senior and future University of Iowa student.

Visit [www.jasonmenke.com](http://www.jasonmenke.com) for more information, links to his social networks, and campaign donation opportunities.

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