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MEMO: Rob Sand Enters General Election as the Strongest Candidate to Win Iowa's Governor's Race

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Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 5:59 AM



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TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Rob Sand for Governor
DATE: June 3, 2026
RE: Rob Sand Enters General Election as the Strongest Candidate to Win Iowa's Governor's Race

On day one of the general election, Rob Sand remains the strongest candidate in Iowa's governor's race and is uniquely positioned to win in November. Between his [unmatched financial strength](#) and grassroots momentum, broad cross-party appeal, and specific strengths as a candidate, Rob has transformed this race into a true [Toss-Up](#) heading into November. Polling also shows Rob leading his general election opponent, Zach Lahn, who is coming out of a bruising primary and will need to piece his fractured party back together. After two terms as State Auditor and more than a year campaigning in communities across Iowa, voters already know who Rob is, and have come to see him as a trusted, independent leader who delivers and is focused on public service over politics.

Meanwhile, Lahn has been locked in a messy and chaotic five-way primary race to the bottom for months, being forced to [field attacks](#) from his primary opponents. Throughout the primary, Lahn and his fellow candidates all promised more of the same failed policies that have left Iowa families behind. While Lahn barely made it out of the primary, Rob has been laser-focused on the general election from the beginning by talking with all Iowans, listening to their concerns, and bringing the campaign trail to non-political places to reach every voter.

Head-to-head polling advantage:

Polling conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of Rob Sand's campaign for Iowa governor shows Rob begins the general election campaign with a sizable polling edge in a head-to-head matchup against Zach Lahn. An April 23-28th, 2026 survey gives Rob a nine-point lead – a 50%-41% advantage – on the initial ballot. Rob Sand's strong position comes from his unique ability to reach across the aisle and assemble a cross-partisan coalition. The same April survey shows Sand with a staggering +64 (69/5) net favorable rating among independent voters.

Historic grassroots support behind Rob Sand

Since day one, Rob Sand has continued to break fundraising records. In 2025, Rob shattered off-year fundraising records by raising a [historic \\$9.5 million](#) — more than double the previous record for an Iowa gubernatorial off-year cycle. That momentum has only accelerated in 2026, with another [record-breaking \\$10 million](#) raised in the first five months of the year — surpassing all of 2025 and more than tripling the previous record. This historic support includes contributions from over 1,800 registered Republican voters and 4,000 registered no-party voters, and Republican voters in all 99 Iowa counties. With nearly \$18 million cash on hand, the campaign enters the general election with historic grassroots strength and financial momentum unlike anything Iowa has seen for a governor's race.

That grassroots energy has translated directly into organizing power on the ground. Earlier this spring, the campaign submitted a [record-breaking 24,756 petition signatures](#) to qualify for the ballot, including signatures from all 99 counties and more than [5,000 signatures](#) from registered Republicans and no-party voters. Rob also has more registered Republican donors than the Republican candidates for governor themselves.

Zach Lahn: Career political operative and Kansas carpetbagger

Iowa voters don't know much about Zach Lahn yet, but the truth is that he's a longtime political operative and [Kansas carpetbagger](#) — and he's too extreme for Iowa. A late-breaking report [exposed](#) Lahn for lying to Iowans since the start of his campaign about where he lives, registering to vote in Iowa just before the residency deadline to run for governor in 2024, and spending the majority of his time in Kansas, not Iowa. Lahn also took out a [primary mortgage on his Kansas home](#) in July 2024 — just three months before registering to vote in Iowa — despite claiming to be a full-time Iowa resident since 2023. Lahn is now refusing to answer questions about his longstanding ties to Kansas, claiming he will “be in Iowa as much as humanly possible” if he's elected in November. And just like Lahn, the majority of his fundraising comes from out-of-state donors, not from Iowans. One of Lahn's largest donors is also a violent individual who was [arrested for assaulting police officers](#) during the January 6th Capitol riot. If that wasn't disqualifying enough, Lahn has also [bragged](#) about being endorsed by Iowa's national embarrassment: disgraced former Congressman and proud, avowed white supremacist Steve King.

When he's not flying back and forth to Iowa from Kansas, Lahn is busy supporting policies that are deeply out-of-touch with working families. He [supports](#) Governor Kim Reynolds' unaccountable private school vouchers that rip tax dollars away from public schools. Lahn even claimed that Iowa is spending too much money on education, leaving the door open to even deeper cuts and further attacks on Iowa's already-underfunded public schools. He has [downplayed](#) the impact of cost-raising tariffs on Iowa farmers and has a history of [opposing Medicaid expansion](#), a position even more extreme than Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds' disastrous privatization scheme. Lahn [supports](#) an abortion ban from conception without exceptions for rape, incest, and life of the mother, which would put access to birth control and IVF in jeopardy.

As voters learn more about Lahn's extreme record — from lying about where he lives to supporting policies that are making life worse for working families — they will see why he's wrong for Iowa and send him packing back to Kansas.

Conclusion:

Rob Sand is entering the general election with an unmatched fundraising warchest, historic grassroots momentum, and a broad coalition of support from Iowans across the political spectrum. Iowa voters know and trust Rob from his work as State Auditor and as a public corruption prosecutor. Meanwhile, the Republicans have been locked in a messy and chaotic primary for months, with the final race coming down to the wire between Lahn and Feenstra, leaving Lahn to try to rebuild his fractured party during the general. Rob has built his campaign by showing up in every corner of Iowa, earning voters' trust face-to-face, and offering a common-sense vision to lower costs, strengthen public schools, and make government accountable again. Across the state, Iowans are looking for a new direction and a governor focused on solving problems instead of playing politics. That leader is Rob Sand.

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