

Iowa Starting Line Reporter Job Posting



Reporter Position

Iowa Starting Line is adding to its staff this year, bringing on several positions to better cover Iowa news and politics, with a focus on building up a new, broader audience of Iowa readers.

We will be hiring a new reporter position to cover state and federal politics, working to connect how policy decisions impact Iowans' real lives. This role will entail a mix of local journalism storytelling, aggregated quick-hit stories, debunking misinformation, explainer pieces, on-the-road campaign coverage and more. This reporter will approach many of these stories with a social media-minded approach into how it can be read and disseminated online.

Job Responsibilities

- Develop and own a specific beat, either on state/federal issues or specific policy topics, build up sources on the beat and find everyday Iowans with personal stories related to it.
- Regularly create and pitch story ideas to editors.
- Track and identify trending news stories in order to do quick-hit news items on them.
- Profile interesting Iowans.
- Engage with our readership online with social media.
- Develop and write stories with a social media mindset to help spread your work to a wider Iowa audience.
- Take photos and video from newsworthy events to add to your own stories or to be used by our digital reporting team.
- Work with the Starting Line team to track readership of your work and to strategize how to improve its reach.

Timeline/Location

Hiring for this position can be immediate. Some new positions will be on a rolling basis later this year.

Location will be Des Moines. Applicants do not need to currently reside in Iowa, and some initial work may be done remotely, but living in Iowa as soon as possible is the goal. Work at an in-person office will resume once the public health situation allows for it.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in journalism or a similar amount of work experience in a communications field.
- At least two years of newsroom and/or reporting work.
- Very strong understanding of reporting practices, ethics, grammar, style, sourcing, copy-editing, and accuracy in quoting.
- Flexibility to work some nights and weekends and travel in-state.
- Very strong ability to work independently and propose own stories.
- Strong prior understanding of Iowa politics is very helpful.
- Reliable transportation necessary.

Pay And Benefits

\$45,000 - \$60,000/year, based on experience. Paid time off, health care benefits and flexible work planning.

About Iowa Starting Line

Founded in 2015, Iowa Starting Line is the most-read independent online news outlet in the state. We cover Iowa politics from a progressive viewpoint, with a past focus on the Iowa Caucus (read more about our story [in our New York Times profile](#)).

Based out of Des Moines, we're a newsroom that expanded significantly in 2019. Since then, we have grown our focus from Iowa politics to include more local reporting, coverage of immigrant communities and in-depth policy topics.

Apply

Please email your resume to Managing Editor Pat Rynard at Pat@IowaStartingLine.com