**PHIL MILLER REPORT**



**CASCADE STRATEGIES – AUGUST 2020**

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BIOGRAPHY

Name: Philip Dean Miller

Birth: Oct. 10, 1951

Residence: 902 S Suncrest Dr

 Fairfield, IA 52556

Family: Wife, Connie; 4 Children: Andy, Dan, Jane, Joe

Education: Iowa State University

Religion: First United Methodist Church

Military: None

Professional Experience: Veterinarian

Political Experience: Member of Iowa House of Representatives, 2017-18

 TIMELINE

Oct. 10, 1951 Born

1975 Issued veterinarian license from the state of Iowa

August 2017 Won special election to Iowa House of Representatives

2018 Lost re-election to Iowa House

TAXES

* **In 2018, Phil Miller voted against the largest income tax cut in Iowa history**
	+ On May 5, 2018, Phil Miller voted against Senate File 2417, a bill for an act relating to state and local revenue and finance by modifying the individual and corporate income taxes, the franchise tax, tax credits, the sales and use taxes and local option sales tax, the hotel and motel excise tax, the automobile rental excise tax, the Iowa educational savings plan trust, providing for other properly related matters, making penalties applicable, and including immediate and contingent effective date and retroactive and other applicability provisions (Passed 54-32).[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + In a May 5, 2018, article, *The Gazette* reported, “Iowans would be in line to receive the largest income tax cut in state history under a bill legislative Republicans passed and praised Saturday as their foremost 2018 accomplishment. But Democrats warned the tax cut would benefit mostly the rich, raise other taxes and blow a ‘massive hole’ in future state budgets.

“Majority Republicans in the House and Senate approved a $2.86 billion multiyear state income tax cut and reform package. It will take six years to fully implement and have a general fund impact of about $2.16 billion over that same span, according to state analysts.

“The Senate vote was 28-20, while House passage came on a 54-32 margin that sent Senate File 2417 to Gov. Kim Reynolds’ office for her expected signature.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

* **Under the legislation, Iowans would have their state tax bills reduced by an average of $300 annually**

* + In a May 30, 2018, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “Iowans will have their state tax bills reduced by an average of $300 annually under a tax cut bill signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds on Wednesday that could become a major campaign issue this fall.

“Reynolds, a Republican who made changes in tax policy a cornerstone of her agenda for the 2018 legislative session, celebrated with about 75 people, including key GOP lawmakers, during a ceremony at MobileDemand, an eastern Iowa manufacturer of rugged tablet computers.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

SECOND AMENDMENT

* **In 2018, Phil Miller voted against legislation proposing an amendment to the Iowa constitution to add protections for gun ownership**
	+ On March 19, 2018, Phil Miller voted against House Joint Resolution 2009, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the right of the people to keep and bear arms (Passed 54-42).[[4]](#footnote-4)
	+ In a March 19, 2018, article, *The Gazette* reported, “The Iowa House took the first step Monday toward giving Iowans an opportunity to amend the state constitution to add protections for gun ownership.

“The House vote 54-42 to approve House Joint Resolution 2009, Its sponsor, Rep. Matt Windschitl, R-Missouri Valley, said the proposal would place restrictions on government, ‘thereby allowing Iowans more freedom.’

“Although the right to own guns has been upheld, Windschitl said 44 states have similar protections for the right to bear owns to their constitutions.

“By adding the language, including a requirement that courts apply ‘strict scrutiny’ when considering challenges to gun laws, he said it would prevent future legislatures from approving restrictions ‘because it makes us feel better.’”[[5]](#footnote-5)

**IMMIGRATION**

* **In 2018, Phil Miller voted against a bill that would target sanctuary cities by withholding money from local governments that don’t comply with federal immigration laws**
	+ On April 3, 2018, Phil Miller voted against Senate File 481, a bill for an act relating to the enforcement of immigration laws and providing penalties and remedies, including the denial of state funds to certain entities (Passed 55-45).[[6]](#footnote-6)
	+ In an April 5, 2018, article, the Associated Press reported, “Iowa is set to become the latest Republican-led state to target so-called sanctuary cities by withholding money from local governments that don’t comply with federal immigration laws, even though the plan could lead to court challenges.

“A bill outlining an expansive immigration enforcement plan is expected to receive final legislative approval this week. It comes as President Donald Trump ramps up calls for more stringent immigration enforcement.

“Critics say it would essentially allow racial profiling, but Republican lawmakers frame the measure as a public safety policy. Republican Rep. Steven Holt of Denison, a western Iowa community with a growing Latino population, said the bill focuses on immigrants living in the U.S. without legal permission who are suspected of crimes.

“‘This legislation is about the rule of law, and the safety of all people, citizens and immigrants alike,’ Holt said shortly before the Iowa House approved the bill Tuesday on a 55-45 vote, with one Democrat voting for it and five Republicans against it.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

ABORTION

* **In 2018, Phil Miller voted against a bill banning abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected**
	+ On May 1, 2018, Phil Miller voted against Senate File 359, a bill for an act prohibiting certain actions regarding fetal body parts and providing penalties (Passed 51-46).[[8]](#footnote-8)

* + In a May 2, 2018, article, the *Gazette* reported, “After debate that extended for more than 12 hours, members of the Iowa Legislature passed and sent to the governor legislation banning abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, often as early as the sixth week of pregnancy and before many women know they are pregnant.

“‘The time is now,’ bill manager Rep. Shannon Lundgren, R-Peosta, said early Tuesday afternoon when debate started on Senate File 359 that started in 2017 as a prohibition on the transfer of fetal body tissue. At about 11 p.m., the House passed the bill 51-46 and sent it to the Senate where debate started shortly before 1 a.m.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

* **Phil Miller believes that Roe v. Wade should be upheld**
	+ In a March 18, 2018, article, KTVO reported, “Saturday morning the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce held another legislative forum. The discussion kicked off with a resident asking legislators about the controversial fetal heartbeat bill.”[[10]](#footnote-10)

* + According to the same article, “If this bill passes, it would be one of the strictest abortion laws in the country, and Iowa would have to face Federal courts for challenging Roe v. Wade. A Supreme Court decision that Rep. Phil Miller says should be upheld.

“‘The Supreme Court of the United States vote seven to two that privacy extends to the women’s reproductive healthcare and that’s been our law of the land for almost a half a century,’ said Miller.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

CLIMATE

* **In 2018, Phil Miller was a sponsor of a bill that would include Iowa as a member of the United States climate alliance, an organization committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement**
	+ On Feb. 14, 2018, Phil Miller was one of 41 members of the Iowa House of Representatives that introduced House File 2362, a bill for an act providing for the inclusion of the state as a member of the United States climate alliance.[[12]](#footnote-12)

* + According to the United States Climate Alliance website, “The United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Smart, coordinated state action can ensure that the United States continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

FEES

* **In 2014, Phil Miller voted to increase book fees for the 2014-15 school year**
	+ According to the June 16, 2014, meeting minutes of the Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Rich Metcalf moved to approve student fees for 2014-15 school year as presented, seconded by Jeremy Miller. Voice vote carried: all ayes (6). According to the meeting minutes, Phil Miller was one of the six board members present.[[14]](#footnote-14)
	+ In a June 19, 2014, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “The Fairfield School Board Monday approved increased fees for the 2014-15 school year, and eliminated the $10 towel fee that was charged to students sixth grade through high school.

“Book fees for elementary and middle school students increase $1, and $5 for high school students. Students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade will have a regular book fee of $40; or $20 with a partial waiver; and a full waiver means there is no charge. Middle school students, fifth through eighth grades, will pay a regular book fee of $45 and $22.50 with a partial waiver. High school students will have a book fee of $55 and with a partial waiver, $27.50.”[[15]](#footnote-15)

* **Meal prices, breakfast and lunch, also increased 5-cents at all levels in the 2014-15 school year**
	+ In a June 19, 2014, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “Meal prices, breakfast and lunch, will increase 5-cents at all levels in the 2014-15 school year.

“The increase is necessary to help offset the cost of the nutrition fund operations, said Fred McElwee, auxiliary services director.

“‘We need to implement this increase to meet the requirement of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,’ he said.

“Student lunches will be $2.25 at full price for prekindergarten through fourth grades. A 20-count milk ticket is $6.

“Student lunches in grade five through high school will be $2.40 full price.

“Breakfast for all grades will be $1.50 full price. Reduced lunch for all grades is 40 cents, reduced breakfast is 30 cents, and extra milk or juice is 30 cents each.”[[16]](#footnote-16)

TRANSGENDER BATHROOMS

* **In 2016, Phil Miller voted for Fairfield Community School District guidelines that allow transgender students to use the bathroom associated with their gender identity**
	+ According to the Aug. 15, 2016, meeting minutes of the Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Approve transgender guidelines Warren Schaefer moved to approve the best practice guidelines for serving all students transgender and cisgender without discrimination; seconded by Joe Carr. Voice vote carried: 4 ayes, 2 nays (Jennifer Anderson and Paul Miller). According to the meeting minutes, Phil Miller was one of the six board members present.[[17]](#footnote-17)
	+ In an Aug. 18, 2016, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “The Fairfield Community School Board approved its newly penned transgender and cisgender guidelines for the coming school year during a packed meeting at the Administration/Curriculum/Technology Center Monday night.

“The ‘Best Practice Guidelines for Serving all Students Transgender and Cisgender (an individual who identifies with his or her biological sex) without Discrimination’ was approved in a 4-2 vote effective the first day of school.

“School board president Phil Miller, along with board members Kate Van Pelt, Warren Schaefer and Joe Carr voted in favor of the new guidelines, while Paul Miller and Jennifer Anderson voted against them. Jeremy Miller was absent.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

* + In an Aug. 18, 2016, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “After a particularly tense meeting in June, the school board created a subcommittee to write guidelines for transgender students’ use of facilities. Those guidelines — which allow transgender students to use the bathroom associated with their gender identity, but encourage all students to have conversations with administrators about safety and privacy — were passed by a 4-2 vote Monday evening.”[[19]](#footnote-19)

* **Many Fairfield High students spoke of instances (that occurred prior to the vote) where they were victims of social media bullying or disparaging words or experiences. Some of the alleged incidents included: Female students were in the girls’ locker room changing when male students walked in. These girls were embarrassed and humiliated and chose to not change in their own locker room, but remain in street clothes; One youth came to school with a homemade Christian T-shirt, he was told to remove it; Some males reported that a female was coming into the boys’ restroom and pulling her pants and underwear down to use the urinal. They were disturbed by this display**
	+ In an Aug. 19, 2016, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “Many Fairfield High students spoke of instances where they were victims of social media bullying or disparaging words or experiences. Because most incidents were reported to pastors, parents or friends, not to the police or through official bullying channels, nailing down what actually happened and what is rumor can be difficult.”[[20]](#footnote-20)
	+ According to the same article, “The Register asked Fairfield Community School District Superintendent Laurie Noll to respond each published claim. Her responses are included in quotes below each claim.

“Female students were in the girls’ locker room changing when male students walked in. These girls were embarrassed and humiliated and chose to not change in their own locker room, but remain in street clothes.

“‘I have spoken with the administrator and the P.E. teacher and have not had that one confirmed. The kids have said that may have happened just as part of (other) kids trying to push the envelope.’”[[21]](#footnote-21)

* + According to the same article, “When one youth came to school with a homemade Christian T-shirt, he was told to remove it.

“Yes. ‘When the principals interviewed the individual student he said, “Yeah, (he was wearing the shirt because) he wanted to show where he was at (on the issue) and that it wasn’t, basically, for his own religion, but was because of what was happening (at school).”’ Eventually, ‘I was able to get over there or call (the principals) and say let's back that off a little bit ... be more tolerant of the T-shirts.’

“Some males reported that a female was coming into the boys’ restroom and pulling her pants and underwear down to use the urinal. They were disturbed by this display.

“‘I repeatedly spoke with administrators and we have not been able to determine if that is a true fact or not.’”[[22]](#footnote-22)

SCHOOL BOARD RECORD

* **Fairfield Community School District was given one out of five stars, and ranked 235th out of 308 ranked school districts in Iowa**

* + According to the website SchoolDigger.com, Fairfield Community School District was given one out of five stars, and ranked 235th out of 308 ranked school districts. According to SchoolDigger.com, “Schooldigger calculates school rankings based on test scores released by the Iowa Department of Education. These rankings were last updated on December 19, 2016, and are based on the most recent test scores available. We update rankings as we receive new test scores from the Iowa Department of Education, usually on a yearly basis. Our sources of data include the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Education.”[[23]](#footnote-23)

* **In 2017, after the school board deliberated for weeks about how the district would save $850,000 to remain compliant with state laws, Phil Miller voted to close Libertyville Elementary School, which housed 82 students**

* + According to the Jan. 23, 2017, meeting minutes of the Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Phil Miller voted to approve reorganizing the district from 3 elementary buildings to 2 by closing Libertyville Elementary. Jennifer Anderson moved to approve the reorganization of the district from 3 elementary buildings to 2; seconded by Warren Schaefer. Voice vote carried: 5 ayes, 2 nays.[[24]](#footnote-24)
	+ In a Jan. 24, 2017, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “Concerned community members packed the ACT Building — leaving standing room only Monday night — in hopes of hearing the news first-hand about the fate of Libertyville Elementary School.

“‘Flat out, we don’t want Libertyville Elementary closed,’ were the starting words of Libertyville resident Beverly Nelson’s remarks. ‘It would be a huge detriment to the students and the community. We think you have other alternatives.’

“Nelson, who along with several others wore a black T-shirt with the hashtag #saveLville, was hoping that the outcome would be different.

“However, after deliberating for weeks about how the district would save $850,000 to remain compliant with state laws, the majority of the board decided a closure was needed.

“‘I do not want to close Libertyville,’ said school board president Phil Miller, adding that the town with its own bank, businesses and farming community, was similar to other towns such as Packwood and Richland.

“‘It’s a good town, but things have changed over the years. It’s not the same as it was 30 years ago. There aren’t as many small family farms – [we’ve] got a lot more urban kids,’ he said, commenting that the district had 1,712 students and that all but 82 of them go ‘over here.’

“Although Miller voted to close the school, he empathized with the crowd.

“‘If I were in your shoes, I would fight just like you,’ he said.”[[25]](#footnote-25)

* **Fellow-board member Joe Carr said that if Libertyville were to close, the other elementary schools could have 23-25 kids per class**

* + In a Jan. 24, 2017, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “School board members Joe Carr and Warren Schaefer also expressed their understanding prior to explaining the reasons for voting to close.

“‘We’ve lost 73 kids in Kindergarten though [sic] fourth grade,’ Carr said, later adding that if Libertyville were to close, the other elementary schools could have 23-25 kids per class.

“Carr admitted that class size was an issue, but that he also felt that years from now, parents and students might not remember the impact of the closing so much as they would remember meaningful moments in their students academic lives.”[[26]](#footnote-26)

* **The vote to eliminate the school came two months after another board member and the superintendent said the district was “living high on the hog” and “living too big”**
	+ In a Nov. 29, 2016, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “‘Our income is not where it was,’ said Fairfield Community School District board member Jennifer Anderson. ‘We’re living high on the hog.’

“FCSD superintendent Laurie Noll agreed.

“‘We’re living too big,’ Noll said.

“School board members met at the Administration/Curriculum/Technology Center Monday night to discuss the budgeting process and how to decrease the district’s budget by $850,000 in order to comply with a state requirement.”[[27]](#footnote-27)

* **In 2016, Phil Miller voted to eliminate an elementary school music teacher position**
	+ According to the Feb. 22, 2016, meeting minutes of the Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Phil Miller voted to renew the motion to approve recommended budget reductions. Jennifer Anderson moved to renew the motion to approve the recommended budget reductions, seconded by Warren Schaefer. Voice vote carried: ayes (4), nays (3) – Joe Carr, Jeremy Miler, Paul Miller.[[28]](#footnote-28)
	+ In a Feb. 23, 2016, article, the *Fairfield Ledger* reported, “‘Please think long and hard about what you are doing,’ Fairfield Community School District music teacher Madeline Thomas pleaded with school board members during a special meeting Monday night.

“Thomas, who travels between Pence, Washington and Libertyville elementary schools to teach, said the events leading up to Monday night had already killed a part of her teaching spirit.

“‘You had already done that when you pulled me out of a second-grade class at 9:45 a.m.,’ she said of Jan. 11 when she met with administrators and learned that her position would no longer be necessary.

“Thomas, along with community members and other FCSD teachers, made a last-ditch effort intended to sway board members’ minds about budget reductions — that would effectively end Thomas’s job as well as severely reducing hours for Fairfield High School physical education teacher Taylor Buch.”[[29]](#footnote-29)

1. Senate File 2417, Iowa House of Representatives, May 5, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. James Lynch, “Iowa Republicans pass $2.86 billion tax cut,” *The Gazette*, May 5, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. William Petroski, “Reynolds signs largest state tax cut in Iowa history. Here’s how much taxpayers could save,” *Des Moines Register*, May 30, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. House Joint Resolution 2009, Iowa House of Representatives, March 19, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. James Lynch, “Iowa House approves gun rights constitutional amendment,” *The Gazette*, March 19, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Senate File 481, Iowa House of Representatives, April 3, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Barbara Rodriguez and Scott Stewart, “Iowa advances immigration bill banning ‘sanctuary cities,’” Associated Press, April 5, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Senate File 359, Iowa House of Representatives, May 1, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. James Lynch, “Iowa Legislature passes ‘heartbeat’ abortion bill,” *Gazette*, May 2, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Aish Menon, “Iowa legislators discuss fetal heartbeat bill,” KTVO, March 18, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Aish Menon, “Iowa legislators discuss fetal heartbeat bill,” KTVO, March 18, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. House File 2362, Iowa House of Representatives, Feb. 14, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. About, United States Climate Alliance website, Accessed July 20, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Meeting Minutes, Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, June 16, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Diane Vance, “Fees increase for next school year,” *Fairfield Ledger*, June 19, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Diane Vance, “Fees increase for next school year,” *Fairfield Ledger*, June 19, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Meeting Minutes, Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Aug. 15, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Nicole Hester-Williams, “School board approves transgender guidelines,” *Fairfield Ledger*, Aug. 18, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Courtney Crowder, “How this Iowa town became a ‘political war zone,’” *Des Moines Register*, Aug. 18, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Courtney Crowder, “Transgender bathroom usage a flashpoint,” *Des Moines Register*, Aug. 19, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Courtney Crowder, “Transgender bathroom usage a flashpoint,” *Des Moines Register*, Aug. 19, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Courtney Crowder, “Transgender bathroom usage a flashpoint,” *Des Moines Register*, Aug. 19, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Iowa School District Rankings, SchoolDigger.com, Last Updated Dec. 19, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Meeting Minutes, Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Jan. 23, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Nicole Hester-Williams, “Board votes to close Libertyville,” *Fairfield Ledger*, Jan. 24, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Nicole Hester-Williams, “Board votes to close Libertyville,” *Fairfield Ledger*, Jan. 24, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Nicole Hester-Williams, “School board discusses budget during work session,” *Fairfield Ledger*, Nov. 29, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Meeting Minutes, Fairfield Community School District Board of Directors, Feb. 22, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Nicole Hester-Williams, “School Board Cuts Music Position,” *Fairfield Ledger*, Feb. 23, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)