

Cecilia Kjos

If I Were Mayor

If I were mayor of Ankeny, Iowa, I would focus on investing time and money into infrastructure, affordable and accessible housing, and increasing awareness on bullying and mental health in schools. As Ankeny continues to grow in size and diversity, it would be my job as mayor to adapt to these changes, prioritizing that everyone feels welcome, safe and secure in our community.

The first thing I would do as mayor would be to balance the needs of existing neighborhoods with new developments in infrastructure. One of these would be water storage and conservation. Following a recent water shortage, I'd make sure our city is actively expanding its water capacity, including building new water towers. I'd also spread awareness about conservation, promoting rainwater harvesting and using less water during daily activities. Another thing I would do when focusing on the development of the city's infrastructure would be to combat the ongoing construction of roads and highways in Ankeny, focusing on accessibility for all residents. I would work on creating smarter construction schedules that reduce traffic during busy hours and ensure projects are finished on time. I'd also push for better communication with residents through online updates or text alerts about road closures, so people can plan their routes more efficiently. My goal would be to make transportation in Ankeny safer, faster, and less stressful for everyone.

The next major priority I would focus on as mayor of Ankeny is making housing more affordable and accessible. As our city continues to grow, the cost of living has increased, making it harder for young people and families to find homes they can afford. I would work with local builders to include more affordable housing options in new neighborhoods and support mixed-use developments where people can live, shop, and work nearby. I would also look into offering incentives for developers who build sustainable and energy efficient homes, helping both the environment and residents' budgets. Everyone deserves the opportunity to call Ankeny home, no matter their income or background.

Lastly, I would focus on increasing awareness and support for mental health and bullying prevention in our schools. As Ankeny continues to grow in population and diversity, our schools are welcoming more students than ever before, which also means facing new challenges like overcrowding, increased stress, and higher rates of bullying. Every student deserves to feel safe, included, and cared for. As mayor, I would partner with school leaders to expand access to counselors, host community workshops about mental health, and create programs that encourage kindness and empathy. I would also support student-led initiatives that promote positive school culture and give young people a voice in making change. When we take care of our students and each other's emotional well-being and mental health, we build a stronger, kinder, and more connected Ankeny for everyone.

As mayor of Ankeny, my goal would be to help our city grow not just in size, but in strength and unity. Ankeny is filled with people with different backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities, and it's important that we all come together to make our city thrive. By improving our infrastructure, creating more accessible and affordable housing, and supporting the mental health of our students, we can adapt to change while keeping Ankeny a welcoming, safe, and thriving community for everyone.