

NEWS RELEASE

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***Grassroots Iowa Network Announces 2026 Statewide Conference
Intended to Strengthen Civic Engagement***

NEWTON, IOWA — At a time when grassroots activism is rapidly expanding across the state, the Grassroots Iowa Network will bring together community leaders, organizers, and advocates from across Iowa for its 2026 Annual Big Table Meetup on Saturday, June 6 at the Hotel Maytag in Newton, IA.

The conference, themed *“Listening, Learning and Creating Change Together,”* will unite more than 100 grassroots groups representing communities large and small. Organizers say the goal is simple but urgent: strengthen connections, share practical tools, and build a more effective statewide network of engaged citizens.

“Across Iowa, everyday people are stepping up to protect democracy and care for their communities,” said Jack Hatch, founder of the network. “This gathering is about bringing those voices together, learning from each other, and turning shared values into meaningful action.”

The day-long program features a mix of keynote remarks, expert panels, and hands-on breakout sessions designed for both new and experienced activists. Topics include voter engagement strategies, communicating across political differences, protecting constitutional rights, and understanding the influence of large-scale political funding networks.

Participants will also hear from grassroots leaders and national partners working on key 2026 elections in Iowa, a state expected to play a major role in congressional races. Sessions will highlight how local groups can collaborate with larger organizations while maintaining community-driven leadership.

Breakout sessions will focus on practical organizing skills, including “Know Your Rights” training, rural community engagement, and strategies to reach younger voters—an increasingly critical demographic for long-term civic participation.

Organizers emphasize that the event is designed to be accessible and action-oriented. The conference is free to attend, with lunch provided through sponsorship by Alliance for a Better Iowa.

More than just a training, the Big Table Meetup aims to build lasting relationships among Iowans committed to civic participation.

“This is about connection,” organizers said. “People will leave not just with new skills, but with a stronger network and renewed energy to make a difference in their communities.”

The event concludes with a statewide call to action and a networking reception for attendees to continue building partnerships.

Registration: [Grassroots Iowa Network Big Table Meet-Up Registration – Fill out form](#)

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