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Contact: Patricia Petersen, Director of Communications
patricia@bridgbordforiowa.com
805-252-2515

BRIDGFORD FOR IOWA SURGES TO NEARLY ONE MILLION VIEWS AS INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN CATCHES FIRE ONLINE

While Miller-Meeks and Bohannon fight for party loyalty, Bridgford is winning the attention of voters on both sides of the aisle.

BETTENDORF, Iowa — July 15, 2026 — Bridgford for Iowa, the independent congressional campaign challenging Republican incumbent Mariannette Miller-Meeks in Iowa's highly competitive 1st Congressional District, is reporting social media growth that political observers would expect from a well-funded party candidate, not an independent running without either party's machine behind him.

The campaign is **nearing the 1,000,000-views mark** and has accumulated over **850,000 total views** across social media platforms - with over **565,000 of those views coming in the last 30 days alone**. In a district where the largest group of registered voters are independent (no party), Bridgford's content is striking a nerve and reaching across party lines.

The catalyst was a single video that crossed **328,000 views**, a threshold that political media analysts broadly recognize as viral, in which Bridgford articulates what millions of Americans feel but rarely hear a candidate say aloud: that the pendulum of power swings endlessly between left and right, and yet nothing gets done for ordinary people. The video ignited debate across the political spectrum, drawing engagement from both sides, a reach no partisan candidate can replicate.

The campaign's follower base **doubled in two weeks** following the viral post, signaling that voters are now invested.

While Miller-Meeks and Bohannon continue to run the familiar playbook of attacking one another- with the benefit of full party infrastructure, established donor networks, and national party support, Michael Bridgford is offering voters in Iowa's 1st District something different: a fresh voice focused on the issues that matter most to the people he hopes to represent.

"Every single day I spend time reading DMs and comments directly from voters," said Bridgford. "Not because a consultant told me to but because that's where I learn what actually matters to people. Iowa is telling me exactly what it needs. My job is to listen, and then go work to solve the pressing problems that we're facing."

With over one-third of Iowa's 1st District voters registered with no party, and a Cook Political Report "toss up" rating already in place, the Bridgford campaign's digital momentum suggests the race may be more competitive than either major party is prepared for.

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