

# Governor Nominates Former Senator

By [admin](#)

Governor Branstad (R) has recently [nominated](#) former Iowa GOP State Senator Jim Kersten of Fort Dodge to the [State Judicial Nominating Commission](#). The nomination was announced after the Iowa Senate [rejected](#) the Governor's initial nomination of Des Moines attorney William Gustoff.

Kersten is a [former Branstad legislative liaison](#) who has formed [Golden Dome Strategies](#) “to provide clients the consulting services they need as it relates to public policy at the state and federal level of government. We leverage our close relationships with public policy makers – including state and federally elected officials; state and federally appointed agency staff; and others – to help our clients achieve the goals and objectives that they have outlined.”

Kersten was recently appointed by Branstad to the [Transportation 2020 panel](#), a twelve-person citizen advisory committee that will study road funding issues. He also served as a member of the [Branstad-Reynolds Inaugural Scholarship Committee](#), and was recently inducted into the [Pioneer Lawmaker Association Class of 1991](#).

A farmer, Kersten has given, among other political contributions, a total of \$2,850 to Branstad, \$250 to the Republican Party of Iowa and its Eisenhower Club, \$450 to the Polk County Republican Central Committee, \$600 to former Governor Chet Culver (D), \$100 to the Iowa Democratic Party, \$600 to Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D), and several thousands dollars each to Congressman Tom Latham (R) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R).