**Peter Cownie**

**Biography**

Peter Cownie, resident of West Des Moines, Iowa was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. Peter graduated from Dowling High School in West Des Moines in 1999. Peter then graduated from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2003 after receiving his B.A in American Government and was a member of the Men’s Varsity Tennis team.

After college Peter moved to Washington D.C. and worked at the Department of Transportation as an assistant to then Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta. Peter worked as a scheduling and advance assistant for Secretary Mineta traveling the United States and the world furthering the United States’ transportation interests.

After living in Washington D.C. for three years, Peter then moved back to his home state of Iowa. Peter worked at the Iowa Statehouse for the Iowa Senate Republican Caucus staff. Peter was a legislative analyst staffing the State Government Committee and the Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee. While working at the Iowa Statehouse, Peter received his Masters in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy from Drake University and graduated with honors.

Peter served as President of Junior Achievement of Central Iowa from 2008-2013. Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization located in Des Moines with a mission of teaching students K-12 the merits of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, savings and economics.

Currently, Peter is Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, and has been in this capacity since August of 2013. The Blue Ribbon Foundation is a non-profit organization raising funds to help preserve and improve the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds.

Peter was elected to his first term in the Iowa House of Representatives in 2008 and subsequently won re-election in 2010 and 2012. Peter has served on the Education Committee, Ways & Means Committee and was Chair of the State Government Committee in the Legislature. Peter was also Chair of the State Government Efficiency Review Committee and served on the Iowa Commission of Interstate Cooperation. Peter won re-election to his third term representing District 42 after redistricting and subsequently his fourth term in 2014. Peter currently serves as Chairman of the House Commerce Committee with purview on the banking, credit union, insurance, telecommunications, financial services, health-care, and technology industries in Iowa. Peter also serves on the Agriculture, Government Oversight, the Legislative Council and Ways and Means Committees.

Peter volunteers and serves his community as a Director and past Chair of the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation, Meals from the Heartland Board of Directors, the Dowling Catholic High School Foundation Board, Director for the First Tee of Greater Des Moines, and the Board of Trustees for Grandview University, as well as a past member for the West Des Moines Human Services Board and the University of Virginia Excellence in Economics Campaign Committee. Peter is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in West Des Moines and is married to his high school sweetheart, Mary. Peter and Mary have two sons.