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## [Gingrich sisters make stop in Pella](#)

Steve Woodhouse [Journal-Express](#)



**Kathy Gingrich Lubbers (left) and Jackie Gingrich Cushman (right), daughters of Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, pose for a photo during their visit to Pella. The sisters stopped into The Chronicle office, in Pella, for a short interview. Clint Brown**

Pella — "He's the guy who's done it before and can do it again," Kathy Gingrich Lubbers said of her father, Republican Presidential Candidate Newt Gingrich during an interview at the Pella Chronicle Thursday afternoon. Lubbers, sister Jackie Gingrich Cushman, and family, were in Pella campaigning.

The Gingrich daughters believe their father is the only candidate who can bring the level of change necessary to improve America. They cited Gingrich's accomplishments as Speaker of the House in the 1990s, including spending and welfare reductions.

Gingrich's decision to return to politics and begin a run for the White House was a family decision. The daughters say Gingrich felt this would be the best way he could serve his country.

"If he thought there was somebody else who could bring the kind of change we need, he'd sit back," Cushman said. Lubbers added that their father will provide the right leadership for this time in America.

The daughters say Gingrich's patriotic messages come from being the son of an infantryman. He grew up hearing stories about what can happen to a country and to the world under the wrong leadership.

Gingrich has been the subject of many negative advertisements in the weeks leading to Tuesday's Iowa Caucus. It may be because of this that Gingrich has slipped in the polls. During an interview with NBC News on Wednesday, Gingrich said South Carolina is the state to win if he wants the Republican nomination.

Cushman said that comment was not intended to slight Iowa. Rather, it was an acknowledgment that every Republican Presidential campaign in Iowa is in flux, as there have been many different poll leaders.

"He's been putting his all into Iowa," Cushman said. "We'd love to do very well in Iowa."

Some may speculate that his daughters have hit the campaign trail, due to concern from conservatives about his marital history. Gingrich is on his third marriage. The daughters say they have spent a good portion of their lives campaigning for their father, since his first run for office in Georgia in 1974.

"We spent a lot of time traveling," Cushman said. The daughters have felt blessed to have the ability to campaign for their father. Even around the dinner table, Gingrich encouraged them to speak their minds.

"He would be direct, but he allowed you to come back," Lubbers said.

Since those campaigns when they were young, the daughters say Gingrich has asked them to listen to his speeches, and provide comments or suggestions. Gingrich, known for being direct, told a crowd at a Family Leader event in Des Moines in November that members of the "occupy" movement should essentially "get a job after they take a bath."

The daughters said their reaction to that is that it was one way Gingrich was promoting the American Dream.

"Part of the American Dream is to work hard," Cushman said.

"I think the people of Iowa can appreciate that," Lubbers said.

As Gingrich has endured negative attacks, the daughters have tried to clarify and address them with their children. This is something Gingrich used to do for them. For everyone else, Lubbers and Cushman suggest voters visit [www.newt.org](http://www.newt.org) to read the full facts

regarding claims made in these advertisements. Full speeches and other campaign materials are also available on the website.

"He's given a lot," Lubbers said of her father. "It's almost a calling."

Though politically active for years, the daughters say Gingrich always made family a top priority. Even when he was Speaker, he would drop everything if they called and needed him.

"It's reassuring to know you have that," Lubbers said.

The Iowa Caucus is Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.