

All Politics is Local

The summer and fall have flown by, partially due to the lateness of the 2011 legislative session. ISAC's Legislative Policy Committee has completed their work for next session and the ISAC Board has approved legislative objectives, priorities and policy statements for the General Session to approve at Fall School. As you all know, the work of lobbying the legislature continues throughout the year. ISAC staff work hard all year to ensure that county issues get a fair hearing by state legislators, but the best tool in our arsenal is YOU - the county officials who can explain how the specifics of policy decisions made by state government will impact locally. We know that counties will be faced with three major issues in the coming session: Mental Health and Disability Services funding and redesign, property tax reform and road funding through the implementation of an increased gas tax. There are a number of ways that local officials can and should connect with their legislators.

Invite Your Legislators to the Courthouse

From the end of one session to the beginning of the next, county officials should be looking for opportunities to interact with their legislators. Thank you for the work your legislators have done are always in order. It is important that legislators understand that we are appreciative of their efforts to address county issues, even when we don't get everything we want. County officials need to seek opportunities to build relationships with your legislators. Invite your legislators to visit with you at the courthouse, show them county government in action and explain the challenges that counties face.

Attend a Local Forum

Once session starts, legislators will be having regular forums in their districts. County officials might consider offering to co-sponsor a forum with their legislator, allowing shared constituents to ask questions related to both state and county government. In any event, it is important for counties to have a presence at forums to let legislators know how counties are impacted by what the legislature is considering. County officials should attend forums prepared to address several issues they want to discuss with their legislators, including ISAC's top legislative priorities for the year. Even as you are asking for help with an issue, it is important to thank legislators for work they have done for your county in the past.

Know Your Legislators

Each of you should know who your legislators are and a little something about each of them. As we respond to property tax reform proposals, we will be reminding former city and county officials of their tenure as local government officials. There are at least ten former county officials serving in the Iowa

By: Linda Hinton

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State House. In the Senate, Senator Dennis Black (D-Jasper) was the Jasper County Conservation Director for 35 years. Former supervisors serving in the Senate include Senators Jerry Behn (R-Boone), Joe Bolkcom (D-Johnson), Gene Fraise (D-Lee), Hubert Houser (R-Pottawattamie) and Mary Jo Wilhelm (D-Howard). Senator Randy Feenstra (R-Sioux) is a former Sioux County treasurer, Senator Joni Ernst (R-Montgomery) is a former Montgomery County auditor and Senator Steve Soddors (D-Marshall) is a current Marshall county deputy sheriff. There are four former supervisors serving in the House of Representatives: Representatives Rich Arnold (R-Lucas), Jerry Kearns (D-Lee), Dan Muhlbauer (D-Crawford) and Jim Van Engelenhoven, (R-Marion). Rep. Jim Van Engelenhoven was a Mahaska County supervisor. Mary Gaskill (D-Wapello) was the Wapello County Auditor for 16 years and Kurt Swaim (D-Davis) has served as Davis County attorney.

Those who have served as either mayor or on the city council include Senators Robert Bacon (R-Franklin), Fremont city council, Bob Dvorsky (D-Johnson), Coralville city council; Shawn Hamerlinck (R-Scott), Davenport alderman; Herman Quirmbach (D-Story), Ames city council; Brad Zaun (R-Polk), Urbandale mayor; Joe Seng (D-Scott), Davenport alderman; Tom Rielly (D-Mahaska), Oskaloosa mayor; Brian Schoenjohn (D-Fayette), Arlington mayor; Dave Jacoby (D-Johnson), Coralville city council; Tom Sands (R-Louisa), Columbus Junction city council; Dave Tjepkes (R-Calhoun), Gowrie mayor; and Nick Wagner (R-Linn), Marion city council.

As ISAC looks at educating members and their caucuses on the importance of increased road funding, the relationships that county officials have with the thirty-six members of the legislature who describe themselves as farmers may be critical. Those members are Republican Representatives Dwayne Alons (Sioux), Rich Arnold (Lucas), Clel Baudler (Adair), Betty DeBoef (Keokuk), David Deyoe (Story), Cecil Dolechek (ret.) (Ringgold), Jack Drake (Cass), Greg Forristall (ret.) (Pottawattamie), Julian Garrett (Warren), Pat Grassley (Butler), Lee Hein (Jones), Dan Huseman (Cherokee), Stu Iverson (Wright), Jeff Kaufmann (Cedar), Jarad Klein (Washington), Brian Moore (Jackson), Steve Olson (Clinton), Ross Paustian (Scott), Henry Rayhons (Hancock), Tom Sands (Louisa), Jason Schultz (Crawford), Annette Sweeney (Hardin), Jim Van Engelenhoven (Marion), and Gary Worthan (Buena Vista) and Senators Merlyn Bartz (Worth), Jerry Behn (Boone), Nancy

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miscellaneous

A Message from IPAIT

By: Adam Corrie

Winter is almost here. We are preparing to get our ice scrapers out, our snow plows gassed up, and our fireplaces burning. For those of you that follow the Farmers' Almanac, this winter is predicted to be relatively mild for most of the Midwest. As the marketer for the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT), traveling across Iowa, I appreciate the mild prediction. Many of you are familiar with the IPAIT program, but for those of you who are not, I want to provide an overview and encourage you to contact me if you would like more information.

For over 25 years IPAIT has provided Iowa's public entities with a secure investment for their operating and reserve funds. IPAIT is a common law trust established under Iowa law pursuant to Chapter 28E of the Iowa Code, which authorizes Iowa public agencies to jointly invest monies pursuant to a joint investment agreement. IPAIT's Diversified Portfolio is an SEC-registered money market fund authorized by investment policy and statute to invest in obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities; CDs and other evidences of deposit at federally insured Iowa depository institutions approved and secured pursuant to Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa, and repurchase agreements.

IPAIT is sponsored by the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Cities, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. Miles Capital acts as the investment advisor and program administrator.

IPAIT provides safety of principal, daily liquidity, and a competitive yield. IPASonline is IPAIT's participant recordkeeping system specifically designed for public entity sub-accounting. Through IPASonline, participants can initiate transactions, view historical activity, view balances and accrued interest, view and download statements, future-date transactions, and pay vendors directly from their IPAIT account. There is no fee for transferring funds via ACH, no minimum balance required, and no limit to the number of transactions per month.

Currently, there are 435 participants authorized to invest in IPAIT and the fund balance is near \$500 million.

In the months to come, check your email for the *IPAIT Bulletin*, IPAIT's monthly newsletter. We look forward to talking with you in the near future – whether over the phone, at conferences, or an onsite visit. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list, you can visit website at www.IPAIT.org or call 800-872-4024.

legal briefs

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formation pertaining to the discipline of two school employees after an alleged “locker room strip search” was conducted on five female students at the school. The district court concluded, as a matter of Iowa law, that the disciplinary records requested by the ACLU were “essentially in house, job performance documents exempt from disclosure” pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(11) (2009). The ACLU argues the district court erred in failing to apply a balancing test to determine whether the information was exempt from disclosure. **OPINION HOLDS:** Upon our review, we agree with the district court that the facts are undisputed and all that remains is a question of law. We further conclude the district court correctly applied the law to conclude the school district was not required to disclose the records requested by the ACLU, and we affirm the court's ruling in favor of the school district.

You can see summaries, archived opinions and sign up to receive e-mail updates when new opinions are released from the Iowa Court of Appeals here:

http://www.iowacourts.gov/Court_of_Appeals/Opinions/

capitol comments

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Boettger (Shelby), Bill Dix (Butler), Sandy Greiner (Washington), Hubert Houser (Pottawattamie), David Johnson (Osceola) and Tim Kapucian (Benton) and Democratic Representatives Dan Muhlbauer (Crawford) and Roger Thomas (Clayton) and Senators Gene Fraise (Lee) and Jack Kibbie (Palo Alto).

Legislators who have interacted with the county-managed mental health and disability services issues are more difficult to find. The former county officials listed above may have some recollection of the challenges of providing services with limited funding. In addition, Representative Lisa Heddens (D-Story) and Senator Pam Jochum (D-Dubuque) are both parents of children who have received services and Representatives Renee Schulte (R-Linn), a counselor, and Mark Smith (D-Marshall), a licensed independent social worker, have worked for service providers in the system. Senator Jim Seymour (R-Harrison) is a retired hospital executive.