



2016 U.S. Presidential Election
Initiative

GET INVOLVED!

#countiesconnectus

Why Counties Matter to the Presidential Election

Counties are a critical piece of our nation's federal-state-local intergovernmental system. For all levels of government, our common bond is our shared constituency. It is our close connection to the people that make counties a key partner in the intergovernmental relationship.

Three Principles of Governance



Clear Vision



Collaboration



Connection

Clear Vision

Counties are united behind a clear vision: to foster healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient communities across America.

Collaboration

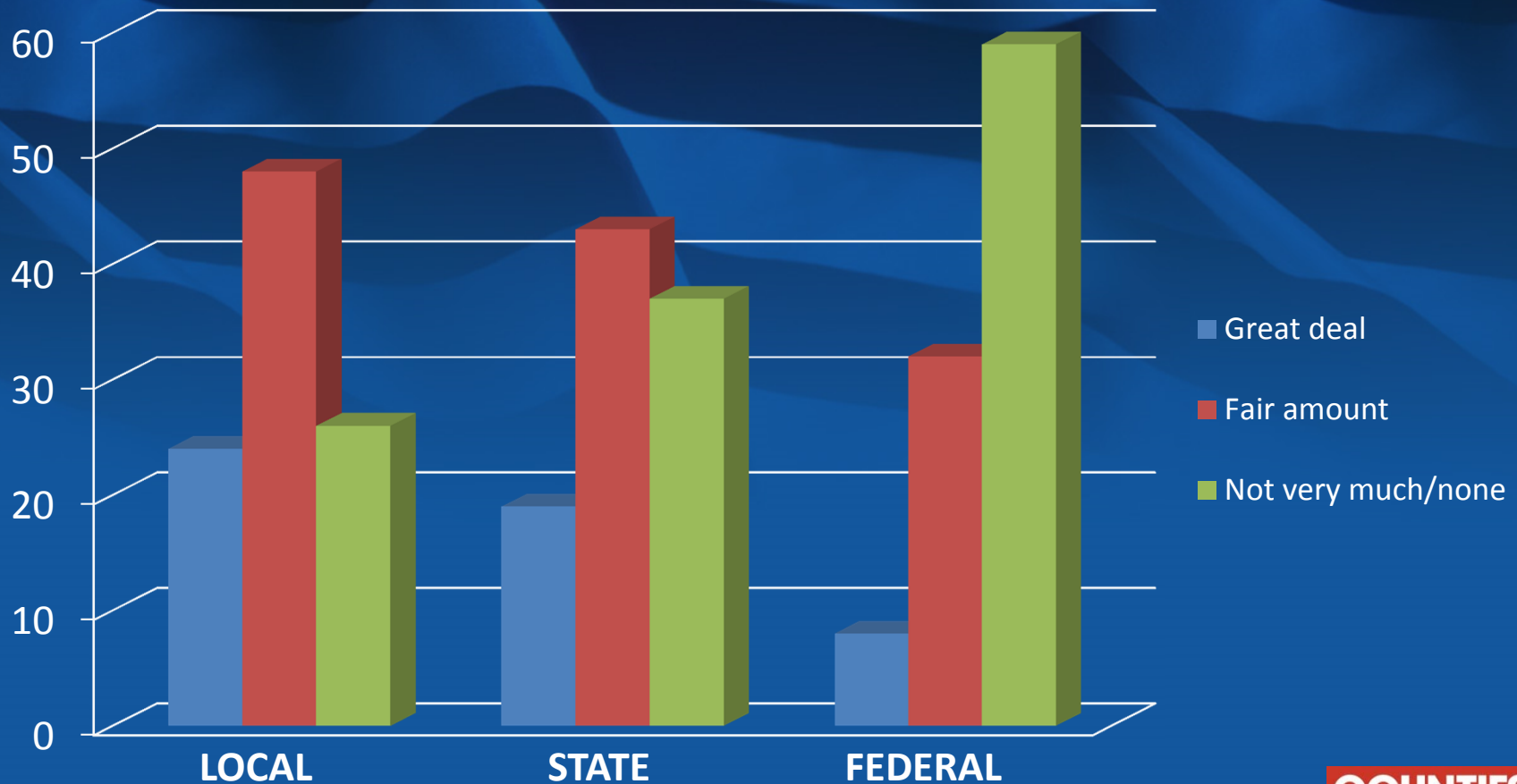
Counties achieve results by partnering with public, private and philanthropic partners to serve their constituents and to build more competitive local economies.

Connecting

Counties are the fabric that connects American civil society – practicing pragmatism over partisanship. County governments were designed to serve as connectors between the federal and state governments and constituents on the ground.



Public's Confidence in Government to Solve Problems

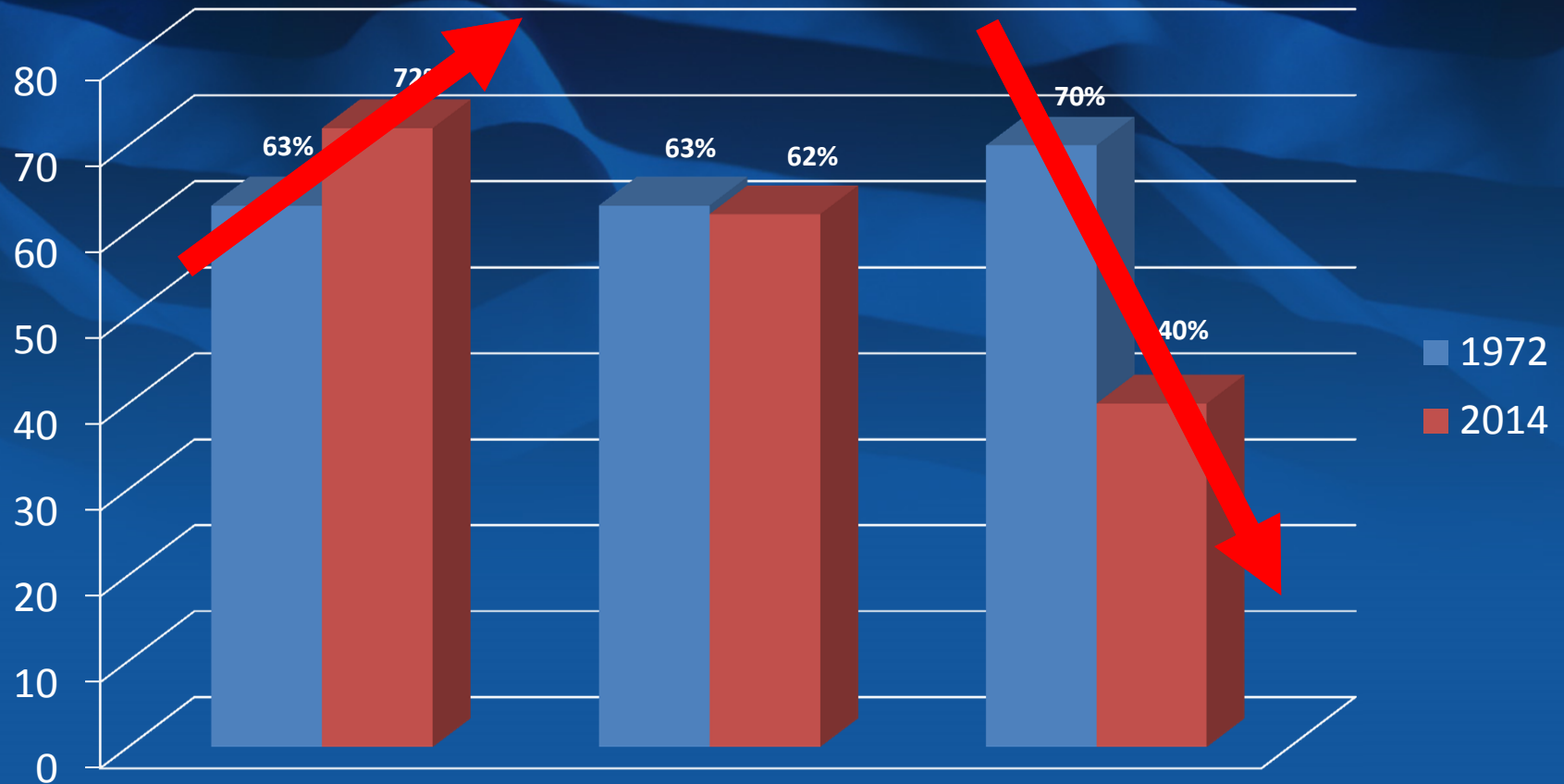


72%

62%

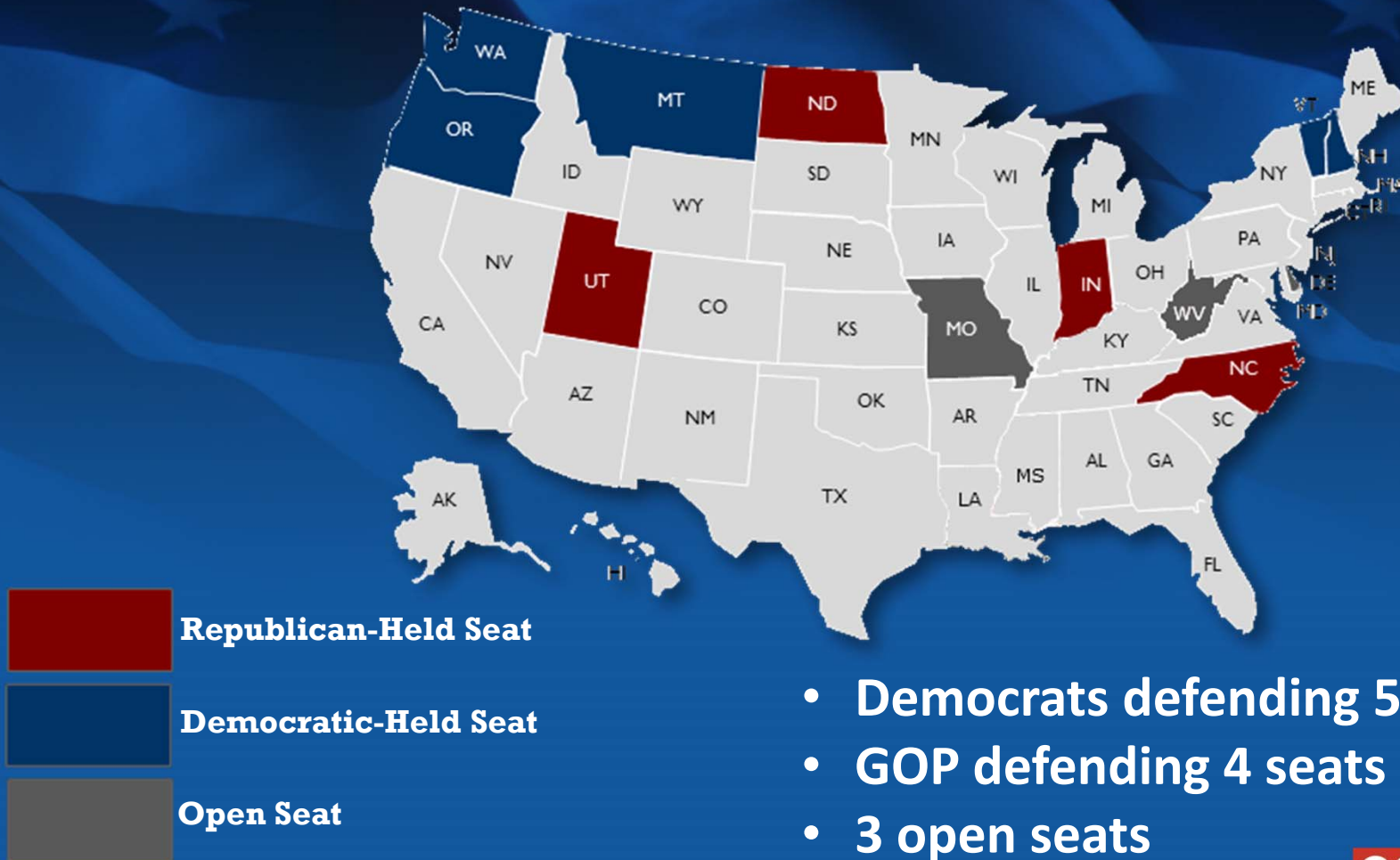
40%

Confidence in Government Over Time



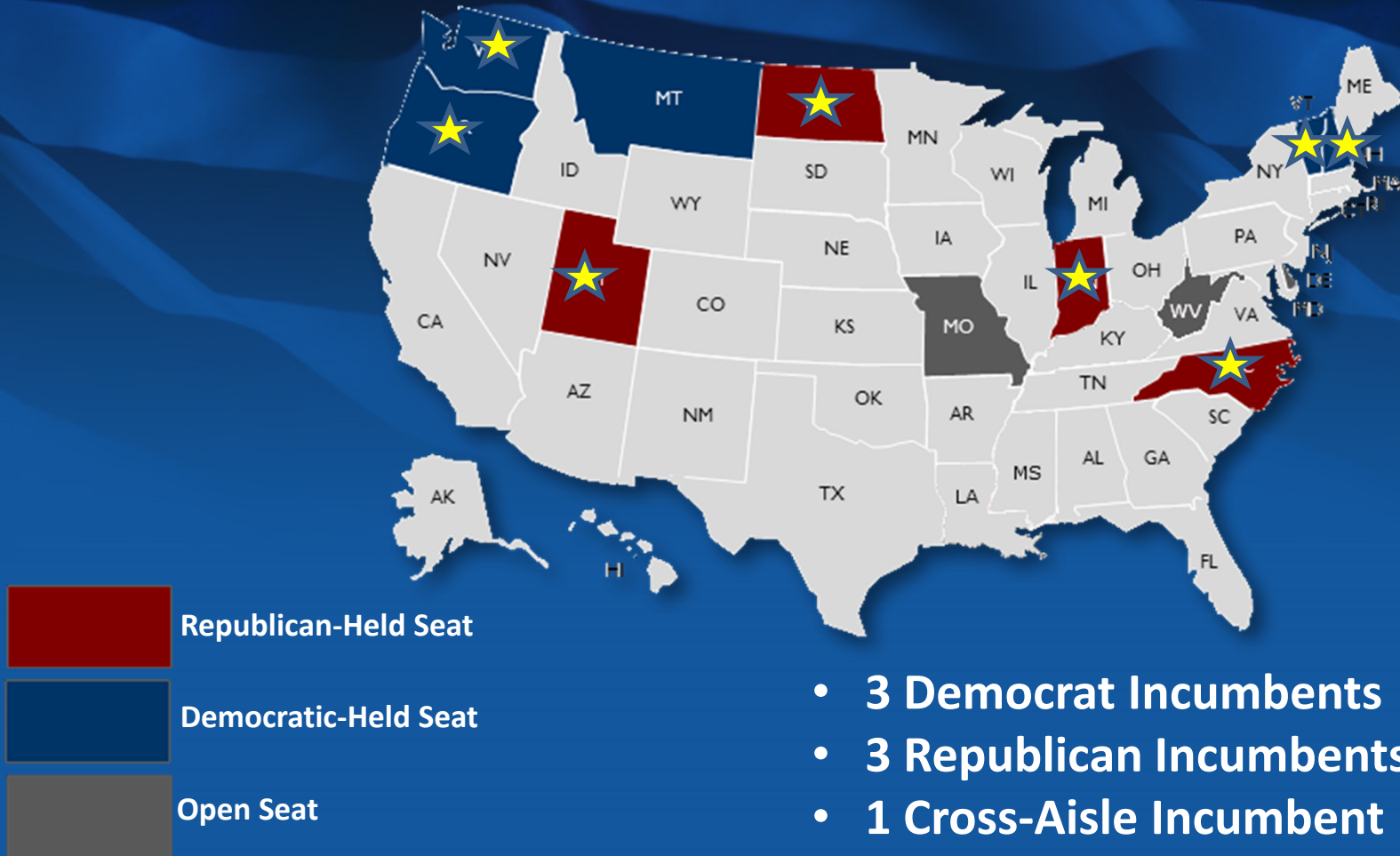
Source: Fred Yang 2015

2016 Gubernatorial Elections



- Democrats defending 5 seats
- GOP defending 4 seats
- 3 open seats

2016 Federal + State Elections



- 3 Democrat Incumbents
- 3 Republican Incumbents
- 1 Cross-Aisle Incumbent

2016 Presidential Cycle Calendar

- Jan. 18 – IA Caucus
- Jan. 26 – NH Primary
- Feb. 2 – NY Primary
- Feb. 13 – NV Primary
- Feb. 20 – SC Primary *Feb. 20-24 – NACo Legislative Conference*
- Feb. 23 – NC Primary
- Mar. 1 – CO/MN Caucus;
- Mar. 1 – MA/OK/TN/TX/VT/VA Primary
- Mar. 5 – LA Primary; KS/NE Dem. Caucus
- Mar. 6 – ME Dem. Caucus
- Mar. 8 – AL/MI/MS/OH/ID (Rep.) Primary
- Mar. 8 – HI Rep. Caucus
- Mar. 15 – IL/MO/FL Primaries
- Mar. 22 – AZ/ID Dem./UT Dem. Primary
- Mar. 26 – AK/HI/WA Dem. Caucus
- Apr. 5 – WI Primary
- Apr. 9 – WY Dem. Caucus
- Apr. 26 – CT/DE/PA/MD/RI Primary
- May 3 – IN Primary
- May 10 – NE/WV Primary
- May 17 – KY/OR Primary
- May 24 – AR/WA Primary *May 25-27 – WIR Conference*
- June 7 – CA/MT/NJ/NM/SD Primary
- June 7 – ND Dem. Caucus
- June 28 – UT Rep. Primary
- July 18-21 – Republican National Convention
July 22-25 – NACo Annual Conference
- July 25-28 – Democratic National Convention
- Nov. 8 – Election Day

Presidential Candidate Forum

2015 ISAC Fall School of Instruction

November 18 – 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

November 19 – 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

- Inviting all candidates
- Opportunity to address the audience for 15 minutes
- Promote platform and share plan for working with county governments

We need your help!

- Fill out ISAC survey – www.iowacounties.org
- Share materials with candidates and campaign staff
- Invite candidates and campaign staff to attend the forum

GET INVOLVED!

Contact ISAC:
Rachel Bennett

rbennett@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181

Contact NACo:
Arthur Scott

ascott@naco.org or 202.393.6226



We Are ISAC!

New YouTube video

www.youtube.com and search “We are ISAC”

Or

www.iowacounties.org



Iowa State Association of Counties

2015 ISAC Legislative Wrap-Up

Welcome and Introductions

- ISAC staff
 - **Bill Peterson**, Executive Director
 - **Jamie Cashman**, Government Relations Manager
 - **Lucas Beenken**, Public Policy Specialist
 - **Kristi Harshbarger**, General Counsel
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ISAC Top Priorities – Mental Health and Disability Services

- HHS Appropriations - SF 505
 - Extends the equalization formula through FY 2017, but no funding is provided.
 - Mental health and disability services (MH/DS) levy rates remain at the FY 2015 level with a cap of \$47.28.
 - Medicaid offset is eliminated.
 - DHS is directed to work with the Southern Hills MH/DS region to explore if merging with an adjoining region would be beneficial to Southern Hills.
 - Appropriation for MH/DS regions where carry forward is less than 25% of expenditures: \$960,000.
 - Additional \$1,040,000 for this purpose contained in HF 666 (one-time funding bill).
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ISAC Top Priorities – Mental Health and Disability Services

- Mental Health Advocates - HF 468
 - Places appointment and oversight of employment responsibilities of mental health advocates to the county board of supervisors.
 - Board of supervisors must compensate the advocate for the services performed and in accordance with the personnel policies established by the board for county employees.
 - Prohibits that an advocate be appointed that is an employee of the DHS, an officer or employee of a mental health and disability services (MH/DS) Region, or an officer or employee of a county performing duties for a Region
 - Grandfathers the employment, wages, and benefits of advocates that were appointed prior to July 1, 2015.
 - MH/DS Commission, in consultation with advocates, county and Judicial Branch representatives, is required to adopt administrative rules relating to advocate responsibilities.
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ISAC Top Priorities – Mental Health and Disability Services

- Other mental health and disability services policy legislation that ISAC supported:
 - HF 447 - Statewide Bed Tracking System
 - SF 401 - Expansion of Subacute Beds
 - SF 440 -Mental Health Interstate Compacts
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ISAC Top Priorities – Records Requests

- Electronic Records Requests - SF 435
 - Allows counties to either reject electronic records requests that aren't in a specific format that is easily accessible by the county or to provide that record by charging a reasonable fee that would cover the third party manipulation to meet the needs of the requestor.
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ISAC Top Priorities – Road Funding

- SF 257 passed both chambers with bipartisan support and bipartisan opposition. Signed by the Governor on February 25.
 - Ten cent increase in the per gallon fuel tax.
 - Fee increases for all systems permits, annual permits, oversize/overweight permits, and single round trip permits.
 - Limitations on use of revenue including counties not using new money to service debt where the term of the indebtedness exceeds the useful life of the asset.
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ISAC Top Priorities – Multi-Residential Property Tax

- HF 616 became a tax policy omnibus bill that included a fix for multiple use properties with a multi-residential component.
 - Each component of a multiple use property is classified and taxed based on its own use rather than determining the primary use of the property as a whole.
 - The bill also makes changes to the property assessment and protest process including allowing the assessor to make changes prior to the board of review, adjustments to the board of review timeline, moving BPTC application deadline to July 1, and requiring mailed notice of equalization orders.
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ISAC Objectives and Policies

- Kelsey Smith Act - HF 447
 - Write-in Vote Counting - SF 401
 - Air Quality Fees - SF 488
 - Conservation Resources
 - \$16 million appropriation for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program contained in SF 494, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations bill.
 - SF 504 would increase the sales tax $3/8^{\text{th}}$ percent and transfer the revenue to the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
 - Passed out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee
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ISAC Objectives and Policies (Cont.)

- E911 Funding - HF 651
 - Increases the percentage of the E911 surcharge fund going back to the local public safety answering points (PSAPs) from 46% to 58%.
 - Provides incentives for consolidating PSAPs by providing an additional 25% of what they would normally receive if they should decide to consolidate.
 - Transfers \$4 million of carryover funding of the E911 surcharge fund for an annual lease payment of a statewide land mobile radio communications platform.
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Rural Improvement Zones (RIZ)

- HF 615 makes changes to the eligibility for establishing a district, requirements of the petition for establishment, discretion of the board of supervisors for approving a petition, activities allowed to be undertaken by the district, distribution of incremental revenue, financial reporting requirements, and provisions relating to the dissolution or extension of the district.
 - Changes “shall” to “may” as it relates to supervisors approving the establishment of RIZ district.
 - Petitioners must prove need for improvements.
 - Protects the frozen base and changes distribution of incremental tax revenue once the increment has grown to exceed the base valuation.
 - RIZ district may incur indebtedness as long as the term of indebtedness does not exceed the sunset date of the district.
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Vital Records Fees and Accessibility

- HF 662 contained two policy provisions pursued by the recorders:
 - Recorders do not have to charge an individual requestor when no copy is made or when no record is found. May still charge in these cases if significant work put into unsuccessful search or if documentation is needed to prove no record found.
 - Single parent and adoption records currently housed within the Department of Public Health will be added to the statewide electronic birth certificate system and accessible to recorders.
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Address Confidentiality Program

- HF 585 establishes a program to provide an alternative mailing address for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, or stalking, in order to keep their physical address confidential.
 - Establishes a program within the Secretary of State's (SOS) office that will receive mail for program participants and forward to their physical address.
 - Outlines procedures for permanent absentee voting through the SOS office for program participants.
 - County offices will keep program participant information confidential.

*does not apply to real estate data that was a public record before enrollment in the program.

Elected Official Contact Information

- HF 550 requires that a governmental entity provide an elective public officer with designated contact information with the entity within 30 days of the officer's oath of office, and if the entity maintains a website they shall put each officer's contact information on the website.
 - For purposes of the bill elective public officer means members of the general assembly, county supervisors, city council members, and school board members.
 - Contact information means a telephone number or an email address.
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County Official Compensation

- SF 167 contains two provisions related to the compensation of county elected officials:
 - The board of supervisors shall not approve a separation allowance or severance pay for any county elected official including themselves.
 - The board of supervisors shall adopt a separate resolution in order to approve any increases in salary for any of the elected officials.
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Broadband Expansion and Cell Tower Siting

- HF 655 establishes a grant program and a 10-year property tax exemption for value added from new infrastructure construction that expands broadband access to unserved and underserved areas.
 - The bill also establishes uniform regulations, definitions, timelines, and requirements for the application process and siting of cell towers.
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Property Tax Credits

- All property tax credits fully funded (per current law)
 - Homestead - \$130.8 million
 - Ag Land and Family Farm - \$39.1 million
 - Elderly and Disabled - \$24 million
 - Military Exemption - \$2.1 million
 - Commercial/Industrial Replacement Claims - \$162 million
 - Business Property Tax Credit - \$100 million
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Opposed Bills That Did Not Pass

- SF 50 – Wind Energy TIF
- SF 73, SF 102, HF 335 – County Compensation Boards
- SF 165 – County Seats
- SF 305 – Non-Profit Food Fees
- SF 328 – Absentee Ballot Deadlines*
- SF 384 – Open Meetings and Records
- SF 394 – Prisoner Charges*
- HF 38 – Local Prevailing Wage Rates
- HF 59 – Firearm Regulation
- HF 209, HF 210 – Sale of Raw Milk
- HF 502 – Redacting Public Information
- HF 509 – Records, Settlements and Bonuses

*ISAC objective opposed after amendment

Questions?

ISAC Update

- **ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser**
 - September 2, 2015
 - Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill

 - **ISAC Fall School of Instruction**
 - November 18-20, 2015
 - Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Cedar Rapids Convention Complex, Cedar Rapids
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