ISAC Top Legislative Priorities for the 2017 Session

ISAC Legislative Team
Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)

- Chaired by ISAC Second Vice President
  - Lonny Pulkrabek, Johnson County Sheriff
- 32 members (two from each affiliate)
- Develop legislative objectives for ISAC’s legislative team to pursue for the upcoming session
- Meet in August and September to develop legislative platform
Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)

- Assessors: Dale McCrea and Deb McWhirter
- Auditors: Ken Kline and Dennis Parrott
- Community Services: Lori Elam and Shane Walter
- Conservation: Dan Cohen and Matt Cosgrove
- County Attorneys: Darin Raymond and Matt Wilbur
- Emergency Management: Thomas Craighton and Dave Wilson
- Engineers: Lyle Brehm and Dan Eckert
- Environmental Health: Eric Bradley and Brian Hanft
- Information Technology: Micah Cutler and Jeff Rodda
- Public Health: Doug Beardsley and Lynelle Diers
- Recorders: Megan Clyman and Kris Colby
- Sheriffs and Deputies: Jay Langenbau and Jared Schneider
- Supervisors: Carl Mattes and Burlin Matthews
- Treasurers: Terri Kness and Tracey Marshall
- Veterans Affairs: Gary Boseneiler and Chris Oliver
- Zoning: Joe Buffington and Josh Busard
ISAC Legislative Process

- LPC develops policy statements and legislative objectives
- Policy statements express long-term or continuing statements of principle important for local control, local government authority, and efficient county operation. These statements are designed to guide the Association in responding to public policy issues affecting county government.
- Legislative objectives provide specific problems and solutions for legislators to address. The ISAC policy team actively pursues bills for each legislative objective.
- Top priorities are presented during meetings with legislative leadership prior to the session.
ISAC Legislative Process

- ISAC Board reviews proposals for approval at October board meeting and sets top priorities
- Membership votes on platform during the Fall School General Session on Wednesday, November 30 in Des Moines.
- Legislative book published
- Legislators contacted
- Meetings with leadership/governor
ISAC 2017 Top Priorities

• Mental Health and Disability Services

• Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

• Food Safety

• Water Quality Management

• Distracted Driving
Mental Health and Disability Services

Problem:

• Counties are facing continuing funding challenges regarding the regional mental health and disability services (MH/DS) system.

• With the lack of equalization funding again in 2016 along with dwindling cash reserves, MH/DS regions are going to find it difficult to maintain current services, let alone provide the expanded core plus services and expanded populations envisioned by redesign.

• This current method of funding MH/DS is forcing unfunded mandates on counties and regions and forcing them to pay for on-going expenses with one-time resources.
Mental Health and Disability Services

Solution: ISAC recommends that the legislature:

1. Provide adequate and sustainable funding to allow the regions to have the resources necessary to support and manage core services. Further, a long term funding solution should be found that gives MH/DS regions through counties the ability to levy the necessary amount to fund these services to complete the final piece of mental health redesign. This stable funding in the system will give providers the ability to develop long term business plans that will ensure a consistent level of coverage of MH/DS statewide.

2. Remove the 1996 MH Levy Cap that is limiting specific counties from generating adequate property tax revenue to cover the costs of providing core services to Iowa citizens. This artificial cap is also causing an inequity between counties when it comes to equitable funding sources within each MH/DS region.
Mental Health and Disability Services

Solution: ISAC recommends that the legislature:

3. The 2017 Iowa Legislature should provide for adequate levels of MH/DS outside of the correctional system. These services would include the necessary number of “psychiatric beds” in our mental health facilities and hospitals to address acute care needs.

4. The 2017 Iowa legislature should provide sufficient funding for the effective implementation of a Children’s Mental Health/Disability Services program.
Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

Problem:

- Iowa’s natural resources need a consistent and protected funding source.

- Lack of funding translates into fewer investments that are important to the quality of life and economic activity in Iowa communities.
Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

Solution: ISAC recommends the following:
1. Passing a statewide sales tax increase of at least 3/8 of a penny in support of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, or I-WILL, as it’s commonly known.
Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

Solution: ISAC recommends the following:


- Natural Resources Account created in the “trust fund” to be used by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources - 23%
- Soil Conservation and Protection Account created in the Trust Fund to be used by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - 20%
- Watershed protection - 14%
- Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund - 13%
- Local conservation partnerships - 13%
- Land based trails - 10%
- Lake restoration - 7%
Food Safety

Problem:
• In the past 37 years, the Legislature has only increased food licensing fees twice. Both times, the increase was not enough to cover the cost of operating the inspection program.

• Because of the low fees, many counties have returned the food program to the Department of Inspection and Appeals (DIA) which has forced DIA to take back other contracts to obtain additional license fees to afford inspecting the returned jurisdictions.

• In 2009 DIA inspected 23 counties and now DIA inspects 52 counties.

• Because of the low fees, DIA has lowered its inspection frequency two times in the past three years.

• Inadequate and irregular license fee increases are degrading Iowa’s food safety system and have the potential to put the health and lives of the consuming public at risk.
Solution:

• Increase food licensing fees to fully fund food safety program activities in compliance with Iowa Code.

• DIA should be authorized to administer the food licensing fees through the Iowa Administrative Code.
Water Quality Management

Problem:

• It has been well documented by numerous sources that there is a need to provide adequate, sustainable, dedicated state financial resources to address the state-wide concerns related to Iowa’s water quality management issues.

• Specific concerns are the high level of nitrates and phosphorus that are entering our water system.

• In addition, there are on-going issues that must be addressed in our efforts to minimize future financial losses caused by flooding through effective flood mitigation programs.
Water Quality Management

Solution: ISAC recommends the following:

1. The identification of additional financial resources to be used to address the Water Quality Management issues. Specifically, ISAC would:
   - Encourage significant funding for, and the aggressive implementation of, a “revolving loan” program so that critical funds could be used for multiple projects throughout the years ahead.
   - Encourage a significant amount of funding be utilized to assist cities and towns in their efforts to upgrade their water treatment facilities.

2. The implementation of, and funding for, a network of statewide Watershed Management Authorities established by 28E agreements. These Watershed Management Authorities could coordinate efforts to upgrade their water treatment facilities.

3. Legislation to support water mitigation projects in both public and private sectors.
Distracted Driving

Problem:

• Distracted, inexperienced and impaired driving, as well as other factors result in hundreds of deaths on Iowa’s roadways each year.

• While there is no simple solution to reduce the number of highway fatalities, there needs to be an enhanced effort on the awareness of the dangers of distracted and impaired driving.
Distracted Driving

Solution:

- ISAC supports legislation to prohibit the use of a hand-held electronic communication devices while operating a motor vehicle and to make the use a primary offense.
Legislative Objectives

• Casino Smoking Ban  
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• Delinquent Mobile Home Taxes  
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

• County Veterans Affairs Structure  
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

• Emergency Management as Public Safety  
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• DOV Filing on LLC Transfers  
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)
Legislative Objectives

• Federal Tax Liens
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

• First Responders Safety Act
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• Funding for Co-Location of DHS Staff in County Office Space
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• Local Public Health Funding
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• Master Matrix Review Fee
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)
Legislative Objectives

• Publishing Notices
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

• Salary of Deputy County Auditors
  Jamie Cashman (ISAC Lead)

• Secondary Roads
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

• Security Interest Provisions
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)
Legislative Objectives

- Surviving Owner Title Transfer
  Lucas Beenken (ISAC Lead)

- User Fees:
  - Parking Fine and Court Debt Collection (LB Lead)
  - Sheriff’s Civil Fees (JC Lead)
Bill Tracking Tools

- **Prefiled Bills**: Legislative bills and joint resolutions submitted for consideration by the General Assembly, before the convening of any session of the General Assembly.
- **BillBook**: View all versions of bills and amendments, resolutions, study bills, bill histories, fiscal notes, and sponsor information.
- **Clip Sheets**: Senator/Representative - Displays all amendments, fiscal notes, and conference committee reports for a given bill.
- **Proposed Legislation Tracking**: Use Bill & Code Watch to track customized lists of bills.
- **Daily Legislation & Analysis**: Displays action that was taken on legislation on a particular day.
- **Session Daily**: Displays action that was taken on legislation on a particular day.
- **Directory of Legislation**: Indices of bills, study bills, resolutions, and amendments.
- **Bill History**: Displays legislative action for a Study Bill, Bill, or Resolution.
- **Bill Subject Index**: Displays list of all bills by subject matter.
- **Bill Request Logs**: Nonconfidential bill requests received by the Legal Services Division.
- **Code & Acts Sections Amended**: Provisional listing containing Iowa Code sections and Iowa Acts affected by legislation.
- **Similar and Companions**: Listing of bills that are the same or similar.
- **Disposition of Bills**: List of bills and their last action.
- **Bill Version Tracking**: Locate multiple versions of a bill or study bill.
## ISAC Legislative Bill Tracking Tool

- [http://affiliates.iowacounties.org/bills/](http://affiliates.iowacounties.org/bills/)

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<td>Passed 26/24</td>
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<td>Daigle, Bray, Reznoski</td>
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<td>Peterson (C), All, Anderson</td>
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<td>Amended - Daniels (C), Courtnay, Schulte</td>
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Get Involved!

- **Contacting your legislator**
  - County Day at the Capitol - March 8, 2017
  - Phone calls
  - Email *(clearly state your subject in the subject line)*
  - Letters
  - Forums

- **Feedback**
  - ISAC Update emailed on Friday’s during session
  - Use the Legislative Comment Form to provide feedback
General Election Outcomes & Outlook for Upcoming 2017 Session

• New Republican Majority in the Iowa Senate:
  o 29 Republicans, 19 Democrats and 1 Independent (Special election on December 27 to fill remaining seat)

• Iowa House Republicans Expand Their Majority by Two Seats
  o 59 Republicans and 41 Democrats
2018 Legislative Session Timeline

- June 2017 – Call for Proposals
- July 28, 2017 – Deadline for Policy Request Forms
- August 11, 2017 – Legislative Proposals Sent to Membership
- August 17, 2017 – Deadline for Proposed Changes and Additions
- August 22, 2017 – LPC Meeting
  o Review of proposals and member comment period
- September 14, 2017 – LPC Meeting
  o Finalize proposals to recommend to membership
- October 2017 – Legislative Webinar and Online Voting Tutorial
- October/November 2017 – Online Voting
- November 16-17, 2017 – ISAC Board Meeting
  o Accept member vote and set top priorities
- December 2017 – Legislative Webinar
  o Discuss priorities and give outlook on 2018 legislative session
Proposed Amendments to ISAC Articles of Incorporation

- The ISAC Board of Directors passed a resolution recommending the amendment of our Articles of Incorporation to define Voting Members as:
  - “all elected officials of an Iowa county or the principal officer for county departments that are represented by an Affiliated Association.”

- This change works in conjunction with changes to the ISAC Bylaws to adjust ISAC’s legislative priority setting process to accommodate an August conference date beginning in 2017.
Board Approved Changes to the ISAC Bylaws

• Change references to conferences of ISAC to reflect the new dates and names of the conferences
• Provide that Voting Members will vote on ISAC’s legislative objectives and policy statements through electronic means
• Provide that the Board shall receive and adopt the recommendations of the Voting Members and any changes that the Board makes to the Voting Members’ recommended legislative objectives and policy statements must be approved by 2/3rds of the Board
• Create a new process for any member of ISAC to present legislative proposals or recommend changes to legislative proposals according to the rules adopted by the Board and a schedule which shall be published annually
• Amend quorum requirements for action by Voting Members to reflect that votes will sometimes be taken via electronic means, as opposed to in-person meetings
Questions?

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ISAC Public Policy Specialist
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