



The Iowa County

January 2018

ISAC Top Legislative Priorities

Photograph by Steve DeVries
December sunset west of Earlam, Iowa





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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

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Feature - ISAC Top Priorities

Mental Health and Disability Services

Mental Health and Disability Services (MH/DS) is once again one of ISAC's legislative priorities this year. Progress was made during the 2017 session at addressing MH/DS funding, specifically levy equity for counties within MH/DS regions with the passage of SF 504. However, new issues have risen as a result with the paying down of the cash balances to 25% or 20% (depending on the size of the region) over three years and how that will affect county finances within the region. Furthermore, these carry forward balance restrictions do not provide the sufficient resources for the core plus services that are being required by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).

In addition, Iowa still faces shortages in the number of psychiatric beds and mental health professionals serving an increasing number of Iowans with severe mental illness. To address this, ISAC is recommending that the Iowa Legislature provide for adequate levels of MH/DS services 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. The Iowa Legislature should also provide incentives to address the severe lack of mental health professionals in Iowa, especially in our rural areas.

Finally, if it is the continued desire of the Iowa Legislature and DHS to develop a Children's MH/DS program, counties and regions must have the resources to provide these new services.



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Legislative Communications

ISAC employs many tools to keep our members informed and involved during the legislative session. Having a membership that is active in the legislative process is imperative for us to be successful on your behalf at the Capitol.

ISAC Update

The ISAC Update is a weekly email newsletter that is sent to all ISAC members (and other interested parties) on Fridays that focuses on timely legislative issues and topics of importance to county officials. Non-legislative announcements regarding conferences, county eligible awards and grants, etc. are also included. The ISAC Update is arguably the most important publication that we create and send to our members. It is sent on a weekly basis to keep our membership informed about the legislation that will affect county government. The legislative policy team works hard each week to report this information to you, so that you are educated when talking to your legislators.

We send out special edition and/or call to action ISAC Updates during the week when it's urgent for our membership to contact their legislators regarding a certain bill or topic. If you receive this type of email from us and the bill will have a direct effect on your office, we ask that you contact your legislators and voice your concerns or support.

This year we will be using a new email tool to send out the ISAC Update and other mass email communication. Please check your spam filters and clear MailChimp as a safe sender. If you need any help with this process, please let me know.

Legislative Forums

Included in the ISAC Update are links to the legislative forums held by the legislators around the state. By receiving these emails on Friday mornings, it should enable you to have all of the information and talking points that you need to visit with your legislators during their forums and to speak to them about the important issues that would affect county government – both positively and negatively.



Rachel Bennett

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Feature - ISAC Top Priorities

Secondary Roads

Secondary Roads returns as an ISAC top priority with proposals to address how county roads are being funded. Counties have responsibility for the maintenance and repair of over three quarters of the road miles and three quarters of the bridges in Iowa. For this reason, dedicated and protected sources of revenue are crucial to the long-term care of our roads and bridges. It has been a good couple of years for road funding with the fuel tax increase in 2015 that will provide additional revenue and the federal aid fund swap in 2017 that will allow for more efficiencies at the local level. With infrastructure that continues to age and the cost of materials and labor continuing to rise, there's still more that can be done.

First, the \$225 million cap on the TIME-21 Fund must be maintained, with revenues over this limit being distributed through the Road Use Tax Fund formula. These TIME-21 dollars should not be restricted and should be able to be used for any secondary road purpose.

Second, the legislature should strongly consider applying the state excise fuel tax or a special partial tax on dyed fuels used in agricultural vehicles and equipment. With the agricultural industry changing, these vehicles and equipment are traveling on secondary roads more and with the large size they are having a disproportionate impact. The revenue from this new tax could be dedicated to secondary roads and bridges so the taxpayer would know exactly what they're paying for.

Third, the legislature should explore the use of fees and surcharges for certain facilities and operations that have a disproportionately negative impact on county roads and bridges such as large confinement operations, hydraulic fracturing projects, and biofuel production facilities. These facilities have a significant amount of heavy traffic in and out that can necessitate additional road maintenance and repair, and shorten the lifespan of roads and bridges. Examples of user fees that could be applied include a per head livestock fee, per gallon of liquid manure fee, per gallon of biofuel produced fee, and a weight or volume based fee for extractions.

As counties continue to take care of aging infrastructure and work to ensure our roads and bridges are safe and efficient, revenues need to keep up with the rising cost of construction, maintenance and repair. Diversifying the revenue and specifically looking at users that have a disproportionate impact on roads and bridges is overdue. The legislature should consider new user fees to address this issue.



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Legislative Comment Form

The legislative comment form is included on our website and linked after each topic in the ISAC Update. Any information that you can provide us about how a bill may directly affect your county is extremely useful information at the Capitol. If you talk to your legislator about a specific bill, you can use this form to update us about your interaction. If you have a question about a bill's contents or question our interpretation of its contents this form can be used. This tool is a quick and easy way for you to get your feedback directly to us.

Tracking Tool

The ISAC Tracking Tool is a great website that allows you to track legislation that will have possible effects on county government. This tool is sortable and searchable by every field, including affiliate. Fields include file and bill number, title, a brief description, ISAC staff member/s assigned to the bill, affiliate, ISAC position, and status of the bills in the legislative process. Find this informative tool on the ISAC website by clicking on tracking tool under the legislative tab.

Property Tax Videos

Videos will be produced and used as tools in our legislative efforts. Please see more information on our new property tax videos on page 6.

We strive to send out communications that are as easily readable, concise, and as informative as possible. If you have any suggestions that could make our communications better, please contact me. An informed membership is crucial for ISAC to be successful.

Feature - ISAC Top Priorities

Tax Reform

Tax Reform returns as an ISAC top priority with several ideas to stabilize and modernize the property tax system, provide property tax relief, and diversify county revenue for long-term stability. First and foremost, we will strongly advocate for fully funding all property tax credits as well as the replacement claims for the legislatively imposed rollback on commercial and industrial property. These payments, known as the backfill, replace lost revenue due to the reduction in taxable value. In total, these backfill dollars total over \$152 million, with over \$28 million refunded to county governments. The elimination or a reduction of the backfill could result in a reduction in important and popular services or in higher property taxes, the great majority of which would fall on households and farmers. The legislature should keep its promise and fully fund the backfill.

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Second, we are calling for a one cent increase in the state sales and use tax. As is discussed in our Water Quality Management priority, the first 3/8 of the penny is constitutionally dedicated to the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. We propose some of the remainder be used for Mental Health and Disability Services as a direct way to lower property taxes. The remaining funds could be used as a dedicated revenue source to fund the backfill or to provide income tax relief.

There are three things that could be done to modernize the property tax system. First, agricultural buildings should be taken out of the productivity formula. This formula should be used to determine the productivity of ag land and determine its taxable value, not artificially lower the taxable value of buildings and drive down the taxable value of the land. Second, residential property and agricultural property should be de-coupled for the purpose of the annual growth limitation. The two classifications should stand alone and market forces would determine the annual growth, which would still be subject to the 3% limitation. Third, the growth limitation should have a lower limit to create stability for local governments in the event of a large decline in market values or ag productivity.

Finally, the legislature should consider allowing local governments to implement a local option income tax surcharge. The voters in a jurisdiction could decide if they wanted to impose this tax on themselves and it would serve to diversify revenue sources and reduce property taxes. These ideas combined can modernize the property tax system, provide property tax relief, and diversify county revenue for long-term stability. The legislature should fully fund the backfill and strongly consider these tax reform ideas.

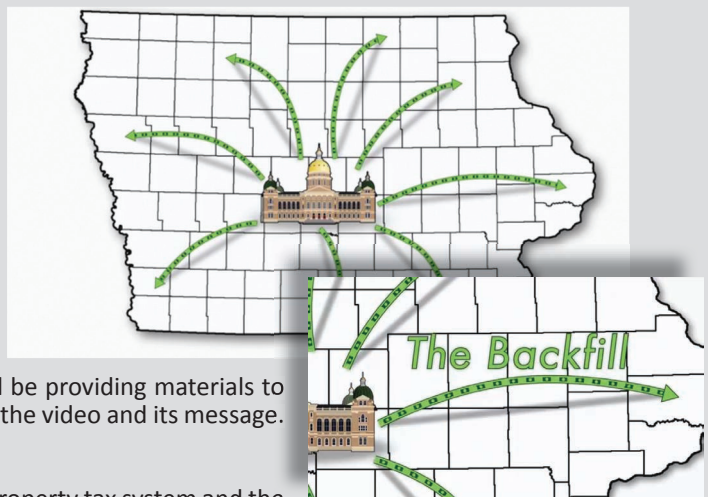
ISAC Videos

ISAC will be rolling out its next set of videos in conjunction with the 2018 legislative session. The short videos will be useful tools for ISAC staff, members, and the public to educate legislators on important issues affecting counties. All videos and supportive materials can be found at www.iowacounties.org. We will also send them directly to members for you to share.

The first video will focus on retaining the backfill. Two versions of the video will be utilized - one will be a direct call to action for viewers to contact their legislators about the importance of the backfill and the second will be sent to legislators directly. We will be providing materials to make it easy for our members and the public to share the video and its message. Again, all materials will be available on our website.

The second video will give a general overview of the property tax system and the involvement and role of the county including the assessor, auditor, board of supervisors, and treasurer. There is a lot of confusion when it comes to property taxes and counties in general. It's our hope that this video can be used to clear up some of the myths to both legislators and the public.

Our social media sites will be important avenues for getting the word out - please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and become active as these campaigns begin!



Feature - ISAC Top Priorities

Water Quality Management

Water Quality Management is also returning as one ISAC's legislative priorities. It has been well documented 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 relate to the significant level of nitrates and phosphorus that are entering our water system. There is also a tremendous need to invest in wastewater infrastructure, specifically in the large number of unsewered communities that we have in Iowa. In addition, there are on-going issues that must be addressed in our efforts to minimize future losses caused by flooding through effective flood mitigation programs.

As a result of these challenges, ISAC is recommending that the Iowa Legislature pass a statewide sales tax increase of at least 3/8s of a penny in support of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, or I-WLL, to which it is commonly referred, and maintain the distribution formula found in Iowa Code Chapter 461 (see below). Significant resources should also be identified through revolving loans and other tools to provide the necessary financing of critical water treatment infrastructure to assist Iowa's cities and towns.

ISAC also supports the implementation of, and funding for, a network of statewide Watershed Management Authorities through the effective use of 28E agreements. These Watershed Management Authorities could provide coordination of water quality improvement efforts in specific areas/regions of the state.

Finally, ISAC is in favor of passage of legislation that would support and encourage public sector entities, such as counties, to be directly involved in water mitigation projects that address the increasing number of high volume rain events we are seeing in Iowa.

Jamie Cashman

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Maintain the Distribution Formula

- 23% to be allocated to a Natural Resources account, created in the Trust Fund to be used by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- 20% to go to a soil conservation and protection account created in the Trust Fund to be used by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for soil conservation and water protection
- 14% to be used for watershed protection
- 13% to fund the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund
- 13% to be used for local conservation partnerships
- 10% to be used for land-based trails
- 7% to be used for lake restoration

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Legal Briefs

The Counties' Lawsuit Against Opioid Manufacturers: Myth-Buster Edition

As this article is scheduled to come out in January 2018 (I hope each of you had a lovely holiday season and happy New Year!), you have likely already heard that the ISAC Board of Directors passed a resolution to encourage Iowa counties to participate in a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers. Currently more than 20 counties have already taken action to sign-on and be leaders in standing up for their communities and sending a message to the healthcare industry that the opioid addiction crisis must be addressed. Because this isn't a new issue, I won't restate the details here, but I do want to address the most common concerns we've heard. If your county is still on the fence about whether to participate, please consider the following:

#1 My county doesn't have an opioid problem/the county hasn't suffered damages due to opioid addiction.

This is a nationwide epidemic so it's unlikely that any county is completely immune. Some examples: Has your county paid for an autopsy for an opioid-related death? Has your county attorney prosecuted someone for illegal opioid use or illegal opioid sales? Has your county paid for substance abuse treatment for someone with an opioid addiction? Has your sheriff's department arrested someone for illegal opioid use or illegal opioid sales? Has your county paid for or provided emergency medical services for someone that has overdosed on opioids? Does your sheriff's department purchase and use naloxone to deal with issues related to opioid use and overdose? It only takes a small number of any of the instances listed above to have a real impact on county budgets.

#2 We don't have data to support that the county has suffered damages due to opioid addiction/I don't know where or how to find that data/I don't have time to find that data.

This one isn't a myth. I'm certain you have plenty on your to-do list without adding "track down data on opioid issues in the county" to it. I'm not going to try to tell you this won't take time. Each county has data and stores it a little differently, so someone from the county is going to have to assist the attorneys in finding that data. The good news is that the attorneys ISAC is recommending will assist you and employ experts to analyze the data. You won't have to determine a correlation, interpret the data, or make calculations yourself. Your time will be well-spent if it can assist in re-paying taxpayer dollars to the county for its costs in the opioid crisis.



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ICACMP



Andrea Jansen

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ISAC manages the Iowa County Case Management Project (ICACMP). Over half of the counties in the state participate in the Project that strives to improve the efficiency of Iowa county attorney offices. More information about ICACMP is included in the infographic to the right and the flier on page 10.

If you don't participate already or have any questions, please contact me!

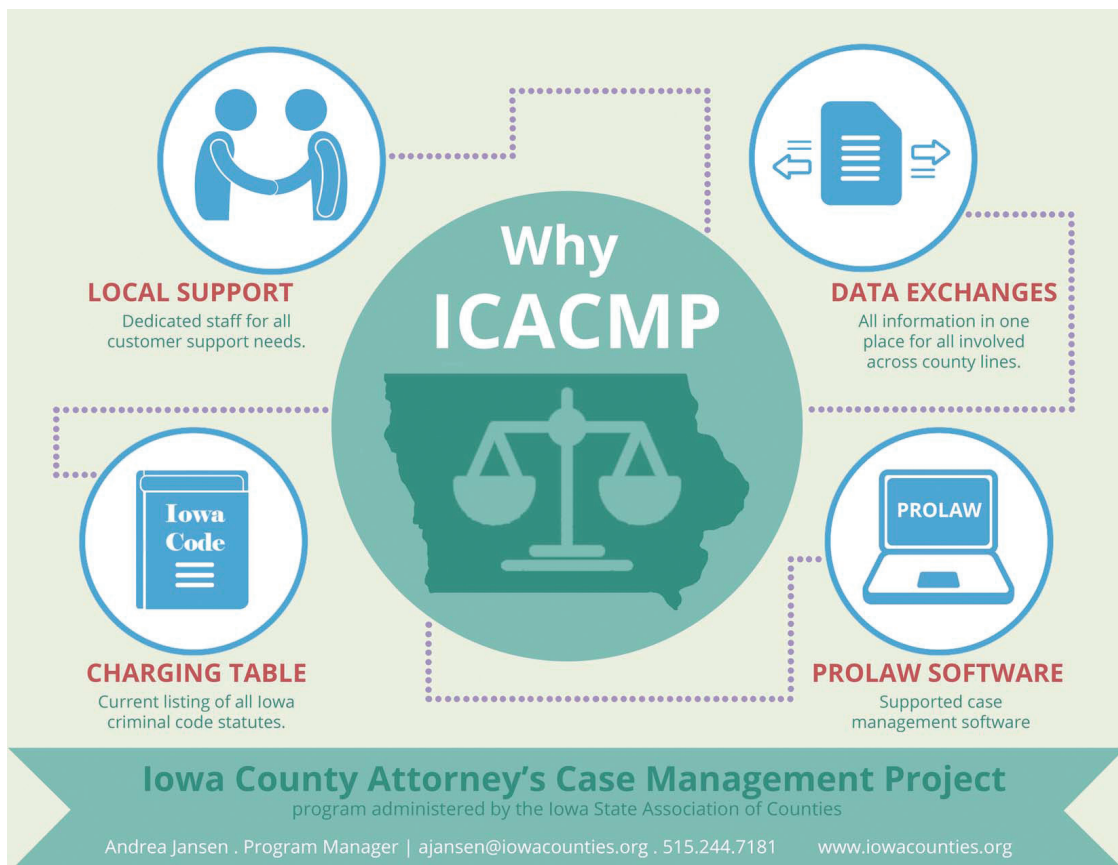
#3 Even if the lawsuit results in a damages award, the out-of-state lawyers are going to be the main beneficiaries.

While potential dollar recovery is certainly one reason to participate, the public policy reasons for participation (being leaders in your community to send a message that the opioid crisis must be addressed) are significant and will be addressed regardless of the outcome of the case.

The attorneys recommended by ISAC are taking counties as clients on a contingency fee, which means the attorneys are taking on all the risk (other than a time investment by the counties to collect data). This should tell you that the attorneys are fairly confident they will be successful, but it also means the county isn't out anything other than a small amount of time if the case doesn't result in a damages award. In exchange for taking on the risk and doing a significant amount of work, the attorneys will receive a portion of any damages award. There isn't an option for a county to receive a portion of a damages award and not pay attorneys that make that award possible. Not signing on only means that your county won't have the opportunity to receive a portion of any damages award.

A note about the fact that attorneys recommend by ISAC are from out-of-state - There will be local counsel on the case. While the firm to do this has not been finalized, we are recommending firms that will be familiar with Iowa counties and vice versa. As a general rule, we prefer to work with in-state companies as well, but this litigation will be a nationwide lawsuit. Our assessment is that counties in Iowa will be best represented if they participate in a unified approach with counties across the country and with a legal team that has expertise in managing nationwide lawsuits. Any claims filed by Iowa counties will be filed in Iowa federal district courts, but will ultimately be consolidated elsewhere. Not all the attorneys representing counties will be on the lead team, and Iowa counties will have the most direct voice in the litigation by signing on with a legal team on the lead team. By signing on with a legal team that is representing numerous counties across the country, it is more likely the legal team selected by Iowa counties will be on that lead team.

If this article has not addressed your concerns or questions regarding your county's participation in the opioid litigation, please feel free to contact me. We will keep you apprised of the matter as it progresses.



Why ICACMP?

Because you get all of this and more! Join over 50 counties who already participate in the Iowa County Attorney's Case Management Project (ICACMP) to improve the efficiency of your prosecutor's office.

PROLAW SOFTWARE

Supported case management software

Prolaw is a legal case management software that provides customizable document templates, contact management, integration with Microsoft Office and Adobe, and much more! In addition to this functionality, the software has been customized to meet the needs of Iowa's criminal justice processes. One of the most impressive features of this software is shared file access for all users at any time. Allowing all users access to cases is essential when managing the large and varied caseloads that the majority of County Attorneys have as well as collection of court debt. Another important feature is the potential for offices to go completely paperless. Going paperless has some powerful cost savings attached to it particularly with regard to office and storage space.



DATA EXCHANGES

All information in one place across county lines

ICACMP has been instrumental in developing and prioritizing data exchanges with the various criminal justice components across the state. The fees paid by the member counties defrays the cost of implementing data exchanges because of the consistency of the database among the member counties, and have been crucial to decreasing data entry by County Attorney staff. These exchanges also increase efficiency and accuracy as they are in real time in most cases. There are several data exchanges on the horizon and one of the most exciting is an auto-file feature. This will allow users to directly file from within Prolaw and eliminate the need to go outside of the application to electronically file with the courts.



CHARGING TABLE

Current listing of all Iowa criminal code statutes

The project is also responsible for the management of a charging table that contains statutes and wording for all Iowa criminal code. This ensures that members have the most up to date and accurate charging language within Prolaw. In addition, many other criminal justice agencies and data exchanges utilize this table to exchange charge data in a consistent manner across all systems.



LOCAL SUPPORT

Dedicated staff for all customer support needs

Support for the project is provided by ISAC employees in Iowa. The project offers a user-friendly support suite, on-site and virtual training, and a knowledgebase with over five years of frequently asked questions. Peer-to-peer support is also facilitated between over 400 users across the state.



Iowa County Attorney's Case Management Project

program administered by the Iowa State Association of Counties

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www.iowacounties.org

ISAC Spring Conference



ISAC Spring Conference Online Registration Change

Don't forget that registration opens on January 3, but hotels don't open until 8:30 am on January 10. A link to the housing site where you will make your hotel reservations and a 10-digit ISAC ID will be included on your conference registration invoice. The invoice will be available immediately to download at the time of conference registration and it will also be emailed to you directly.

Contact us for registration credentials or to request help!

January 3 - January 10 - Conference registration open but hotels are not yet open.

(Register at any time during the week to receive your housing website link and code on your invoice.)

8:30 am, Wednesday, January 10 - CONFERENCE HOTELS OPEN

(Use the link and code on your conference registration invoice to reserve your hotel room.)

4:30 pm, February 9 - ISAC hotel rates close

4:30 pm, February 23 - Conference registration closes

COUNTY DAY AT THE CAPITOL - EVENT CHANGES BELOW!

March 14

11:00 am - 3:00 pm Legislative Interaction

11:30 am Lunch

ISAC has secured Meeting Room 116 as a "home base" for county officials and ISAC staff. Staff will be available to answer questions and to give updates throughout the event on hot issues. There will be no affiliate displays in the Rotunda, and there will not be a pre-event briefing at another location. Lunch will be provided for legislators and attending county officials outside of Meeting Room 116.

In order to have the opportunity to meet with your legislators on this day, each county is encouraged to set up meetings with their legislators in advance. Most days of the session are extremely busy and having a scheduled time with your legislators is very important to make the most of your day.

As an ISAC member it is important to be involved in the legislative session and to work to promote ISAC's legislative priorities and objectives. County Day at the Capitol will give our members an opportunity to support ISAC's efforts and work towards improving county government.

It is our hope that by making a concentrated effort to focus on county issues on just one day, that we will have the greatest impact at the Capitol.

Please mark your calendars now for March 14, 2018! This event is free of charge, but we strongly encourage you to preregister beginning January 3 so that we have enough food for everyone.



REAL ID

What is REAL ID and Where did it come from?

A REAL ID is different than a statewide issued ID with your name and picture typically carried in your wallet. It refers to a form of identification that complies with the REAL ID Act, which was passed by congress in 2005. The Act set minimum standards for the issuance of identification.

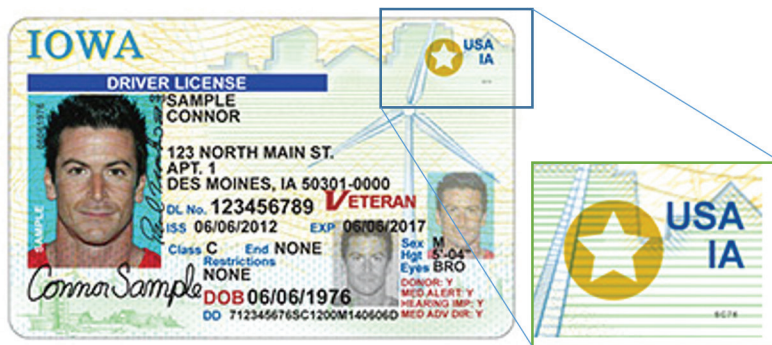
What are the “Minimum Standards” that a REAL ID must meet?

The standards generally apply to the process used to issue identification documents, including:

- Information and security features that must be incorporated into each card;
- Application information to establish the identity and immigration status of an applicant before a card can be issued; and
- Physical security standards for facilities where driver’s licenses and applicable identification cards are produced.

How do I know if an ID is a REAL ID?

The only difference is that a REAL ID card will have a star verification mark on the front of the card in the upper right corner.



It looks the same as any other Iowa driver’s license and ID card, it contains the same information, is made of the same materials, and has the same security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication. *The only change* - the REAL ID card has an additional gold star in the upper right hand corner of the card and communicates to the proper authorities that identification documents have been verified.

If I don’t have a REAL ID, how do I get one?

Whether you are getting your first Iowa driver’s license or ID card or renewing or replacing an Iowa driver’s license or ID card that doesn’t have a REAL ID star, the process is the same. You will need to go to an Iowa driver’s license station and present documents that prove your: identity, date of birth, social security number (or immigration number for persons authorized to be present in the United States but not issued a Social Security number), legal status or authorized presence in the United States, and residency and residential address in Iowa.

To help choose the documents you will need, use the Iowa Department of Transportation’s web application Prepare for Success: www.iowadot.gov/mvd/realid/success.aspx. Just answer a few questions and the system will create a customized list of the documents you will need to bring with you.



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Do I have to get a REAL ID?

If your current ID does not have a gold star, don't panic.

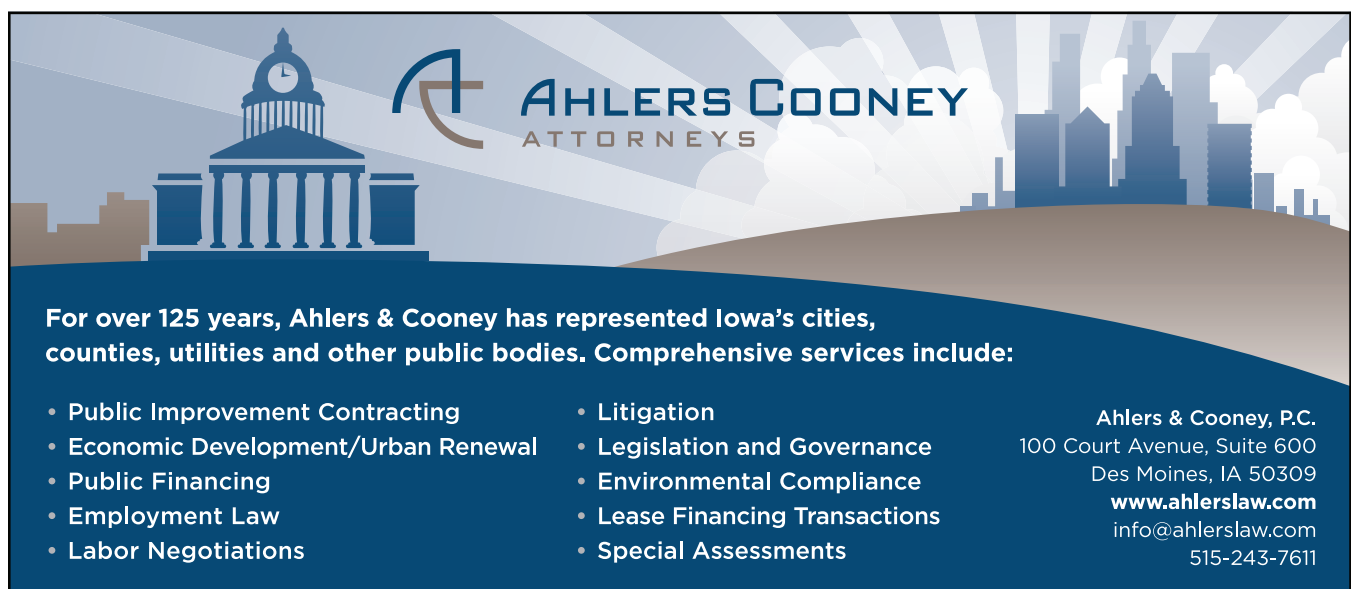
If you already have an Iowa driver's license or ID card but it does not have a REAL ID star, you can decide whether you want to apply for a card that includes a REAL ID star. When you make that decision, you should consider whether you will need to use your driver's license or ID card as identification to access federal facilities (**After October 1, 2020**) that require identification to enter, board federally regulated commercial aircraft, or enter nuclear power plants. You should also consider whether you have other acceptable forms of federal identification that you could use as identification for those purposes instead of your driver's license or ID card (for instance, a valid U.S. passport or passport card, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler card, a permanent resident card, or military ID). A list of Transportation Safety Administration approved documents for travel is available on the TSA's website: www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids.

If you don't intend or expect to use your driver's license or ID card for those federal purposes, or if you have other forms of acceptable identification you can use, you may decide you don't need to apply for a card with a REAL ID star. If you change your mind or find out later that you do need one, don't worry because you can apply for a duplicate driver's license or ID card. Fortunately, because the Iowa Department of Transportation has proactively implemented the necessary security features, when your current REAL ID expires and you renew, you will be issued another ID that has the gold star and meets the minimum standards in the REAL ID Act of 2005.

Additional questions?

Additional information can be found on the following websites:

- <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/realid/real-id-home>
- <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>
- <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>



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ISAC Brief

Summary of Minutes – November 16-17, 2017

ISAC President Peggy Rice called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting minutes of the September 27-28, 2017 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat and the November 15, 2017 ISAC Litigation Committee were accepted.

Nicole Loux and Wendy Moran, McGowen Hurst Clark and Smith, P.C., presented the ISAC audit to the Board. An unqualified opinion was given. The governance letter to the Board was included in the report. Staff was temporarily excused so that the auditors could meet privately with the Board.

President Rice recessed the ISAC Board and reconvened following the ICTS Board meeting. The FY 2017 ISAC audit report was accepted.

Brad Holtan presented the financial report as of October 31, 2017. He reviewed charts and graphs including invoices due over 60 days. He reviewed all funds including CM&MHDS and reported that a distribution formula for program funds will be brought to the Board for approval in January. The financial report was accepted. Brad also gave the quarterly investment report as of September 30, 2017. The Board discussed investment policies and accepted the report.

Bill Peterson reported that Iowa law was changed during the 2017 legislative session for Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT) to comply with GASB rules for valuing investments. The current process remains consistent with the way it's been done by IPAIT in the past. Due to this change, corporate documents related to IPAIT needed to be updated. The sponsorship agreement, which specifies compensation for our sponsorship of the program, needed to be approved. The sponsorship agreement was approved.

Bill Peterson reported that the State Election Administrators Training (SEAT) Board and ISAC have been in discussion for ISAC to provide administrative support services to SEAT. A current draft of the agreement was provided, but a final agreement hasn't been reached.

Bill Peterson reported that ISAC has been looking for a partner to represent the interests of the ISAC Group Health Program for many years. ISAC became acquainted with Kingston Life and Health Consulting through work they were doing with a county that is a member of the ISAC Group Health Program. Bill recommended that ISAC enter into an 18-month consulting agreement with Kingston beginning with the health program in January 2018 and other services in July 2018. Tim Johnston, Elizabeth Buckton, and Ryan Berven with Kingston gave an overview of their company and the services that would be offered to counties. They discussed the benefits and reduced rates for services. The Board agreed to move forward with the contract discussion phase.

Rachel Bennett reported that the first Iowa Stepping Up Summit was held on October 24 with around 188 attendees. ISAC and the planning committee surveyed attendees and are exploring options for future education and resources.

Kelsey Sebern distributed the 2018 ISAC Board of Directors meeting schedule and reviewed the 2018 ISAC University Agenda. Registration is currently open for this conference that is being held on January 17-18, 2017 in West Des Moines.

Rachel gave a report of the main takeaways from the board retreat conference discussion and work that is being done to implement some of the suggestions. The main goals include increasing affiliate interaction, mentoring/welcoming new conference attendees, offering one-day registrations, and conference dates remaining in August and March. Specific plans were discussed including proposing offering one-day registrations and tracks alongside affiliate time to promote affiliate interaction at the Spring School. Kelsey reviewed and the Board approved the proposed Spring Conference agenda.

Rachel gave an overview of the online voting results with a breakdown of total votes for each objective, the policy statements as a package, and the suggestions for top priorities by the Legislative Policy Committee, membership vote, and ISAC staff.

Lonny Pulkrabek proposed and the Board approved the following solution change by the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association to the Super Speeders legislative objective: Amend the "Reckless Driving" chapters of Iowa Code to include those convicted of speeding more than 25 mph over the posted limit.

The top priorities were discussed by the Board. Consensus was reached to have four top priorities including Mental Health and Disabilities Services, Secondary Roads, Tax Reform, and Water Quality Management. Publishing Resolutions, which was recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee, did not rise to the top priority level in the opinion of the Board and staff. The 2018 ISAC Legislative Top Priorities were approved. The Board discussed the 2018 legislative session and top priorities at length and

adopted the member recommended 2018 ISAC legislative policy statements and objectives as amended.

ISAC, the sheriffs, the supervisors, and the judicial branch have been meeting to discuss weapons in courthouses and modifications to the supervisory order banning weapons in courthouses. ISAC members are split in terms of the approach that should be taken for security of non-court-occupied and multi-use spaces in the courthouses. Current discussion is to allow supervisors to request to allow guns in these areas through the Chief Justice. This approach has been well received by sheriffs and supervisors. The Board came to an informal opinion to be supportive of giving the ability to supervisors to decide and request allowing weapons in the non-court-occupied and multi-use courthouse spaces.

President Rice recessed the Board on November 16 and reconvened on November 17.

Lonny Pulkrabek, ISAC Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the committee recommended the following ISAC officers for 2018: Wayne Reisetter, ISAC 3rd Vice President; Burlin Matthews, ISAC 2nd Vice President; Eric Stierman, ISAC 1st Vice President; and Lonny Pulkrabek, ISAC President. The Board approved the 2018 ISAC Executive Committee.

President Rice was honored for her year of service as ISAC President. Outgoing board members Marilyn Dophiede, Tim Huey, and Mark Sybesma were also recognized and thanked for their service.

Katie Cook reported that the ISAC Scholarship Planning Committee recommended the following scholarship amounts for 2018: six top district scholarships in the amount of \$2,000; six runner-up district scholarships in the amount of \$1,000; and a past president scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. The total amount awarded will be \$20,000. The Board approved the recommended scholarships.

Bill Peterson discussed the recommendation that was made by the ISAC Litigation Committee to encourage county participation in the lawsuit against opioid manufacturers. Bill introduced Erin Dickinson, Crueger Dickinson Law Firm, to propose that counties sign on with her litigation team to form a large, unified front on the national level. She discussed her team's experience, the case against the manufacturers, what to expect of the lawsuit for their county, and the counties that have already signed on including all Wisconsin counties. There is urgency to get signed on to the lawsuit. The Board was provided with informational materials and a sample resolution that would be passed by each county. There will be no upfront cost to counties other than staff time to help compile a checklist of items so that the Firm can compile the damages model. The Board unanimously passed a motion to encourage ISAC member counties to immediately support litigation proposed by Crueger Dickinson and Simmons Hanly Conroy to enjoin litigation to hold certain pharmaceutical firms responsible for damages to the public in misrepresenting the safety of using opioids. The ISAC Board encouraged the boards of supervisors to sign a resolution to that effect so that Iowa counties may present a unified front at the federal level. The ISAC Board further directed ISAC staff to facilitate this process.

Rachel Bennett reported that work has begun on ISAC's next set of videos that will focus on property taxes and retaining the backfill and will be released during the 2018 legislative session. A brainstorming committee met to discuss the goals and content of the videos. Three estimates from Bing Bang, a video and marketing company, were reviewed and discussed by the Board. The Board approved the comprehensive estimate as proposed.

Lacie Litton, Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa (Wellmark), gave an overview of the items that impacted rate setting for this year. Inpatient was the biggest driver of trends with utilization remaining constant, but cost per visit increasing by 32%. The routine diagnostic utilization is very good with many plan members taking advantage of routine screening and prevention.

Bill reviewed the statistics and projections for the ISAC Group Health plan. He discussed projections for different levels of specific stop-loss for FY 2019. Bill proposed the following recommendations: base rates with an income increase of 10.18%; doctor on demand virtual visit; updated pharmacy co-pays and out of pocket maximums; discount proposal with loss of discount limited to 5% per year; proposal to pay PCORI fees through FY 2019; and 2019 Wellness Program and funding.

Amy Gould, Wellmark, presented statistics of the Wellness Program including an increase in preventative exams and wellness assessments. She reviewed premium reductions and highlighted future programs and incentives. The Naturally Slim program will be offered for a limited number of volunteers per county.

The Board adopted the recommendations as presented for the FY 2019 ISAC Group Health Program.

Miscellaneous

IPERS Investment Board Update

If you have not visited www.thetruthaboutipers.org and clicked on (and read) the “+” information points, you should! This website was created to provide IPERS members information and answers to questions that have been raised about our retirement system.

Wayne Walter

Winneshiek County Treasurer
Chair, IPERS Investment Board
wwalter@co.winneshiek.ia.us

One of the key points that needs to be made about IPERS is that it is a TRUST FUND. This Trust Fund belongs to IPERS members. The Public Retirement Systems Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the system to make sure the Fund remains secure. IPERS Administration has the authority to make some of the funding changes to keep the system moving toward fully funded status. Remember that the IPERS Trust Fund is made up of payroll contributions paid in by its members and our public employers in Iowa, and as a Trust Fund, it belongs to its members.

During the late 1990’s and early 2000’s, the system was allowed to be underfunded. Payroll contributions for 12 years were at a rate less than necessary to sustain the system. There were benefits enhanced and upgraded such as the change in the “Rule of 92” which was shortened to the “Rule of 88” and a “favorable earning benefit,” which gave some retirees an additional check each year. All this was happening while earnings fell due to outside economic forces. This allowed the fund to fall to approximately 80% funded by 2012.

Legislation was adopted in 2006 to help close the contribution gap, and in 2012 a plan was enacted to slowly fund the shortfall that had occurred. Although there is now a plan in place to slowly return the funding status of the system to 100%, some members of the Senate Public Retirement Systems Committee believe that more needs to be done to secure a fully funded retirement system.

Iowa public employees need and rely on a secure retirement system. It makes sense to have this discussion now about how we will meet our goal of a fully funded retirement system. The study now taking place in the Senate Committee is an effort to strengthen the system by keeping a balance between contribution rates paid by, and benefits for, our members. I am confident we can keep our system safe, secure, stable, and reliable without sacrificing the benefits we have earned.

The IPERS Administration will continue to be involved with this discussion as it moves along.



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Iowa's Treasure Chest

Every day, every hour, and every minute we help ourselves to Iowa's treasure chest. No, it is not a chest filled with gold coins – it is even better!!!! This is one of Iowa's greatest treasures. It is important for us to remember this treasure at any time of the year.

Gerald F. Schnepf

Keep Iowa Beautiful

Executive Director

gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com

Well, what is the treasure chest? It is "you" - Iowans that provide their time, generosity, and talent to help local and charitable causes and needs in your neighborhoods, communities, and around the state. This is a year-round gift that helps others every day of the year!!!

It is:

- Neighbors helping neighbors to harvest a crop
- Everyone that serves the various religious organizations
- All of those individuals that serve on the boards of various charities
- Volunteers that help with schools and education needs
- Iowan's adopting roadways and other public areas to help care for those places
- Citizens that travel Iowa and the country to help with disaster needs
- Those that take non-paid elected offices in state and local governments or organizations
- Those individuals and businesses that financially support or help raise funds for charitable and public efforts
- Those that voluntarily serve others in need – the homeless, the ill, the disadvantaged, and those without food,
- Individuals with special skills and talents that voluntarily help others in need with health, accounting, tax, and legal services
- Those that simply help a neighbor paint a home or fix a fence
- Keep Iowa Beautiful donors, sponsors, and volunteers around our State that work to improve your communities and to support the Hometown Pride programs
- Your friend and next-door neighbor, the business down the street, Iowan's of all ages that provide their "time, talent, and treasure" to make Iowa a better place to live

The following are some figures that reflect the scope of Iowa's Treasure Chest - the Iowa volunteer and individual charitable giving summary taken from a 2015 report from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Overall, in Iowa in 2015:

- 32.5% of resident's volunteer, ranking Iowa 10th among 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- 765,675 volunteers
- 34.0 volunteer hours per capita
- 75.03 million hours of service
- \$1.95 billion of service contributed
- 55.0% of residents donate \$25 or more to charity

Keep Iowa Beautiful is thankful for this Treasure Chest of great people and financial support for making Iowa a better place to live. We hope that you are a part of that treasure chest, but if not, take a look at some ways that you can either donate, provide financial support, or share your talents helping an individual or an organization.

Please take the time to thank those that volunteer their time and effort to help others.

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2018 Calendar

January 2018

- 17-18 ISAC University
(Sheraton West Des Moines)
19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

February 2018

- 1 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)
9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

March 2018

- 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington, D.C.)
14 County Day at the Capitol
(Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines)
15-16 ISAC Spring Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

April 2018

- 10-11 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
15-18 ISSDA Civil School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
19 HIPAA Program Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
26 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

May 2018

- 16-18 Treasurers Conference
(Burlington)
23-25 NACo WIR Conference
(Sun Valley, Idaho)

June 2018

- 10-14 Iowa County Attorneys Spring Conference
(Okoboji)
12-15 ITAG Conference
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)
20-22 Records Summer School
(Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames)
27 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

July 2018

- 11 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
13-16 NACo Annual Conference
(Nashville, Tennessee)
25-27 Auditors Annual Conference
(Iowa City)

August 2018

- 21 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
22-24 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2018

- 16-19 ISSDA Jail School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
20 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office)

October 2018

- 3-5 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Johnson County)
21-24 Assessors Fall Conference
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

November 2018

- 15-16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2018

- 2-5 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

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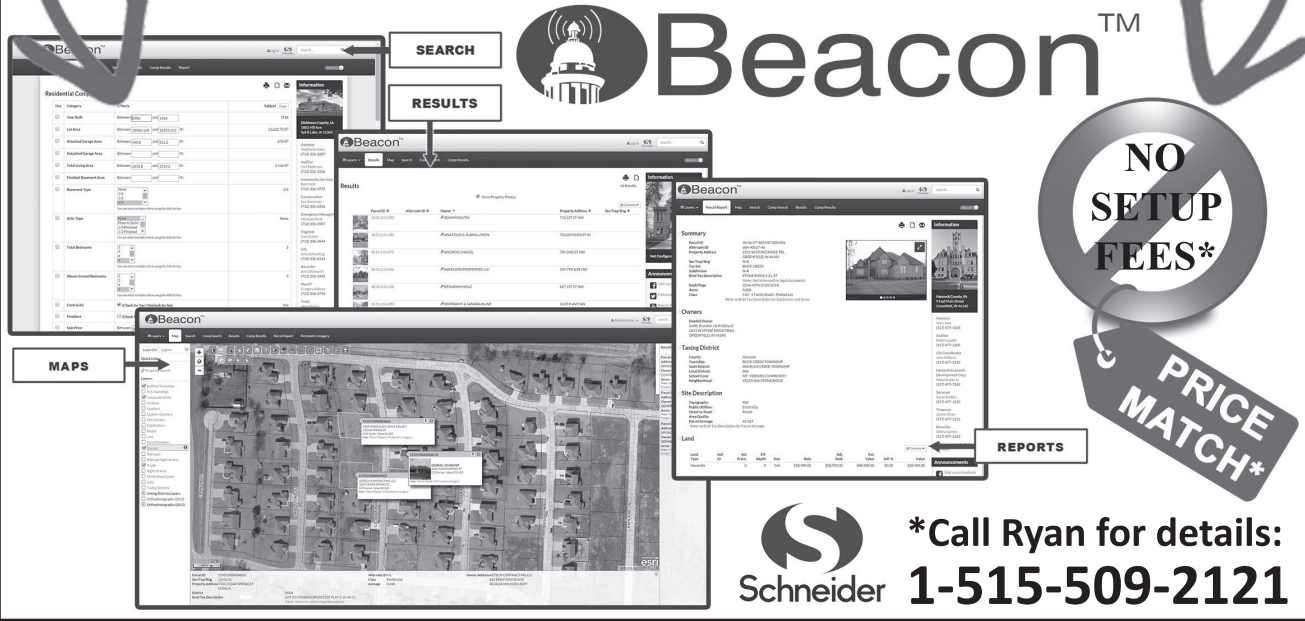
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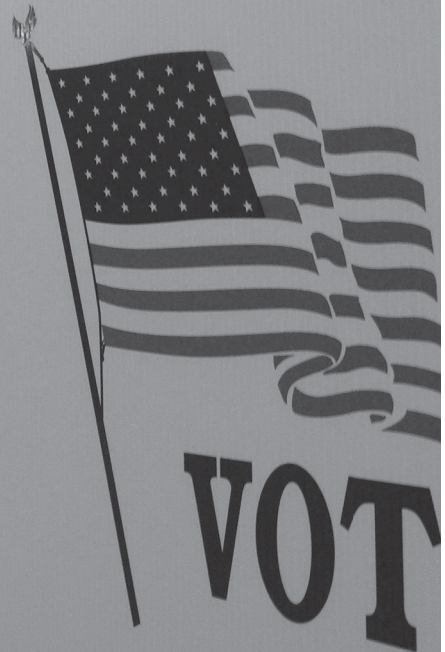
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