

Iowa State Association of Counties

2020 ISAC Legislative Webinar

Welcome and Introductions

- ISAC staff
 - **Bill Peterson**, Executive Director
 - **Jamie Cashman**, Government Relations Manager
 - **Lucas Beenken**, Public Policy Specialist
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ISAC Top Priorities

- **Mental Health and Disability Services**
 - Long-term sustainable funding for Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services System.
 - Governor Reynolds in Condition of the State Address announced Invest in Iowa Act with a portion dedicated to mental health funding.
 - This original plan had to be placed aside when an increase in sales tax was no longer feasible due to the financial strains placed on Iowans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
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ISAC Top Priorities continued

- **Water Quality and Quantity Management, Natural Resources, and Outdoor Recreation**
 - Funding for the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund
 - Governor asked for a full penny sales tax increase with the Invest in Iowa Act which would have fully funded the trust, but unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic eliminated any chance of a sales tax increase.
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ISAC Top Priorities continued

- **Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Backfill**
 - HF 2643 Fully Funded the Standing, Limited Backfill Appropriation
 - **Weight Limits on Secondary Roads**
 - SF 356 failed to advance
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Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Priorities

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, ISAC adjusted its legislative priorities to reflect the political landscape while maintaining some of the long-time legislative priorities.

- **Fund Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services Regions**
 - \$5 million appropriated to Polk County, no funding for the other MH/DS regions was provided.
 - Governor Reynolds recognized the need for funding and set aside \$30 million in CARES Act funding for all Iowa's MH/DS regions.
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Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Priorities continued

- **Direct and Flexible CARES Act Funding to Iowa Counties**
 - \$125 million of the Iowa CARES Act funds would be dedicated to Iowa counties and cities for expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic response. Distribution and guidance are expected shortly.
 - Push that next round of federal stimulus contain funding that goes directly to counties for COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses and related losses in revenue.
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Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Priorities continued

- **Local Government Liability Protection**
 - SF 2338, which contains liability protection for local government in relation to COVID-19 pandemic response, was passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor.
 - **Maintain the Property Tax Backfill**
 - HF 2643 fully funded the standing, limited backfill appropriation.
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ISAC Legislative Objectives

- County Seal
 - HF 2486
 - Jail Medical Costs
 - SF 2191
 - Super Speeders
 - SF 2275
 - Certificate of the Treasurer
 - HF 2481
 - Certificates of Title
 - SF 2265/HSB 676
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Enacted Legislation Affecting Counties

- Firearms Preemption
 - HF 2502
 - Conduct of Elections
 - HF 2486
 - HF 2643
 - Mental Health and Disability Services
 - HF 2643
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Enacted Legislation Affecting Counties Continued

- Veterans Affairs
 - HF 2236 – Veterans Records Fee
 - HF 2382 – Veteran Credit/Exemption Confidentiality
 - Zoning
 - HF 2477 – Agricultural Experiences Zoning
 - HF 2512 – Agricultural Zoning Provisions
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Enacted Legislation Affecting Counties Continued

- Tax Policy Omnibus – HF 2641
 - ATV/Snowmobile Sales Tax
 - Assessor/Conference Board Provisions
 - “Flying Our Colors” License Plate

 - General Fund Appropriations and Policy Omnibus – HF 2643
 - FY 2021 Status Quo Budget
 - Tax Credits
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Opposed Bills That Did Not Pass

- HF 254 - Business Incubator Property Exemption
 - HF 2060 - School Board Elections
 - HF 2070 - Nonpartisan County Elections
 - HF 2191 - ATV Use
 - HF 2205 - Bottle Bill Repeal
 - HF 2518 - County Supervisor Pay
 - HF 2611 - Senior Homestead Freeze
 - HSB 503 - Public Record Copying Charges
 - HSB 664 - Elections and Voting
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Opposed Bills That Did Not Pass Continued

- SF 411 - Assessor Retention
 - SF 535 - Fireworks Sales
 - SF 575 - Elections Changes
 - SF 626 - Groundwater Hazard Statements
 - SF 2014 - Vegetable Gardens
 - SF 2083/HF 2611 - Senior Homestead Freeze II
 - SF 2104 - Property Tax Limits
 - SF 2158 - ATVs on Secondary Roads
 - SF 2368 - Federal Housing Vouchers
 - SF 2388 - Local Animal Regulation
 - SSB 3128 - Renewable Energy Regulation
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Questions?

2021 ISAC Legislative Policy Development

- **July** – Call for Proposals
 - **August 7** – Deadline for Proposals
 - **September 3** – LPC Meeting and Member Comment Period
 - **September 24** – LPC Meeting
 - LPC recommends 2021 ISAC Legislative Priorities to the membership.
 - **October 14-28** – Online Voting Open
 - ISAC Voting Members to vote on policy statements as a package, to vote on legislative objectives individually, and to recommend top five choices for top priorities.
 - **November 18-19** – ISAC Board Accepts Vote and Sets Top Priorities
 - **November 30** – Priorities Sent to Membership
 - **December 2** – Legislative Webinar
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ISAC Important Dates

- **ISAC Virtual Leadership Track:
Leading in Times of Crisis**
 - Registration open at www.iowacounties.org
 - Two-part, two-day virtual leadership track
 - \$50
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