

The Iowa County

magazine

January 2023

ISAC Legislative Priorities and
Objectives



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ISAC's Mission:

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

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

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2023

IOWA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Emergency Medical Services

PROBLEM: The authority to declare emergency medical services (EMS) an essential county service and seek voter approval for a dedicated ad valorem property tax is a positive step to ensure proper coverage areas and predictable funding. However, EMS coverage areas do not always conform to county geographic lines, and this will lead to inequities in who pays for the available service and a lack of service area coordination. The current funding authority could also be improved to accommodate changing needs as a county or regional EMS system is implemented and administered.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code to allow two or more counties to form an EMS coverage area with the same levy rate for all property owners within the district, while maintaining the same requirements as individual counties for voter approval, advisory council responsibilities, and reporting. Further, the legislature should authorize the EMS governance board to set the annual levy rate, after initial voter approval, at a level sufficient to cover the anticipated costs.

Iowa's Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation, and Water Quality and Quantity

PROBLEM: Iowa's natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities are significantly under-funded at the state level. The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund remains empty since it was established in 2010. Legislators and the Governor have yet to raise the state sales tax – the funding mechanism in the Iowa Constitution. The funding formula in state law (Iowa Code Chapter 461) is favored by counties, but changes to the formula are expected. In the end, any changes to the Iowa Code funding distribution must meet the integrity of the language that was inserted into the Iowa Constitution in 2010.

SOLUTION: Raise the sales tax by a minimum of 3/8-cent and retain the integrity of the formula to meet the promises defined in the Iowa Constitution. Any change to the funding formula should be acceptable to county conservation boards and boards of supervisors. There have been proposals to fund the Trust in the past as part of broader tax plans. Any proposal that funds the Trust, retains the integrity of the funding formula, and is a large, net win for conservation is worthy of consideration.

Local Public Health as an Essential Service

PROBLEM: Iowa Code Chapter 137 outlines the requirements for the provision of local public health in each county in the state of Iowa, but funding for this requirement is not mentioned. Currently, this has resulted in each local public health agency being held to different expectations and funding levels. There is no consistency from agency to agency, which hinders the creation of a strong public health infrastructure.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code Chapter 137, Local Boards of Health, to include language to outline funding levels and sources of funding. Funding language currently found in Iowa Code Chapter 80, Local Public Health Services, would then need to be modified to allow the local agency to determine the services necessary for expending these funds.

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Competency and Treatment for Persons in the Justice System and Civil Commitments

PROBLEM: Inmates are confined in county jails when their criminal cases are suspended pending a competency evaluation and treatment (if deemed appropriate) per Iowa Code Chapter 812. Those individuals are frequently mentally ill with exacerbation of severe symptomology. Wait times for inmates in county jails to the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) can be three to nine months and at Cherokee Mental Health Institution (MHI) two to four months. The inmate frequently remains untreated and symptomatic behaviors include suicidal and homicidal ideation, assaultive behaviors, delusional thinking, etc.

Those inmates who are found 'not competent and not restorable' have their criminal proceedings dismissed per law. They are typically returned to the community due to limited beds in the two remaining MHIs. It is rare that MHIs or private community providers have security staff for those individuals who, due to their incompetence, continue to have assaultive or dangerous behaviors. There have been four Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) complaints filed since 2013 resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in fines against the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (IDHHS). It is unknown if or how many civil lawsuits have been filed by staff who have been permanently disabled or the total cost to the State of Iowa.

Iowa Law established competency evaluations to be done for certain individuals who have mental health/brain health issues who have been arrested in Iowa Code Chapter 812.

Four problems currently exist:

1. It can take three to nine months to get a person into state programs that provide the evaluations.
2. Iowa law is unclear on who is responsible for payment of the competency stay under Iowa Code §812.3.
3. When persons are determined incompetent to stand trial, they are not always able to access services while incarcerated and instead, their illnesses may continue to exacerbate.
4. Frequently, hospitals are not able to accept placements of individuals with high acuity into their inpatient psychiatric units due to the level of care that they require and the level of care that can be provided in the unit.

Additionally, Iowa Code Chapter 229, Mental Health Civil Commitment, is outdated and needs to be modernized. This has resulted in a lack of clarity of the role of Judicial Advocates and the need for assistance to ensure Judicial Advocates can perform the duties that are expected of them

SOLUTION: Iowa Code §812.3 should be changed to clarify which state agency is responsible for competency evaluations and holds for persons with mental health/brain health issues.

The state should appropriate dollars necessary to expand the number of beds available for competency evaluations so persons do not need to wait, possibly without services or medication, for extended periods of time to get the evaluations done. This should include programs to treat and supervise individuals found not guilty by reason of insanity (Rule 2.2).

The development of a civil forensic unit should be explored at the state's current MHIs for non-violent offenders and at IMCC for offenders who may be considered dangerous. Once an individual is deemed not restorable but still a danger to the community, that person should be placed in the appropriate unit. If at a certain point, that individual is no longer in the custody of the department of corrections, they should be funded by IDHHS. There needs to be a change in the Iowa Code process in §812 that changes their custody from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to IDHHS at that point. This is not a Chapter 229 issue. Because this originated out of a criminal proceeding, it should not be turned over to Chapter 229.

IDHHS and DOC need to jointly develop a civil forensic unit with input from law enforcement, MH/DS Regions, Judicial Mental Health Advocate, etc. There needs to be a facility where individuals with mental illness can obtain treatment in a secure environment. This will also allow those who have been found 'not competent and not restorable' a multi-tiered program based upon the individual's acuity for a safe reentry to the community.

IDHHS and other state agencies should work with the Iowa Community Services Association, the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association, and the Iowa State Association of Counties to implement Tertiary Care Hospitals in the state that are geographically dispersed to meet the needs of individuals requiring a higher level of care than is currently available in an inpatient unit in Iowa.

Further, ISAC supports the addition of clarifying language in the various areas of Chapter 229 that aid in this process.

2023 ISAC LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

ASSESSMENT REVIEW TIMELINES FOLLOWING A DISASTER DECLARATION

PROBLEM: In years in which federal disaster declarations are issued, the filing deadlines for assessment protests to the Board of Review and the Board's timeline can be extended. However, the dates enumerated in Iowa Code Chapter 441 are inconsistent and there are gaps in time periods when extensions are authorized. Additionally, there is no authorization to extend the time period for informal assessment reviews when there is a federal disaster declaration.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code Chapter 441 to change the filing dates for the Board of Review to May 1 through June 5, to authorize the Director of the Department of Revenue to extend the meeting timeline of the Board of Review to July 15, and to change the deadline for informal assessment reviews to May 25 in years that there is a federal disaster declaration.

CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

PROBLEM: Iowa Code Chapter 321 outlines the process for the issuance of certificates of title and the initial registration of certain vehicles. The code currently requires certificates of title, initial registrations, releases of security interest, and replacement titles be done in the county of residence or primary use. Emerging technology allows the administration of these activities and the collection of associated fees to be done in any county to provide customer convenience.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code Chapter 321 to allow for the issuance of certificates of title, initial registrations, releases of security interest, and issuance of replacement titles to be performed in any county. This amendment should not apply to mobile homes or manufactured homes, or to applications for title submitted through the electronic process. The fees for these issuances should be increased by \$10 to help counties financially adapt to the procedural change.

CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

PROBLEM: In the 2020 General Election, several voters who requested an absentee ballot by mail showed up to vote on the same day the ballots were to be mailed, or in the two to three days following the mailing of the absentee ballot. If the voter insisted on voting in person, the absentee ballot that was mailed had to be voided. This is a waste of resources and caused counties to order additional ballots to account for the extra waste.

SOLUTION: Modify Iowa Code §53.8(1)(a) to read as follows: Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot and immediately after the absentee ballots are printed, but no more than ~~twenty days before the election~~ five days prior to in-person absentee voting pursuant to section 53.10, subsection 1., the commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to the applicant within 24 hours, except as otherwise provided in subsection 3.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

PROBLEM: Iowa law is more stringent than federal law for exchanging information covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA allows for the sharing of protected health information (PHI) and ePHI for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. State law requires releases to do much of this. This affects counties and MH/DS regions when working among themselves and with providers in the General Assistance, Substance Abuse, and Region offices. Public Health, Home Health, and Veterans Affairs agencies are also affected. This requires clients to fill out additional forms and slows down the referral and treatment process.

SOLUTION: ISAC supports changes in the appropriate sections of Iowa Code to align state confidentiality laws with federal protections, but not more stringent.

ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAX CREDIT FILING DATES

PROBLEM: Under current law county treasurers can accept applications for the elderly and disabled property tax credit between January 1 and September 30 each year. Many factors, including the health issues and cognitive ability of applicants, lead to late applications. These applicants can be refunded the amount of the credit, but only after paying the full amount due and completing the refund process through the Department of Revenue.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §425.20 to change the filing deadline for the elderly and disabled property tax credit from September 30 to March 31. This allows for application up to the point of second half taxes being due and is sufficient time for additions to the elderly and disabled property tax credit affidavit submitted to the Department of Revenue. This change would ensure that applicants that qualify receive the credit without the refund process and would reduce the chance of delinquent taxes leading to the property being offered at tax sale.

ELIMINATION OF VOTER ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD

PROBLEM: Requiring that voters receive both a voter acknowledgment card and a voter PIN card when only one would suffice for voter ID purposes is duplicative and is an unneeded expense of taxpayer resources.

SOLUTION: Eliminate the requirement of a voter acknowledgment card in Iowa Code.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUPPLY WEEKEND

PROBLEM: Many Iowa homes, families, and businesses are ill prepared for a disaster and self-preparedness is a key objective for building resilient communities across Iowa.

SOLUTION: To mitigate this issue, ISAC supports the establishment of a “sales tax holiday” in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. This could be used to offset the expenses for purchases of emergency preparedness supplies such as generators, fuel storage containers, bottled water, first aid kits, flashlights/batteries, etc.

EMINENT DOMAIN

PROBLEM: Multiple hazardous material, underground pipelines are being proposed for construction in Iowa, and the use of eminent domain to secure land rights will continue to be contemplated. Aside from submitting concerns to the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB), landowners and county supervisors have little local control in ensuring property rights. The proposed pipelines are not a public utility and arguably do not provide a public use or public purpose that would trigger the eminent domain authority.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code Chapter 479B to prohibit the use of eminent domain by a carbon sequestration or other hazardous material pipeline company that is not a public utility and that is not serving a public use and/or purpose.

IPERS STATUS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

PROBLEM: The responsibilities of emergency management personnel have evolved over the years. Emergency management personnel are often required to be in the danger zone during emergencies. There are several examples of personnel who have been seriously injured in the line of duty. This can end careers prematurely and even shorten life spans.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code to extend the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) protected occupation status to emergency management personnel.

JUVENILE DETENTION

PROBLEM: In 1974, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) bill was passed. One section of this bill was dedicated to removing juveniles from adult jails across the U.S. The State of Iowa pushed the counties to establish juvenile detention centers for the increased safety of this population. As a part of this push, the State of Iowa offered to share the cost with the counties up to 50%. In addition, Iowa Code §232.142 was established to set the state reimbursement rules. Iowa Administrative Code 441-167 defines the program in more detail. The fund of money being used to pay this is solely funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation fines for the reinstatement of driver’s licenses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this fund collection decreased by over \$2 million.

SOLUTION: The Legislature should appropriate additional funding to bring the partnership in this service to 50% on an annual basis. In FY 2021, the amount paid by the state only totaled 8.7%. Counties paid 91.3% of the cost of this service. The state amount of 8.7% is a small fraction for a vital service. As a result, this has created an unfunded mandate for all of Iowa’s counties. To remedy this immediate shortfall brought on by the pandemic, we strongly encourage the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding to address this need.

MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES

PROBLEM: With the historic change in how mental health and disability services (MH/DS) are funded in SF 619, there remains a need to make sure there are safeguards in place to allow for the continuity of these essential services for all Iowans.

SOLUTION: As we move through the transition to funding MH/DS services to the State of Iowa, ISAC supports the state addressing the following issues either through legislation or administrative rule:

1. With the carry-forward balance restrictions being reduced to 5% after FY 2023 in SF 619, ISAC supports an increase to at least 10% to maintain timely payment to providers should the state fall behind in their quarterly payments to regions.
2. Governance board membership should be maintained as is or be equal in ratio to the number of supervisor/non-supervisor members to continue to see that there is local accountability in the delivery of these services.

NONRESIDENT DRIVER’S LICENSE ISSUANCE/RENEWAL

PROBLEM: Under current law, an individual can receive an initial issuance or renewal of a driver’s license or nonoperator’s identification

card in any county. Some counties see a large number of out-of-county individuals receiving these services in their county. This is especially true in smaller population counties neighboring larger population counties, because of shorter wait times and logistics. Because the fees retained by the county does not cover the cost of providing this state service at the local level, property taxes subsidize it. In some counties, out-of-county residents constitute a large portion, or even a majority, of the customers for this service and the home county property taxpayers are subsidizing it.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §321M to authorize a county to charge a convenience fee of \$10 for the issuance of an initial or renewal driver's license or nonoperator's identification card for individuals that are neither a resident nor property taxpayer in the county of issuance.

PARCEL SPLITS AND COMBINATIONS

PROBLEM: Under current law there is no requirement for property taxes and assessments to be paid in full prior to splitting or combining parcels. Issues arise when there are unpaid property taxes, unredeemed tax sale certificates, or outstanding drainage or special assessments because the financial liability is tied to a parcel that may no longer exist. It is difficult to administer collection when the nature of the property and the owner changes.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code to require property taxes and assessments be paid prior to any splitting or combining of parcels.

PROPERTY TAX SALE POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELTION

PROBLEM: Under current law, the annual property tax sale for delinquent taxes is set for the third Monday in June and allowed to be moved to a different date in June if for good cause it cannot be held. Previous natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic proved that a later date in June is not always possible.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §446 to allow the county treasurer to postpone the tax sale on a monthly basis or cancel the sale and offer the parcels at the next annual tax sale if taxes remain delinquent.

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP) FUNDING

PROBLEM: The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program is consistently underfunded by the state legislature. This program invests in the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. The program impacts: conservation education; roadside vegetation; historical resources; public land management; city parks and open spaces; soil and water enhancements; county conservation boards; and state open spaces. The diverse impact of REAP is what makes it such a far-reaching and popular program. All groups in the REAP alliance firmly reject any changes to the REAP distribution formula. REAP is the only state program that provides annual funding to enhance efforts of county conservation boards. The program is scheduled to sunset in 2026.

SOLUTION: ISAC supports full funding of REAP through the Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. An increase in Iowa's sales tax automatically fully funds REAP, now and into the future. The fallback solution is to fully fund the program through gaming receipts as originally intended and to extend the sunset for at least another 10 years (2036).

TRADE NAME FILING

PROBLEM: Under current law, only a sole-proprietorship or partnership is required to register for a trade name with the county recorder when necessary. Recordors are seeing an influx of domestic and foreign entities registering for trade names for various reasons, including to meet the requirements to register to bid at an annual tax sale. The process would be more efficient and provide more transparency if these entities registered with the Office of the Secretary of State.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §547.1 to require entities organized, incorporated, or authorized to do business in this state as a limited partnership, limited liability company, corporation, professional corporation, cooperative or cooperative association, or a nonprofit corporation to register with the Office of the Secretary of State.

UNFUNDED COUNTY MANDATES FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MITIGATION

PROBLEM: Iowa Code dictates that counties are responsible for expenses incurred when an individual is in isolation. The expenses could be used for housing, food, medical, and any other expenses that are needed while in isolation. Isolation times vary depending on the disease, for example: Tuberculosis could be six weeks; Monkey Pox is three weeks; and other diseases. This has placed an unfair financial burden on counties as this has not historically been an expense in public health budgets and the State of Iowa incurs no expense.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code to direct that if the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services issues an isolation order, that the state cover the expenses associated with the conduct of that order.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND

PROBLEM: Counties are required to employ a nationally accredited county veteran service officer (VSO), which requires not only initial training and testing, but continuing education requirements to maintain the accreditation. The annual appropriation to each county commission of veteran affairs for services for veterans may not be sufficient to cover national training needed to maintain accreditation, or the commission may choose other priorities for those funds.

SOLUTION: Increase the annual appropriation to the county commissions of veteran services by \$3,000 per county to be used specifically for national training and related expenses for VSOs and appropriate staff.

ZONING COMMISSION/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERSHIP

PROBLEM: Legislation enacted in 2020 limited membership on county zoning commissions and boards of adjustment to individuals living in the area regulated by the county zoning ordinance. This has led to difficulty in finding replacements and filling vacancies on these important, citizen-driven boards and commissions.

SOLUTION: The legislature should revert back to previous law requiring a majority of the members of the zoning commission and board of adjustment reside in the unincorporated area of the county, or absent that reversion, should allow for the appointment of a member residing within the county but not in the area regulated by the zoning ordinance if the board of supervisors has made a good faith effort to appoint a qualified person for a period of three months but has been unable to make a compliant appointment. Individuals owning property in, but not residing in the area regulated by a zoning ordinance, should be eligible to serve on the zoning commission or board of adjustment.

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Open Meetings and Public Records Law

Margaret Johnson, Executive Director of the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB), will present on the topic of Open Meetings and Public Records Law at ISAC's New County Officer's School on January 18-19.



Margaret Johnson, J.D.
Executive Director
Iowa Public Information
Board (IPIB)

Counties are considered governmental bodies as defined by Iowa Code Chapter 21. This means that groups such as the board of supervisors, county conservation boards, conference boards, mental health boards, and other governing bodies are required to post public notice and a proper agenda at least 24 hours prior to a meeting.

Smaller governing groups that consist of three members have special responsibilities because two of the members gathering in the same place would constitute a majority and could be considered a meeting under Chapter 21. Texting or emailing about specific public policy issues could be considered an electronic meeting, requiring a notice and agenda. Open meetings must be made accessible for the public to attend and observe the action taken.

Closed sessions must strictly follow the laws and procedures outlined in Iowa Code or a violation of open meetings laws occur. Members of a board who are found to violate open meetings laws can be subject to personal liability and face sanctions of damages and attorney fees. Repeat offenders can be removed from office.

Counties also are required to fulfill requests for public records as defined by Iowa Code Chapter 22. Government officials and employees should be aware of the responsibility to release public records promptly. Chapter 22 does provide some exceptions for confidential records.

Fees may be charged to the record requester, but the fees must be reasonable and based upon actual costs. It is important the lawful custodians know these rules and responsibilities. Again, a violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22 can result in sanctions including personal liability, statutory damages, attorney fees, and even removal from office.

Iowa Code §21.10 requires that members of county governments receive information about open meetings and public records laws. ISAC's New County Officer's School is an opportunity to receive this training. As the law clearly states: "Ignorance of the legal requirements of this chapter (Chapters 21 and 22) shall be no defense to an enforcement proceeding brought under this section (of the Iowa Code)."

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Prioritizing Good Government: A Note from Director Goodrich

It's hard to believe that 2023 is just a few weeks away. For us at the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board, the coming year marks two milestone anniversaries. The first is the 50th anniversary of the agency's founding (back then we were known as the Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission). The second is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Board in its current form, complete with the power to enforce Iowa's ethics laws. Both instances represent occasions where Iowans prioritized good government by passing laws to hold politicians and government officials accountable.



Zach Goodrich
Executive Director and Legal Counsel
Iowa Ethics and Campaign
Disclosure Board

In 1973, we were established alongside other campaign regulators at the federal and state levels amidst ongoing scandals with President Nixon and his campaign activities, which would ultimately lead to his downfall. In 1993, we became the Ethics Board in response to an Iowa scandal involving a state senator and his business with government entities across the state. On both occasions, Iowans stood up to prioritize ethics, transparency, and accountability. We have high standards for those in public positions and those high standards necessitate strict laws which our agency enforces.

Enforcing the ethics and campaign laws helps us achieve our mission “to promote the public’s trust and confidence in government by ensuring the integrity of political campaigns, the ethical standards for officials and employees of the executive branch of state government, and the lawful conduct of executive branch lobbyists.” Our mission statement goes on to say that we enforce our laws guided by the principles of fairness and consistency. In an increasingly heated political environment, we are proud to operate independently and devoid from politics. We treat everyone who comes before us the same and we stay focused on the law.

In 2022, our agency managed what turned out to be one of the busiest state campaign cycles in recent history. We enforced campaign laws applying to those running for every office from hospital trustee to governor. At ISAC’s New County Officer’s School in January, I’ll be discussing those laws in-depth, but with special emphasis for the second part of our agency’s jurisdiction: the ethics laws for government officials and employees.

The election is over with, and now the focus shifts away from the business of politics back to the business of governing. Just like running for office, serving in office comes with strict laws that help hold us to those high standards our fellow Iowans expect and deserve. To that end, our ethics laws are designed to prevent corruption primarily when it comes to conflicts of interest, gifts, and lobbying. Enforcing those laws is done in several different ways, ranging from informal guidance to formal legal proceedings, all of which are guided by our principles of fairness and consistency.

Next year marks another anniversary for the agency and for me personally: on January 7, 2023, I will have completed my first year as Director. In my first year, I have had the privilege of working with our dedicated Board and staff, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure high-quality service for Iowans from Lyon to Lee County. Looking ahead, our agency has ambitious plans to modernize, simplify, and streamline. One of my most basic goals as Director is to make the agency better than it was when I arrived. This is not an easy task, as my predecessors have already earned the agency its well-regarded reputation. However, there are always ways we can improve, and our team is constantly striving to do exactly that.

Continued on next page.

Prioritizing Good Government: A Note from Director Goodrich

Our Board is led by our Chair, Professor James Albert of Urbandale, who is the longest-serving leader and member of any ethics or campaign board in the country. Our Vice Chair is Elaine Olson of Bettendorf. They are joined by Jonathan Roos of Polk City, Mary Rueter of DeWitt, Daniel Jessop of Williamsburg, and Leah Rodenberg of Marion to complete our six-member Board. Each are appointed to six-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. By law, the Board is balanced by political affiliation and sex.

Our staff consists of myself as Director and Legal Counsel, Nancy Wood as Executive Secretary, Andrew Greenberg as Staff Attorney, and Tim Annee, Jason Hacker, Vanessa Sayasane, and Marie Spilman as Campaign Auditors. We also have a part-time law clerk, Sophia Scarfo, who is a second-year student at Drake University Law School.

If our office can ever be of assistance to you, please contact us. You can find our information at ethics.iowa.gov or email us at ethicsboard@iowa.gov.

All the best,



Zach Goodrich

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NACo Leadership Academy Alumni Profile

Matt Wyant

Pottawattamie County Iowa, Director of Planning
and Development



Number of years in your role:

15

Don't miss this in my county:

Our trails, parks and public art.

My biggest challenge:

Growth, The County has been known as a large rural County of years. Currently there is a shift happening to a metro County with many opportunities for everyone. All of our systems are updating to new technology along with policies and procedures to ensure a smooth transition.

My motivation for signing up for the NACo leadership Academy:

It was an amazing opportunity to work with jurisdictions across the nation and hear new ideas to better the County and myself.

My favorite part of the NACo Leadership Academy:

It is driven off of Colin Powell. I served under him in the military and if anyone knows leadership it is Colin. His methods can transform any workplace.

My favorite leadership rule of the NACo Leadership Academy:

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

My leadership oath:

Be prepared to listen and don't be afraid to fail.

In my spare time I:

I have become a certified YouTube mechanic! In our line of work many projects can take years to complete and sometimes it does a lot for mental health to see something finished and back running.

I'm most looking forward to:

Some Sun and Fun.

November Board Minutes Summary

President Crouch called the meeting and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kaela Shoemaker and Tim Bunger from BBS Architects gave an overview of the ISAC office remodeling project. They explained the work that they have done with ISAC staff to understand the needs of the ISAC office in the future. Daylight and being a member-focused space with a welcoming entryway were determined to be priorities. They reviewed the progress of optional office designs including cost estimates. A larger conference room with updated A/V and more space for collaboration were included in the designs. Bill Peterson reviewed the current office space with an early draft of the proposed designs. The Board asked questions related to cost of materials, usability of the design, details of the design, HVAC, etc.

After guests were excused, Bill gave a history of the project and a detailed overview of the estimated costs from a short and long-term perspective related to the lease and tenant improvement (TI) allowances. He discussed four options that staff have discussed and considered internally – a full scope, a phased in scope, a smaller scope, and suspending the project for the time being.

The Board asked questions and gave opinions related to the plans that were discussed. Much of the consensus came to the smaller scope options. The Board moved that staff continue to do its due diligence, to go through the process to find out what the scope would be if bid out, and to bring a recommendation to the Board during a meeting in early 2023.

President Crouch recessed the meeting and reconvened on November 10. He led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Mark Campbell, Wester County Supervisor, who will begin his term as a member of the Board in January 2023.

The August 2-4, 2022, meeting minutes of the ISAC Board of Directors, August 25, 2022, minutes of the ISAC Annual Conference General Session, and the September 29, 2022, meeting minutes of the ISAC Executive Committee were passed unanimously.

President Crouch Introduced Jose Garcia, McGowen Hurst Clark and Smith, P.C. Jose gave an overview of the FY 2022 ISAC Audit report. A clean opinion was offered for the entire engagement. The governance letter to the Board was included in the report. Staff was dismissed giving board members the opportunity to discuss any concerns with the auditors. Staff returned. The FY 2022 ISAC audit report was accepted as presented

President Crouch recessed the ISAC Board of Directors and reconvened following adjournment of the ICTS Board of Directors meeting.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken outlined the 2023 ISAC Legislative Priorities as proposed by the ISAC Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). They highlighted new and changes to returning legislative objectives. Rachel Bennett outlined member voting results including top priority recommendations. Jamie discussed and the Board amended the legislative objectives to combine the Competency and Treatment for Persons in the Justice System and Civil Commitments legislative objectives. The Board ratified the 2023 ISAC Legislative priorities member vote as amended. The Board set the legislative top priorities as follows:

1. Competency and Treatment for Persons in the Justice System and Civil Commitments
2. Emergency Medical Services
3. Iowa's Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation, and Water Quality and Quantity
4. Local Public Health as an Essential Service

Jamie gave an outlook of the 2023 legislative session as well as upcoming outreach efforts by ISAC staff prior to the beginning of session.

November Board Minutes Summary

President Crouch recessed the ISAC Board and reconvened following adjournment of the ISAC GBP Board of Directors meeting.

Brad reviewed the financial statements and quarterly investment reports dated September 30, 2022. Staff is currently working on the ISAC 990 that will be brought to the Board in January. The financial and quarterly investment reports were accepted as presented.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an updated on legal matters.

Kelsey reviewed the 2023 ISAC Board of Directors meeting schedule. She also gave an overview of the 2023 New County Officers School agenda. The Board approved the 2023 ISAC Spring Conference agenda as proposed.

Rachel Bennett highlighted the 2023 NACo Legislative Conference agenda including Iowa-specific agenda items.

Bill Peterson gave a brief history and the purpose of the Iowa State Soil Compaction analysis that was approved by the ISAC Executive Committee and ISACS Executive Board earlier this fall. He reported that there have been 37 total counties that have responded to the request for a voluntary contribution of \$600, and there has been around \$18,000 committed.

President Crouch thanked outgoing board members for their commitment and dedication to the Board. He gave his appreciation for his year as president.



2023 ISAC
Spring Conference
March 9-10 | Des Moines

Join us March 9-10 for the **2023 ISAC Spring Conference!** This is the Association's annual business meeting where the ISAC budget is approved by the membership and the ISAC scholarship award winners are recognized.

The conference will also feature educational tracks, networking opportunities, and time to meet with your affiliate.

Registration and additional information can be found at iowacounties.org.

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STATEWIDE SUPERVISORS MEETING



February 2, 2023

Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown

REGISTER TODAY!

Join us for the 2023 Statewide Supervisors Meeting. This meeting features a great lineup of sessions, an opportunity to network with county supervisors from across the state, and connect with Iowa's legislative leadership and vendors.

HIGHLIGHTS

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

A presentation from legislative leadership and lunch with legislators.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Supervisors Government Relations staff will give a legislative primer and updates on the 2023 Supervisors Legislative Recommendations.

PIPELINE CONSIDERATIONS

Information on eminent domain, inspection processes, landowner protection, and more.

CREDITS OFFERED!

Continuing education credits will be offered through the Certified Iowa County Supervisor Program.

LEADERSHIP

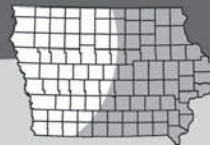
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2023 Calendar

January 2023

- 18-19 New County Officer's School (Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel)
- 20 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

February 2023

- 2 Statewide Supervisors Meeting (Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)
- 11-14 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.)
- 21-24 ISSDA Spring Jail School (Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 22 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)

March 2023

- 9-10 ISAC Spring Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
- 28-29 Public Health Conference of Iowa (Scheman Conference Center, Ames)

April 2023

- 16-19 ISSDA Spring Civil School (Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

May 2023

- 3 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 17-19 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference (Washington County, Utah)

June 2023

- 15-16 Records Summer Conference (Burlington, Iowa)
- 20-23 ISACA Summer Conference (Hilton Garden Inn West Des Moines)

July 2023

- 12 ISAC Education Foundation Golf Fundraiser (Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
- 21-24 NACo Annual Conference (Travis County/Austin, Texas)

August 2023

- 23-25 ISAC Annual Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

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.

2023 ISAC Preferred Vendors

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County Risk Management Services, Inc. representing ICAP and IMWCA Assured Partners

Elite Preferred Vendors

IP Pathways
Summit Carbon Solutions

Endorsed Platinum Preferred Vendor

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Platinum Preferred Vendors

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MidAmerican Energy
Neapolitan Labs
Northland Securities, Inc.
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
Schneider Geospatial
Tyler Technologies

Gold Preferred Vendor

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Cott Systems
Custom Tree Care
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ISG
Kofile
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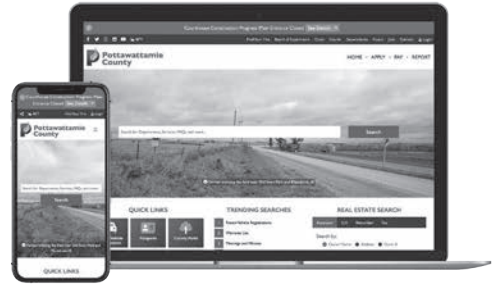


David Bayer
Chief Information Officer, Pottawattamie County

“Neapolitan Labs truly understands county government and how it works. They implemented features that have made my job easier and more efficient.



Rebecca Bissell
Auditor, Adams County



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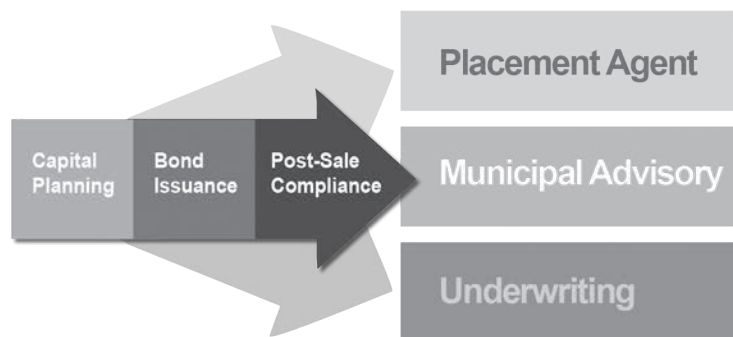
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- Opening these new marketplaces will **maintain strong land values and commodity prices**, while **improving the long-term economic outlook** for ethanol producers and Iowa landowners.
- This project will **support local businesses, suppliers, and workers** to provide a meaningful, ongoing boost to the economy of local communities.
- Summit Carbon Solutions will create **thousands of high-quality jobs** during construction and **hundreds of full-time jobs** once operational.

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- Green Plains, Inc. – Superior (IA)
- Homeland Energy Solutions – Lawler (IA)
- Lincolnway Energy – Nevada (IA)
- Little Sioux Corn Processors – Marcus (IA)
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Health Program

- Early release of renewal rates
- Experience and wellness discounts
- Multiple networks and plan designs
- 28 participating counties



Worksite & Ancillary Program

- Group accident and critical illness plans
- Accident includes wellness benefit
- Voluntary Life and Voluntary AD&D
- Group disability products



Dental Program

- Comprehensive plan portfolio
- Voluntary and contributory pricing
- Broad network of providers
- 29 participating counties



Complimentary ISAC Benefits

- Wellness Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- COBRA administration
- Consolidated Billing



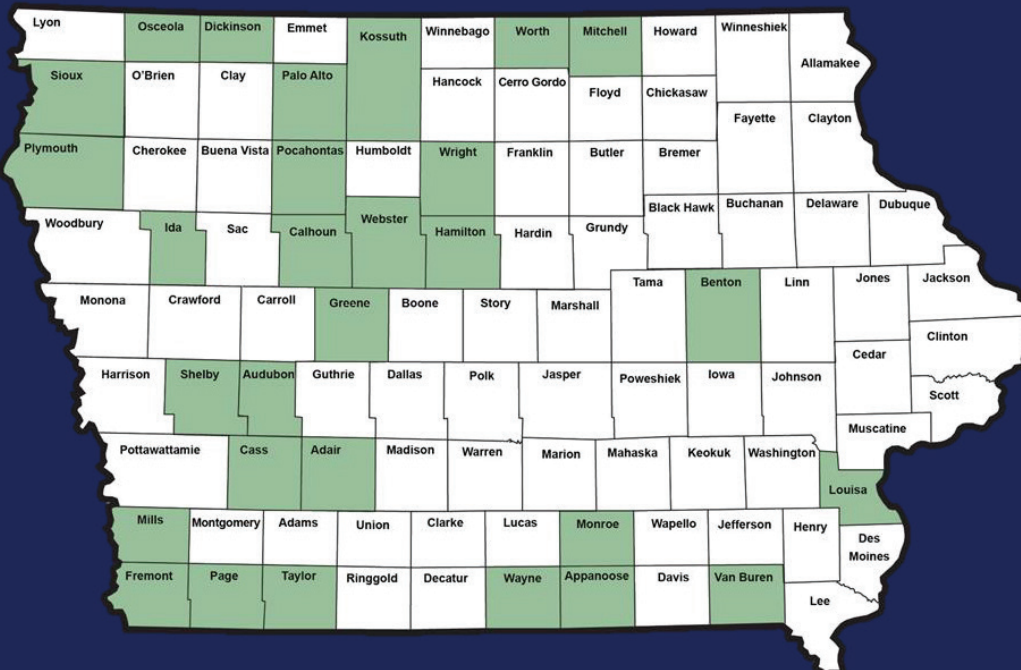
Vision Program

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- Exclusive fully insured county pricing
- Robust provider networks
- 23 participating counties



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