



### Top Priorities

**Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates:** Help reduce the burden placed on local property tax payers by addressing instances of cost-shifting state expenses to local governments. Reimburse local governments for state-approved tax credits. Allow county departments to charge fees that cover the cost of providing services. We also request that the legislature carefully review laws that set requirements for the funding of independent boards and commissions to make sure that elected boards retain oversight authority and control over tax dollars.

**Derecho Recovery & Investment:** Support the ongoing recovery from the August 2020 derecho by continuing to invest in the large undertaking to replant trees lost in Iowa during the storm. Last year, the Legislature allocated \$250,000 to start this effort, but additional investment is needed to sustain progress and recovery.

**Project Financing:** Encourage fiscally prudent project planning by providing counties with the same ability that cities have to issue bonds for projects based on the principal amount of the bond, rather than on the project cost. This ability will allow counties to use federal funds as a match to complete eligible projects.

**Mental Health Funding:** Continue the major step the Legislature took in 2021 toward sustainable funding for both the children's and adult mental health systems by addressing several remaining challenges:

- Comply with the Legislature's promise to fund the mental health and disability services system in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Senate File 619 (2021).
- Ensure that mental health and disability services (MHDS) regions have enough time to spend down reserve fund balances responsibly, and are not forced to remit locally levied property tax dollars to the state regional incentive fund.
- Allow regions to maintain a fund balance that is adequate to ensure that they can make payments to providers on time.

**Iowa's Water and Land Legacy:** If the Legislature considers income tax reform that includes raising the state sales tax, provide adequate and ongoing funding for water quality, natural resources, and outdoor recreation by adopting the allocation formula developed by the Sustainable Funding Committee prior to voter approval of the Iowa Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund in 2010. Iowa Code Chapter 461 creates the Natural Resources and Outdoor Trust Fund and establishes the percentage of money from the fund to credit to various accounts.

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## Additional Priorities

**IPERS:** Oppose any legislative change to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) that reduces benefits for past, present, or future public employees. The IPERS system is financially healthy and IPERS benefits attract and retain a quality workforce.

**Social, Criminal & Racial Justice Reform:** Continue to review and implement the recommendations of the Governor's FOCUS Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, develop and implement policies for law enforcement on anti-racial profiling, and pass additional legislation to address needed hate crime statutory classifications.

**County Zoning:** Provide counties the ability to apply zoning regulations objectively, uniformly, and consistently to the construction of new homes. Oppose efforts to expand the types of land exempt from county zoning regulations.

**Childcare and the Workforce:** Continue to invest in childcare and workforce shortages by developing incentives to increase the availability of quality childcare that promotes the healthy development of children and allows additional people to join the workforce. While the workforce and access issues are a problem across the state, they are particularly acute in rural communities.

**Early Childhood Iowa:** Restore Early Childhood Iowa funding to previous levels to support a comprehensive and integrated early care and education system.

**Fair Chance Hiring:** Remove any questions about criminal records from applications for public employment, housing, public benefits, insurance, loans, and other services, and encourage individualized assessment of the circumstances of any past convictions.

**Conservation Programs:** Invest in Iowa's natural and cultural resources by providing the allowable annual appropriation of \$20 million in the Resource and Enhancement (REAP) fund and continuing to fund the DNR Rivers Program.

**Public Improvement Project Delivery Methods:** Provide public entities the option to use alternative project delivery methods to construct public improvements. Additionally, local governments should have the flexibility to choose between competitive bids when multiple bids may be within a specified percentage of each other to make sure that the taxpayer not only receives the best value, but the best building product and experienced construction team.

**Public Measure Ballot Schedule:** Remove the prohibition from including public measures on a general election ballot. Allowing this practice saves election costs and increases voter participation.

**Public Safety Communication:** Address needed policy changes and technology updates, and provide funding to improve public safety interoperability and 911 communications among public safety agencies.

**Vehicle Cross Titling:** Allow County Treasurers to "cross title," or issue vehicle titles regardless of the owner's home county. This practice allows vehicle buyers and sellers to conduct business in any County Treasurer's office. Currently the law allows this to happen in contiguous counties, we request that this be allowed statewide.

**Cannabis Legalization:** Legalize the distribution, sale, and use of marijuana products under regulatory and taxation systems designed to ensure appropriate use for both recreational and medical purposes.

**Veterans Eligibility:** Amend Iowa Code Chapter 35B to add "or have a VA recognized service-connected disability" to the definition of veteran, so that service connected veterans are eligible for county emergency assistance.

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