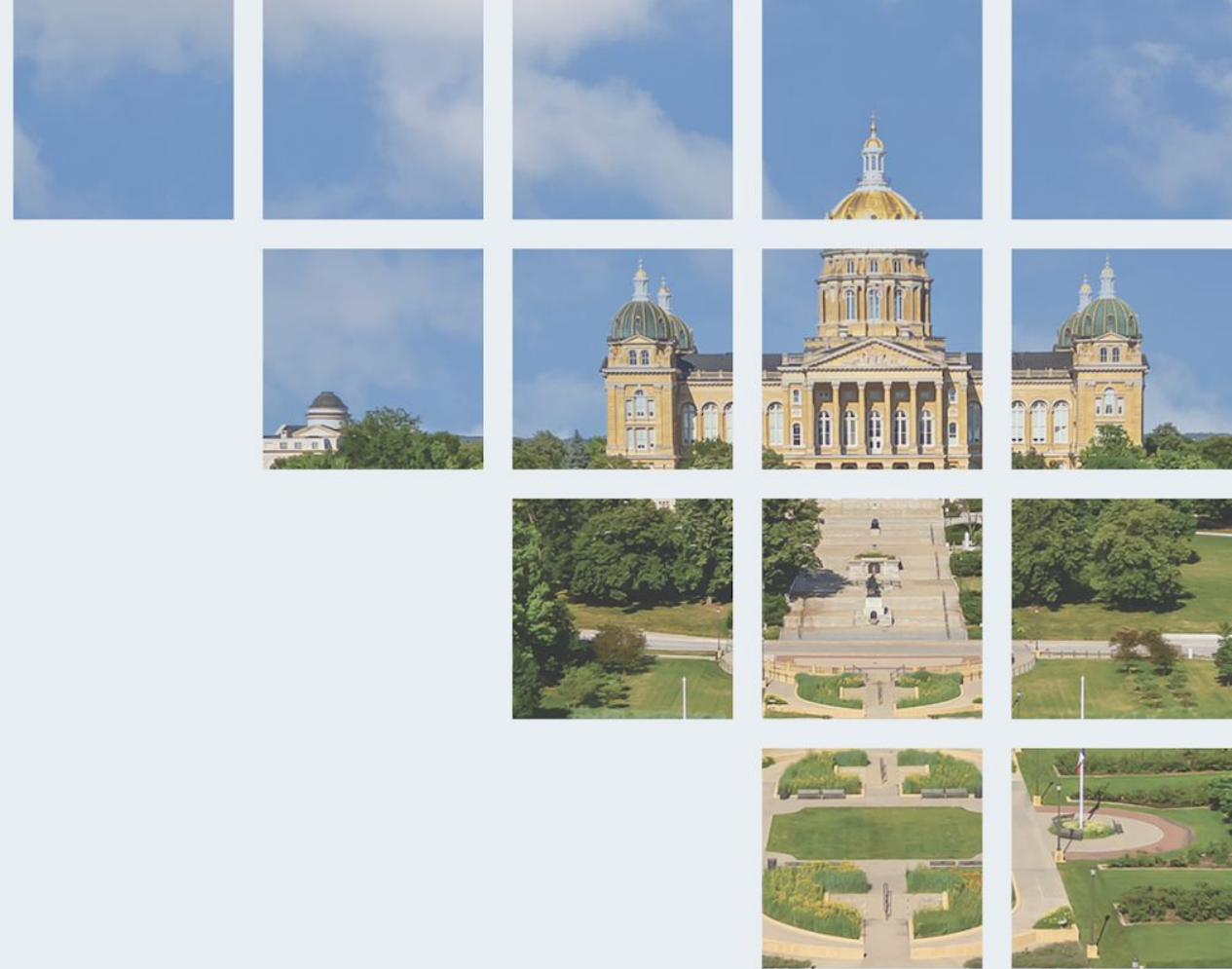

IMFOA Legislative Update

Alan Kemp, *executive director*

Mickey Shields, *director of member services*

Chelsea Hoyer, *government affairs director*

Cody Carlson, *government affairs manager*



Legislative Timeline

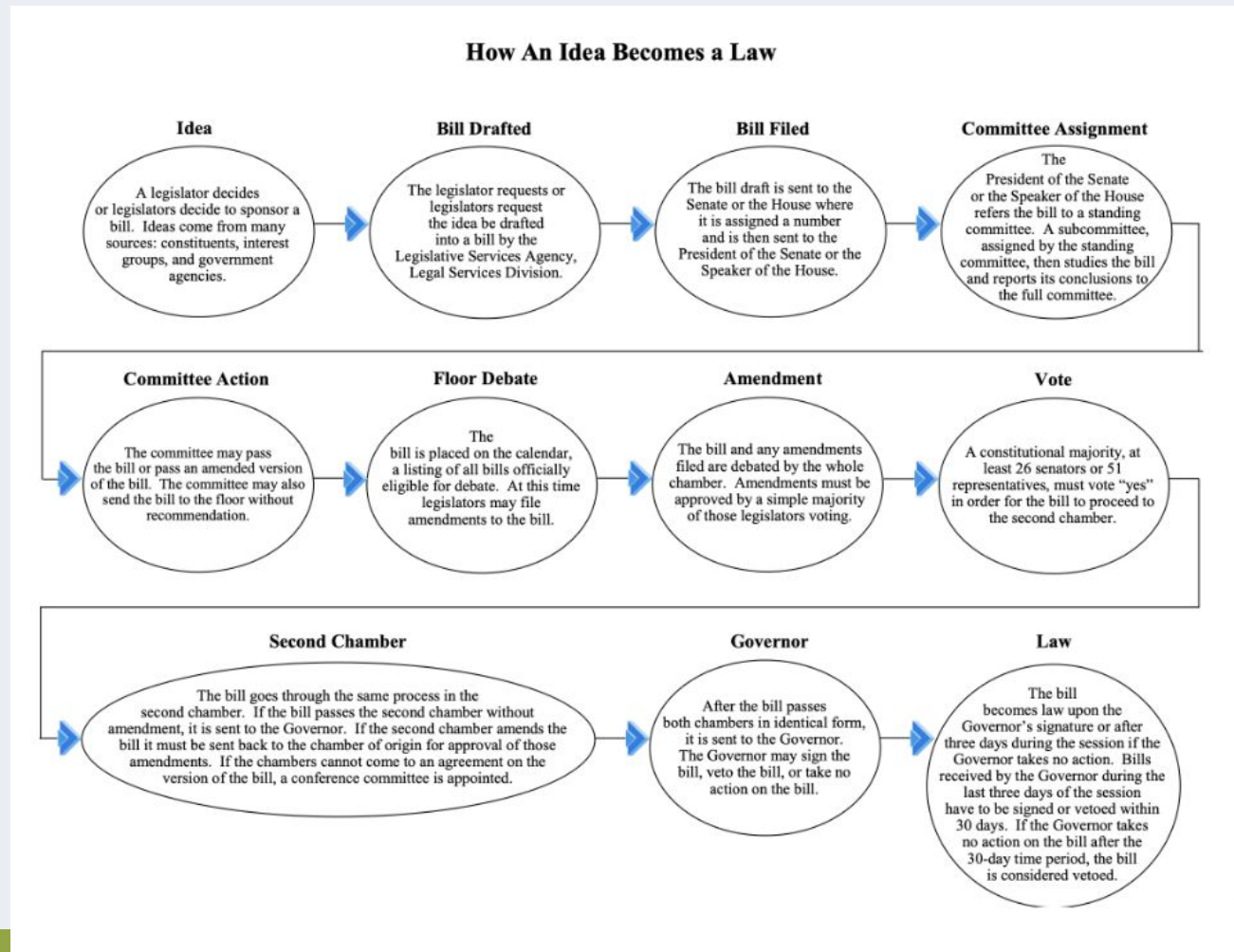
Key dates & upcoming deadlines



-
- **January 13** – First Day of Session
 - **March 3–7** - First Funnel Week
 - **March 31–April 4** - Second Funnel Week
 - **May 2** - 110th Day of Session (per diem expenses end)

Legislative Process

How Does a Bill Become Law?



Legislative Process

“Funnel” Weeks

- At the end of the **first** legislative funnel week, all Senate bills need to have moved through a Senate Committee.
- At the end of the **second** legislative funnel week, all Senate bills need to have moved off the Senate floor and through a House subcommittee.



League's Legislative Priorities



Sidewalk Maintenance & Liability

Return to allowing local governments to assign the care and maintenance of sidewalks to the adjacent property owner, like they can with snow and ice removal.

- **HF 192 & SSB 1118**

Public Notice Timing Disparity

→ **to Governor!**

Pursue uniformity in required publication dates to *Code of Iowa* Chapter 362.3.

- **HF 651 & SF 588**

Police Officers Recruitment, Training and Retention

Cities are struggling with an insufficient workforce for their public safety teams.

Bills of Interest for IMFOA

Failed to Advance

- HF 3 & HF 764 - Automated Traffic Enforcement Restrictions
- SF161 - "Freedom to Garden Act"
- SF498 - Prohibition of Landscape Design Regulations in Commercial Zones
- HF 510 - Special Elections for City Office Vacancies

Likelihood Questionable

- Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Opt-Out (SF 589)
 - *Formerly Solid Waste Collection Rate Regulation (SSB 1190)*
- Exemptions for Storm Water Drainage Charges (SF 600)
 - *Formerly Storm Water Drainage Rate Regulation (SSB 1140)*
- Pet Licensing Fees (SF 496)
- Fire Study (SF 594)
- Length of Service Award Programs for Emergency Responders (HF 1002)

Expected to Become Law

- SF 592 - Auxiliary Dwelling Units
- HF 706 - Increased Penalties for Open Meetings/Records Violations
- HF 856 / SF 507 - Prohibition of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives
- SF303 / HF 44 - Consumer Fireworks Usage/ Sales

Property Tax Reform

- HF92 - Modifies urban renewal law by excluding property taxes for emergency medical services from tax increment financing provisions, with the changes applicable to property taxes due on or after July 1, 2026.
- SF21/SF96/HF75 - Establish property tax abatement opportunities in Iowa, with SF 21 allowing the surviving spouses of emergency services members killed in the line of duty to seek abatement under specific criteria, while SF 96 enables eligible volunteer emergency services providers with limited income and at least five years of service to petition for a homestead tax abatement.
- HF156 - Increase the maximum tax levy for fire protection and emergency medical services in townships without agreements with special charter cities from 40.5 cents to 91 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.
- HF294 - Allows certain cities in Iowa to levy a tax for public library support, subject to voter approval, with a validity of ten years and the possibility of reauthorization.
- HF418 - Modifies property tax regulations by limiting the actual value assessment of residential properties, establishing a gradual increase in assessment limitations for residential property until reaching 100% by 2034, and adjusting property tax levy rates accordingly.
- HF617 - Modifies urban renewal area regulations by increasing the required assistance for low and moderate income housing to 20% of project costs and extending tax revenue divisions to 20 years for certain housing projects in cities with populations over 15,000.
- SJR6 - Repeals the natural resources and outdoor recreation trust fund (IWILL) and establish a property tax relief trust fund funded by an increase in sales and use tax revenue.

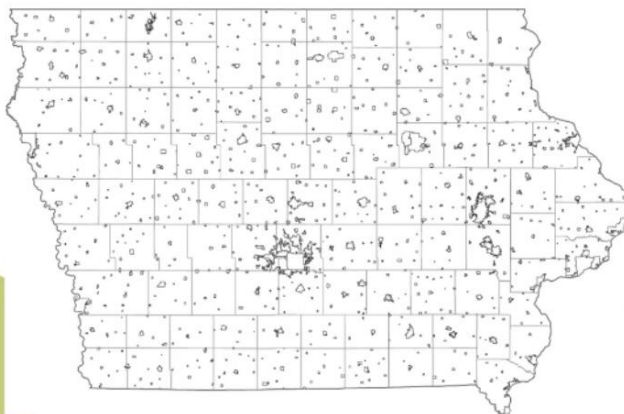
Property Tax Reform (HSB 328 / SSB 1227)

- New valuation continues to be outside the revenue restrictions in the bill.
- 2% revenue restriction on CGFL.
- New: A CPI-based “budget adjustment factor” has been added alongside the 2% restriction, allowing the CGFL to grow under specific circumstances.
- The school foundation levy is expected to be reduced by the state from \$5.40 to \$2.97.
- Increasing the homestead exemption benefit from \$25,000 to \$50,000, providing additional relief to residential property owners.
- Accelerating the rollback removal for all property classifications (excluding agriculture), effective for the FY 2027 budget – eliminating the previously proposed 5-year phaseout.
- Adding a CPI-based adjustment alongside the 2% revenue restriction, intending to help local entities manage times of high inflation.
- Introducing a minimum budget guarantee to provide greater stability for small/non-growing communities.

Iowa DOGE Task Force

- Goal/Mission: Focus on the core functions of government and reduce the cost of government at all levels. Make government more like a business.
- Feedback Form: Submit ways your city is already being efficient!
→ <https://doge.feedback.iowa.gov/>

Administrative Governments: Cities



Est. Cities Annual Cost \$10.00 Billion			
Expenditures		Revenues	
Transportation & Infrastructure	39.0%	Property Taxes	11.1%
Public Works & Utilities	21.5%	Other Local Taxes	8.7%
Internal Financing	14.8%	Local Tax Subtotal	19.8%
Economic Development	7.0%	Generated Income & Services	34.8%
Public Safety	6.3%	Debt & Assets Proceeds	18.6%
Emergency Services	4.1%	Transfers & Internal Loans	14.7%
Policy & Administration	3.9%	Local Intergov Payments	1.4%
Community Enrichment	1.5%	Local Non-Tax Subtotal	69.5%
Education	1.5%	State Revenue	6.3%
Health & Human Services	0.1%	Federal Revenue	4.4%
Social Services	0.1%	Non-Local Government Subtotal	10.7%
Environmental Control	0.1%		
TOTAL	100.0%	TOTAL	100.0%

Timeline



Advocacy 101

- Relationship Building
 - Advocacy is built on trust and strong relationships with policymakers, stakeholders, and the public. Consistent engagement and credibility are key to long-term influence.
- Crafting Your Message
 - The tone of your message is just as important as the message itself. Framing your message strategically enhances receptivity and impact.
- Education & Expertise
 - Position yourself as a solutions-oriented expert using collaborative approach, offering data-driven insights, and demonstrating how your proposals address key challenges.



Thank you!



What questions
do you have?