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
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.
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.
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
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.
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.
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.
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
Enacted Legislation Affecting Counties

- Firearms Preemption
  - HF 2502

- Conduct of Elections
  - HF 2486
  - HF 2643

- Mental Health and Disability Services
  - HF 2643
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
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
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
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
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
ISAC Important Dates

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