

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

November 3, 2022

IowaHouseRepublicans.com

Appropriations

October Revenue – Strong

One word can be used to describe state tax revenue collections in October – strong. October receipts were \$198.6 million higher than October 2021. The significant growth in tax payments for the month helped push overall revenue growth for the first part of Fiscal Year 2023 to 11.7 percent.

Personal income tax payments continued to show solid growth in October, with the state receiving \$382.1 million. This amount is 7.7 percent higher than what came in during last October. This continues the trend of sustained growth in personal income tax payments this fiscal year. Through four months, personal income tax collections are up 9.3 percent in FY 2023. The strong numbers will start to shift after the new year as reduction in personal income tax rates go into effect.

Sales and use tax collections had a very strong month in October, with \$381.3 million collected. This is an increase of \$86.7 million (29.4 percent) over October 2021 figures. The strong month almost completely offset the slow start in sales tax collections for the fiscal year. Through the first four months of FY 2023, sales and use tax payments are down just 0.6 percent. That is still behind the REC's projection of 3.0 percent growth for the fiscal year.

Corporate income tax payments came back to earth after the big numbers experienced in September. Collections in October were \$17.7 million less than what the state took in during October 2021. Corporate tax returns remain solid for the start of the Fiscal Year, with the amount paid to the state in FY 2023 coming in 18.6 percent higher than the returns in Fiscal Year 2022.

Overall, state revenue continues to run ahead of projections. The latest REC forecast calls for state revenue to decline by 2.7 percent when compared to FY 2022's record receipts of \$9.8034 billion. October's figures put actual revenue collected at nearly 14 percent higher than the REC's figure. This will come down as the tax tables are adjusted on New Year's Day to let Iowans keep more of their hard-earned money. But it is also still true that Iowa's revenue collections continue to stave off the inflationary headwinds created by the Biden administration.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

IDALS Urges Iowans to Report Asian Copperleaf Sightings

On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release alerting the agricultural public that a weed first discovered in Black Hawk County in 2016 has again been spotted in 2022, nearly 30 miles away in Grundy County. Due to its potential threat to row crops, IDALS is asking

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Iowans to report any sightings to determine the potential scale of the infestation. Asian copperleaf (*Acalypha australis*) is native to China, Australia, Japan, and other countries in the region and was first discovered in Iowa in a corn field near Cedar Falls. Prior to this discovery in 2016, the only documented infestation in North America was within New York City. The plant was recently found in a soybean field in Grundy County, nearly 30 miles from the original infestation. In both fields, several dense patches of the weed were present throughout the field, indicating the weed was in the field for several years before being identified. It is unknown how the plant was introduced to Iowa, but it is likely the two reported infestations are related. The plant is a threat to row crops in its native range.

Identification

Asian copperleaf can reach heights of 2-3 ft, but most plants found in Iowa were less than 18" in height. Leaves are 2-3" long, lanceolate with serrated (finely toothed) edges. The distinguishing characteristic of Asian copperleaf are the bracts located beneath the flowers. The bracts are circular to heart-shaped with a dentate margin. Asian copperleaf seems to emerge late in the season and remains under the crop canopy throughout the growing season.

Requested action

IDALS is requesting that farmers and others in the agricultural industry keep an eye out for this plant as fields are harvested. If you detect the plant, please contact IDALS at 515-725-1470 or e-mail entomology@iowaagriculture.gov.



(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Commerce

Democrat's Energy Policies Continue to Hurt Consumers

Winter is coming, and many Americans will get a cold shock when they get their heating bills, according to a report released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Bundle up, turn down your thermostat, and prepare to pay more.

On average, U.S. household spending is expected to increase for all heating fuels this winter (October through March), including natural gas (28%), heating oil (27%), electricity (10%) and propane (5%), the EIA forecasts. Higher oil and natural gas prices are the primary reason. Coal plant shutdowns in particular have increased demand for natural gas to generate power.

Households with gas-powered furnaces will spend less than those with electric furnaces or heat pumps. Democrats want all Americans to switch to heat pumps, even though heating with electricity costs more than gas. Heat pumps are also less efficient in colder climates. That's one reason so many in the Northeast still rely on oil to heat their homes.

Another problem is New York's blockade on pipelines transporting natural gas from Appalachia. Democrats in Albany who are blocking the gas pipelines aren't content with raising energy costs in their own state. They want people in neighboring states to feel the pain too.

New York's pipeline obstruction is forcing New England to import more liquefied natural gas (LNG) from overseas, which costs significantly more than domestic gas. The Jones Act, which says that only American-built, -flagged and -crewed ships can transport cargo between U.S. ports, limits LNG from the U.S. Gulf Coast. Several Governors of New England states have asked Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to suspend the Jones Act to alleviate their energy costs this winter. But that offends the unions.

Instead, the Biden Administration is threatening to restrict U.S. refined fuel exports. This would increase global fuel prices and result in higher heating costs in New England, which relies on oil imports. All this means that Americans will pay again for the Democrat's war on fossil fuels. U.S. gasoline prices have been rising again after OPEC's production cuts, and swelling heating bills will compound the pain.

Increased winter heating prices follow directly on the heels of a strained electric grid this summer in places like California. Democrats in that state have aggressively forced a hasty transition to wind and solar power that the state has admitted will mean "energy bills will become less affordable over time."

The cost of Democrat energy and climate policies, among other failures, are leaving consumers with even less in their pockets while they are also facing out of control inflation. These rising energy costs will further hurt Iowans already stressed by the Biden Administration fanning the flames of inflation. This despite the fact that the United States has an abundance of available domestic energy – including natural gas. Biden and the Democrats have consistently discouraged the extraction of domestic resources, driving energy costs and inflation even higher.

Navigator Pipeline Petition Filed, Iowa Speaker Voices Opposition to Waiver Request

Navigator Heartland Greenway filed a [petition](#) October 25th with the Iowa Utilities Board to build an underground hazardous liquid pipeline across 33 counties in Iowa. In the permit request for the 811-mile carbon capture pipeline, Navigator has requested permission to use eminent domain to force unwilling landowners to sell the company easement rights for their land. At this time, Navigator has not listed the specific properties for which it may request eminent domain.

The same day Navigator also requested a [waiver](#) from IUB regarding regulations for land restoration, topsoil survey, and restoration after soil compaction and rutting. In response to this waiver request, Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley submitted an [objection](#) to the waiver request on November 1st.

"I write today regarding a component of a recent request by the Navigator Pipeline. In their request, Navigator made an additional request for waiver of rules surrounding a company's obligation prior to, and after construction. These rules, developed by the IUB, were intended to protect and/or restore (to the greatest extent possible) the landowner's property that will be damaged by the proposed project. This company's request for a waiver to these rules, to my knowledge, is not common, and it clearly displays their concerns with protecting their bottom line over their duty to fairly work with landowners."

Following Speaker Grassley's letter, Navigator filed a [withdrawal of request for waiver](#) on November 2nd.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Over Three Million Awarded for Water Infrastructure

Recently the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced that grant awards totaling more than \$3.3 million have been awarded to the communities of Arcadia, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Fostoria, Guttenberg, Hospers, Oelwein, Spencer, and Yale to assist water and sewer infrastructure projects through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The CDBG program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. IEDA is responsible for administering the CDBG funds in the non-metropolitan areas of the state.

CDBG funds enable communities to make needed improvements to water and sewer systems, improve housing conditions for low-income homeowners, provide facilities for disabled and at-risk individuals, and make transformative downtown improvements.

IEDA received 15 applications totaling \$5.47 million in funding requests and had \$3.3 million available for allocation. Grants are awarded based upon the benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, financial need, project impact and readiness, and commitment of local resources to the project.

For more information on CDBG or other community programs, visit iowaeda.com.



C.D.B.G. Funding - IowaGrants.gov

Applications Received - Water/Sewer

Report Criteria: Grant Opportunity: CDBG Water/Sewer, Application Status: Awarded					
Applicant	Activity Description	Local Source	Local/Other	Amount	Status
Arcadia	Water System Improvements	USDA - RD	\$ 1,914,062	\$ 300,000	Awarded
Crystal Lake	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	DNR/SRF	\$ 433,800	\$ 250,000	Awarded
Elgin	Wastewater Plant Improvements	DNR/SRF	\$ 322,400	\$ 254,000	Awarded
Fostoria	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	DNR/SRF	\$ 434,800	\$ 230,000	Awarded
Guttenberg	Water System Improvements	DNR/SRF	\$ 848,709	\$ 500,000	Awarded
Hospers	Water Treatment Improvements	Other	\$ 891,600	\$ 300,000	Awarded
Oelwein	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Other	\$ 1,246,338	\$ 600,000	Awarded
Spencer	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Other	\$ 1,225,500	\$ 600,000	Awarded
Yale	Installation, Improvements	DNR/SRF	\$ 409,620	\$ 267,000	Awarded
Amount:			\$ 7,726,829	\$ 3,301,000	
# of Applications:			9		

Contact: Kristi Kiouss, 2-5290))

Education

Iowa Department of Education Releases New School Performance Results

The Iowa Department of Education released new results and features in an online school accountability reporting system called the Iowa School Performance Profiles.

The website shows:

- Updated scores and ratings for all public schools based on how they performed on a set of accountability measures in the 2021-22 school year
- Schools that have been identified for additional support and improvement based on their performance
- A new extended designation for schools that continue to need support and improvement based on their performance
- Additional data that are required by law but do not count toward accountability scores

This is the first year since 2019 that new schools are being identified for additional support to meet requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The U.S. Department of Education offered states flexibility from federal accountability requirements for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to the unique circumstances caused by the pandemic.

“This is an important tool for parents, educators and other stakeholders to understand how their schools are performing,” said Iowa Department of Education Director Ann Lebo. “While the Iowa School Performance Profiles does not tell the full story about schools, the website provides important data to help schools with their improvement planning, identifying supports to address high-need areas and improving student outcomes going forward.”

This year, 33 schools representing five percent of all Title 1 public schools, as well as schools with graduation rates lower than 66 percent, have been identified as needing comprehensive assistance and support based on the performance of their students. Title 1 schools typically serve high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families.

Another 337 schools have been identified in need of targeted assistance and support based on the performance of a subgroup of their students (students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, English learners, students with disabilities or students by racial/ethnic group).

Differing from ESSA support status designations, school rating categories were calculated last year and provide a comparison for the new 2022 ratings. The overall distribution of schools by rating category changed only slightly from last year. The Acceptable category saw the highest increase (3.5 percentage points), while the Exceptional category remained the same. The share of schools in the bottom two rating categories (Needs Improvement and Priority) decreased by 2.2 percentage points combined.

The Iowa School Performance Profiles, launched in 2018, meets state and federal requirements to publish report cards reflecting the performance of all public schools.

For more information, visit the [Iowa School Performance website](#).
(Info from Iowa Department of Education)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Environmental Protection

DNR Touts ‘Firewise’ on the Farm

On Tuesday, November 1, 2022, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release recognizing that as Iowa’s annual harvest wraps up across the state DNR is encouraging farmers to get reacquainted with fire prevention practices to keep the farm ‘firewise.’ There has been an extended drought developing during the last two years, particularly in the western part of the state. Many rural areas of the state are now tinder dry. The following simple steps for a safer harvest can save time and money.

- *Properly prepare machinery* to reduce the chance of a field fire from an overheated bearing (check the manufacturer's recommendations). A spark from an improperly lubricated combine can instantaneously ignite dry plants and field debris.
 - Check that all fire extinguishers carried on the machinery are fully charged with loose powder inside. If the powder is not loose, remove the extinguisher from its bracket then thump the canister with a rubber hammer until the powder moves when shaken.
 - Make sure the size of the extinguisher is appropriate for the size of the machinery. You may need larger and/or additional extinguishers.
 - Also make sure you have the correct extinguisher for the type of fire to be extinguished. There are two types of extinguishers, the powder extinguisher for electrical and petroleum-based fires and the water extinguisher for vegetative fires. You may need to carry both kinds of extinguishers.
- *Keep equipment clean.* Check and remove combustible harvest debris from motors, exhausts, ledges and brackets several times a day. A portable gas-powered leaf blower is great for blowing debris from the various surfaces of the combine.
- *Service grain storage and drying equipment.* Storage facilities are like your bank vault. Protect their contents by properly servicing all bearings, belts, motors and drags. Dryers frequently cause fires, so before drying grain have a qualified service technician perform the necessary maintenance. Keep weeds mowed around the facilities to discourage a fire from spreading. All extinguishers should be handy, fully charged, and the proper size and type for the area.
- *Turn off interior lighting in overfilled bins.* A grain fire will start if the grain surrounds the bulb. Turn off the light's breaker to avoid accidentally turning the light on. This also applies to hay storage facilities.
- *Handle hay properly.* Improper hay storage commonly causes or complicates farm fires. Preventative measures greatly reduce this risk.
 - Planning proper hay storage is crucial. Store hay away from combustibles such as gasoline, fertilizers and pesticides, as well as open burning areas like burn barrels, brush piles and vegetative burning. Arrange round bales in groups of 10 or fewer and place at least 100 feet away from structures. Leave 30 feet of mowed grass, bare ground or rock between the bale groups, creating a solid fire break.
 - Many hay fires occur by spontaneous combustion of moist hay, usually within six weeks after baling. Plan to bale hay at its driest stage and do not bale in the morning dew or too soon after a rain.
 - Check stored hay frequently for hot hay or an internal hay fire. Be aware of a caramel or strong burning odor, a visible vapor or smoke, a strong musty smell, and/or hay that is hot when touched. If any of these occur, call the fire department immediately and do not move the hay. Moving it exposes overheated or smoldering hay to oxygen, speeding the fire.
- *When tilling in the fall, till a 30-foot break* around building sites, remote bin sites and outside storage facilities to minimize fire spread, and around fields if there is excess fine fuels in the area. Remove weeds and other combustibles around structures and stored equipment.
- *If a fire occurs, remain calm, call 911 immediately.* Provide clear, concise directions to your location. Many field and bin sites do not have 911 addresses, so be prepared to identify an intersection or landmark to direct responders.
 - To help control field fires until firefighters arrive, remain calm and act swiftly. Quickly disk a fire break approximately 15 feet wide around the fire. Be cautious when doing this as smoke will starve and stall a motor and will make hazards and bystanders difficult to see.
 - To assist with a structural fire, make sure there are no flammable objects nearby and if the circuit panel is safely accessible, turn off the building's electricity. If time allows, evacuate any livestock to a distant pasture. If possible, spray high-pressure water on any surrounding vegetation or structures, discouraging spreading embers. Do not take risks.
 - After using any equipment to fight a fire, check air filters, ledges, nooks and crannies for burning debris. For more detailed information, visit www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Fire-Prevention/Fire-Protection-Prevention.

- Remember, *in a fire emergency, call 911 immediately*. Do not wait until all your means of fighting the fire are exhausted. Every minute impacts your losses.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Human Resources

Mental Health Spending

Over the last five sessions, House Republicans have made mental health a priority by passing significant legislation. These bills include efforts to expand access to mental health services for all ages, create a sustainable, long-term funding system, provide training to help schools address student mental health needs, and increase the mental health workforce throughout the state.

Unfortunately, every election cycle, Democrats use the inaccurate talking point that “we are not funding mental health.” This couldn’t be farther from the truth.

The below chart is the total amount spent in taxpayer dollars towards mental health services in Iowa in fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). It was almost \$1 billion!

SFY2021 Total Expenditures By Funding Source				
FUNDING SOURCE	ADULT	CHILD	UNKNOWN AGE	TOTAL
Medicaid	\$ 616,983,224	\$ 230,120,387		\$ 847,103,612
MHDS Region	\$ 49,826,736	\$ 2,320,408	\$ 39,975,180	\$ 92,122,324
MHBG	\$ 1,967,968	\$ 1,955,525		\$ 3,923,493
MHI	\$ 18,868,702	\$ 3,294,762	\$ 18,217,944	\$ 40,381,408
TOTAL	\$687,646,630	\$237,691,082	\$ 58,193,124	\$ 983,530,837

This does not include any of the below appropriations that the legislature has made over the last two years which amounts to an additional \$166.8 million annually.

- \$120.28 million to the Mental Health and Disability Services Regions (this was funded by property taxes in FY2021).
- Provided an increase of \$20 million to home-based habilitation providers. These providers help individuals with mental illness live in their community and not in the hospital or jail.
- \$10.3 million increase to Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children (PMICs)
- \$4 million for psychiatric tiered rates so that hospitals are reimbursed based on the acuity of the patient.
- \$4.8 million to establish 12 psychiatry residencies through the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, with a focus on training at state facilities, including the mental health institutes, Eldora State Training School, and Woodward Resource Center.
- Provided an increase of \$2.7 million buydown to reduce the children’s mental health waiver waitlist.
- \$800,000 towards a rural psychiatry residency program through UIHC.
- \$520,000 per year towards a mental health professional loan repayment program for mental health professionals that agree to practice in a mental health shortage area in Iowa for at least 5 years.
- \$1.1 million for AEAs to conduct mental health awareness training for educators
- \$1.6 million for the therapeutic classroom incentive fund as well as \$500,000 for classroom environmental professional development and \$500,000 for therapeutic classroom transportation.
- \$3.4 million towards Behavioral Health Intervention Services

House Republicans will continue to monitor progress in expanding access to mental health treatment throughout the state, and are committed to evaluating additional funding needs in the future.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Judiciary

House Republicans Continue to Fight for Iowans Freedom and Safety

What have Iowa House Republicans done to help Iowa remain a great place to live, work and raise a family?

While Democrats were trying to defund the police, loosen laws on sex offenders, target private religious practices and take freedoms away, House Republicans worked hard to protect the public, back the blue, and ensure Iowans Constitutional rights were upheld. Below are a few bills passed by both the House Judiciary and Public Safety committees in the past two years that have improved life and protect the innocent in our great state.

HOUSE FILE 744-FREE SPEECH

HF 744 protects the free speech of students and faculty in K-12 education and in college. The bill requires free speech training for students and faculty and provides penalties if free speech is unnecessarily restricted.

HOUSE FILE 802 RACISM AND SEXISM TRAINING

Marxist based Critical Race Theory has infected many K-12 schools, community college and universities. The bill prohibits teaching that one race or sex is superior to another or that one race or sex is inherently racist, or sexist.

HOUSE FILE 889- VACCINE PASSPORTS

HF 889 prohibits government created COVID-19 vaccine passports. The bill prohibits business and governmental entities from requiring a person to provide information on their COVID-19 vaccination. A business or governmental entity who requires this information cannot qualify for a state grant or state contract. Health care facilities are exempt.

HOUSE FILE 756- FIREARMS

The bill removes the requirement to have a permit to carry or purchase a weapon. The bill does NOT end background checks and does not allow felons or other person prohibited from buying or possessing firearms to possess them. The bill also ensures law enforcement can carry their firearms while in the course of their duty. Landlords who accept government assistance housing are also prohibited from banning firearms. Smaller additional changes to firearms laws.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7-FREEDOM AMENDMENT

SJR 7 adds firearms rights to the Iowa Constitution. The Federal Constitution has the 2nd Amendment (A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.), but Iowa's Constitution is silent on this right. The proposed language would recognize the right of the people to keep and bear arms and subject any infringement on this right to a strict scrutiny review by the Courts.

SENATE FILE 342 BACK THE BLUE

SF 342 protects law enforcement officers.

- Allows peace officers and others to join the safe at home program and keep their name and address private.
- Adds unmarked cars to the list of law enforcement vehicles a person must stop for.
- Clarifies that shining a laser in a person's eyes is an assault.
- Increases penalties for blocking a roadway, harassing peace officers, damaging public property and disorderly conduct.
- Prohibits Interference with public disorder control
- Ensures that laws are enforced and prohibits local governments from stopping law enforcement from doing their job.
- Codifies qualified immunity
- Increases penalties for rioting and public disorder.

- Protects a driver from civil litigation if they are exercising due care and injure someone blocking traffic.

HOUSE FILE 2220-ANTI-SEMITISM

House File 2220 provides a clear definition of anti-Semitism. The definition is one adopted by the international Holocaust remembrance alliance on May 26, 2016. This definition will be used for helping determine when instances of illegal anti-Semitism actions occur.

HOUSE FILE 2372- NONCONSENSUAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

House File 2372 makes it a class "D" felony to attempt to terminate a pregnancy without the mother's consent.

HOUSE FILE 2481-JUDICIAL NOMINATION REFORM

House File 2481, as amended makes changes to the judicial Nomination Qualification Commission. The bill expands the number of eligible judicial applicants by allowing lawyers in contiguous counties to the judicial district or sub district to apply to be a judge, allows 5 names to be submitted to the Governor for the court of appeals, and treats the selection of District Associate Judges like the selection process for other judges in the state.

(Contact: Amanda Wille, 1-5230)

Labor

Labor Market Information Data Releases: Projections, Profiles, and More!

Area Profiles are created using Iowa Workforce Development, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau data. They are now available by *Local Workforce Development Areas* and *Metropolitan Profiles* for Iowa's nine Metropolitan Areas. These reports include industry wages and employment, top occupations, workforce indicators, and several 'quick facts'. These can be accessed on our Area Profiles page found here: <https://www.iowalmi.gov/area-profiles>.

The 2020-2030 long-term occupational projections, also known as forecasts, have also been released for the State of Iowa and the nine local workforce development areas (LWDA) in Iowa. Occupational projections provide detailed information on the estimated activity for each occupation in areas of employment, growth rate, new, replacement, and total annual openings. All wage and salary data shown on the occupational projections page have also been updated to reflect the [2022 Iowa Wage Report](#). Short-term projections (2021Q2-2023Q2) are also available.

To view the updated occupational projections data visit the [Occupational Projections](#) page.

The 2020-2030 long-term and 2021Q2-2023Q2 short-term industry projections are available as well; for the State of Iowa and its nine local workforce development areas (LWDA). Industry projections provide detailed information on the estimated activity for each industry in terms of employment, growth, and changes in employment.

To view the updated industry projections data visit the [Industry Projections](#) page.

Lastly, the Labor Market Information (LMI) Division also provides on its web pages data specific to Iowa from the American Community Survey (a product of the U.S. Census Bureau). This data has recently been updated to the 2021, 1-Year ACS release and is available here: www.iowalmi.gov/acs. The 5-Year ACS release is scheduled to be published this coming December and the LMI Division will update the Iowa data on the site shortly thereafter.

Click on the links to view information and statistics for your area, view projections for certain occupations, industries and more.

(Info from Iowa Workforce Development)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Natural Resources

DNR Notes that Fall is a Great Time to Plant Shade Trees

On Tuesday, October 18, 2022, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued press release which observed that it's not too late to plant some varieties of shade trees before winter sets in. Fall is an ideal time to plant new trees with mild temperatures and adequate ground moisture. Properly planted trees should have a long, healthy life. The keys to a successful shade tree planting include selecting a species that matches your site's growing conditions (i.e. soil type, soil drainage, available growing space, full sun or shade, etc.), proper planting, and quality tree care and maintenance throughout the tree's life. Always call Iowa One Call-811 before you start digging to locate any underground utilities. A five-minute video produced by the Iowa DNR provides tips on how to properly plant a tree from a container and avoid very common mistakes. Go to www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Urban-Forestry to view the video.

Key tips from the video include:

- Before digging the planting hole, pull any additional soil away from the top of the root ball to identify the first main lateral root.
- Measure the distance just above the first lateral root to the bottom of the root ball; that is the depth that you should dig the planting hole. Proper planting depth is key to long-term tree survival. If the hole is dug too deep the tree can settle over time which can cause long-term health issues.
- Once you remove the root ball from the container, look for roots that seem to be growing around the root ball. Remove these roots to improve the long-term health of the tree. Use a hand saw to sever those encircling roots a half inch to an inch deep into the root ball. Shave off the encircling roots on all sides of the root ball. Also remove any encircling roots on the bottom of the root ball.
- Attempt to dig the planting hole at least twice the width of the root ball. If the sides of the planting hole are smooth, use the sharp end of the shovel to add texture to the sides of the hole to allow the new tree roots to penetrate the soil profile.
- Avoid any kind of soil amendments in the planting hole; instead use the soil from the original hole to refill around the roots of the tree. The final soil level should cover the first main lateral root. As you refill the hole gently pack the soil around the root ball with your hands.
- Once the tree is planted, slowly water the planting hole (focus water in the location of the root ball) to settle the soil. As the tree grows be sure to water the expanding root system further away from the initial root ball.
- In the first year or two after planting, timely watering, mulching, and in some cases staking can be critical for success. Once a tree is well established, structural pruning can help maintain a quality tree into the future. Learn more about proper tree care after planting at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5096>

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

State Government

Last Week of Election Cycle

We are now entering the last week of the election cycle. Voters are currently able to vote early at approved satellite locations, in their county auditors office, or on **November 8 from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM** at their polling location. Voters who have received absentee ballots by mail from their county auditors need to have their completed ballots returned to their county auditor by 8:00 PM Tuesday, November 8.

As of November 1, there were 46,038 absentee ballots issued to voters that have not yet been received by their county auditors. Absentee ballots must be received by the county auditor by the time polls close in order to be considered returned on time. If you have sent your ballot back to the county auditor's office, you may track your absentee ballot [here](#) to confirm when your auditor has received the ballot.

For voters who have not requested an absentee ballot to be mailed to them, there are still multiple options to vote. Voters can go to their [County Auditor's office](#) to find out when and where satellite voting locations are, voters can absentee vote in person at the county auditors office during business hours, and of course voters may vote in person on election day at their polling location. Absentee voting in person at the county auditor's office is not available on election day. If you are planning to vote in person on election day, make sure you know where your polling location is and are prepared to show valid identification. You can find step by step information for voting such as county auditor information, precinct locations, identification requirements, and absentee ballot tracking at <https://voterready.iowa.gov>.

Secretary of State's Office is Doubling Post Election Audits in all 99 Counties

Iowa's elections have maintained a high level of security and trust throughout the years in part to House Republicans increasing transparency and election integrity. One source of confidence in our election security is the post-election audits conducted in a random precinct in every county by the Office of Secretary of State. After the 2020 General Election, the Secretary of State's office conducted 101 audits across all 99 counties and there were no issues with the results audited. To expand and ensure trust and transparency in our elections the Secretary's office will double the number races audited in each county following the 2022 general election.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

Overweight Load Regulations Suspended for Fall Harvest

Gov. Kim Reynolds recently extended a proclamation allowing the transportation of oversize and overweight loads of grain, fertilizer, manure and motor fuels until November 27.

This proclamation allows vehicles transporting soybeans, corn, hay, straw, silage, fertilizer, manure, and stover to be overweight (not exceeding 90,000 pounds gross weight) without a permit, for the duration of this proclamation.

A separate proclamation allows vehicles transporting motor fuels to be overweight, and temporarily suspends regulatory provisions of Iowa law pertaining to hours of service for crews and driers hauling motor fuels. This proclamation also expires November 27th to ensure timely access to these fuels.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Veterans Affairs

Jacobus named Director of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Home

Governor Kim Reynolds recently announced the appointment of Todd Jacobus as the Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home.

"Commandant Jacobus brings tremendous leadership experience and an extensive military background to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a proven leader dedicated to fighting for the very men and women he too served with for three decades," said Gov. Reynolds. "His deep appreciation and passion will greatly benefit our veterans and ensure they receive the very best care and services."

Jacobus is a retired Colonel of the United States Army and Iowa Army National Guard, serving 33 years and taking part in three overseas missions for our state and country. Jacobus served for six years on the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, serving as chair for two years. Since retiring from the military, Jacobus has continued to stay connected to veterans' affairs and volunteers with many veterans' organizations.

Jacobus holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arts, English and a Secondary Education Teaching Endorsement from the University of Iowa. He also received his master's degree in Public Administration from Drake University and is a Senior Service College Fellow with the International Security Studies Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

"Thank you to Governor Reynolds for providing me the opportunity to serve as Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home and Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. I look forward to working with the outstanding leadership team and staff, elected officials, the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, Veterans organizations and advocacy groups, and the community of Marshalltown as we work together to provide the very best support network for fellow Iowa Veterans. It's an honor to serve."

Jacobus' appointment is effective November 7 and is subject to Senate confirmation.
(governor.iowa.gov/)

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Ways & Means

Where Do They Come Up With My Property Tax Bill?

Did you know your assessed value is NOT your taxable value? The various taxing jurisdictions apply tax rates to your taxable value, not your assessed value. Your assessed value is just the market value of your home. What is the taxable value? Taxable value is the part of your assessed value that is taxable. Just like not all of your income is taxable—not all of your house is taxable!

In Iowa increases in assessed values for residential and agricultural property are subject to an assessment limitation formula. This formula does exactly what it appears to do. It limits the amount your property assessment (and therefore taxes) can increase year over year.

If the statewide increase in values of homes and farms, classified as residential or agricultural properties, exceeds 3 percent, the values of those properties are limited so that the total increase in aggregate value statewide is 3 percent. Iowa does not limit *individual* property from increasing in assessed value by more than 3 percent—it does that for the *entire class* of property. Some will increase more than 3 percent and some will decrease. But the overall the increase will be 3 percent or less.

Why do some Iowans see their assessed value increase by double digits like 20%? The Department of Revenue calculates a rollback rate. The Department will figure out how much of your assessed value should actually be taxed so as to not violate the 3 percent assessment limitation. The 2022 rollbacks were ordered last week and are:

- Agricultural—91.6430%
- Residential—56.4919%

This represents the percentage of your assessed value will actually be taxed (will have the tax rates applied to it). The main reason Iowa does this is to keep Iowa's property taxes as predictable and stable as possible. It does not solve all issues—but it strikes the balance between wanting to give property owners some predictability without locking assessments on an individual property basis and forcing local governments to live in constant unpredictability.

(Contact: Kristi Kiou, 2-5290)