

Governor's Emergency Powers

This week we passed a piece of legislation reforming the Governor's emergency powers. This is a bill for which I have been an advocating for over five years. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed just how easily a Governor can overreach. I thought Governor Reynolds exercised restraint that other Governors did not, but you did see vast overreach in states like California, Illinois and Minnesota. People's constitutional rights were impeded. This bill ensures that this will never happen in Iowa regardless of whether a Democrat or Republican is in charge. A Governor's powers, regardless of party, are NOT absolute and cannot be used to suspend the fundamental rights of Iowans.



YOUR CAPITOL VOICE

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann

The legislation puts four essential protections into law:

1. A Governor cannot close a place of worship. You saw this right infringed upon in many blue states even though your rights to worship are absolute.

2. A Governor cannot unilaterally change election law. You saw this in other states as well. Election law is NOT to be made by a single executive but rather by the legislative branch.

3. A Governor cannot mandate a vaccination. This applies to ONLY vaccinations deriving from the public emergency such as the Covid-19 vaccine. This has nothing to do with immunizations you give to your children.

4. A Governor cannot regulate conduct within a private residence. This was perhaps the most absurd of all the abuses back in 2021. You saw some Governors across the country attempt to regulate how many friends and families you can have over for the holidays or frankly for any reason and that is a wildly egregious abuse of our rights.

The bottom line is that Iowans value our freedom and we will not be suspending them on a whim. This legislation ensures that deeply personal decisions are made by you and not the Government.

I want to thank everyone attending my Listening Posts. Unlike last year, no one is trying to disrupt and interrupt others in attendance. There have been excellent opportunities for people of all political opinions to share. One of the far-left radical letter writers in the paper the last few weeks wrongly insinuated that I am unapproachable. Of course that was a fib, but I wanted to share with you that last week in the Capitol I sat down and had a conversation on policy with my former opponent from 2024. It was a good conversation and he would reinforce that. I may disagree but I will listen to all opinions.

Listening Post Schedule (March 21):

9-10:30 a.m. Walcott American Legion
 Contact Representative Kaufmann:
 e-mail: Bobby.Kaufmann@legis.iowa.gov
 phone: 563-260-3355
 mail: 1527 330th Street, Wilton Iowa 52778

CBO Estimates \$1 Trillion Deficit For First Five Months of FY 2026

The United States borrowed \$1.0 trillion in the first five months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, including \$308 billion in February, according to the latest Monthly Budget Review from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The following is a statement from Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget:

"Another month of the fiscal year means another month of borrowing. The budget deficit has already totaled \$1 trillion in the first five months of FY 2026, with \$308 billion borrowed solely in the month of February, according to CBO. February was a big month for the budget, with CBO projecting we'll see a \$1.9 trillion deficit this year, debt on track to surpass its record by 2030, and interest payments on the debt on track to exceed \$1 trillion this year and every year until surpassing \$2 trillion by 2036. This cannot be sustainable.

"Our fiscal problems will not solve themselves. We need policymakers to come together, agree to reduce deficits - a 3% deficit-to-GDP target would be a great start - and put our national debt on a downward sustainable path as a share of the economy."

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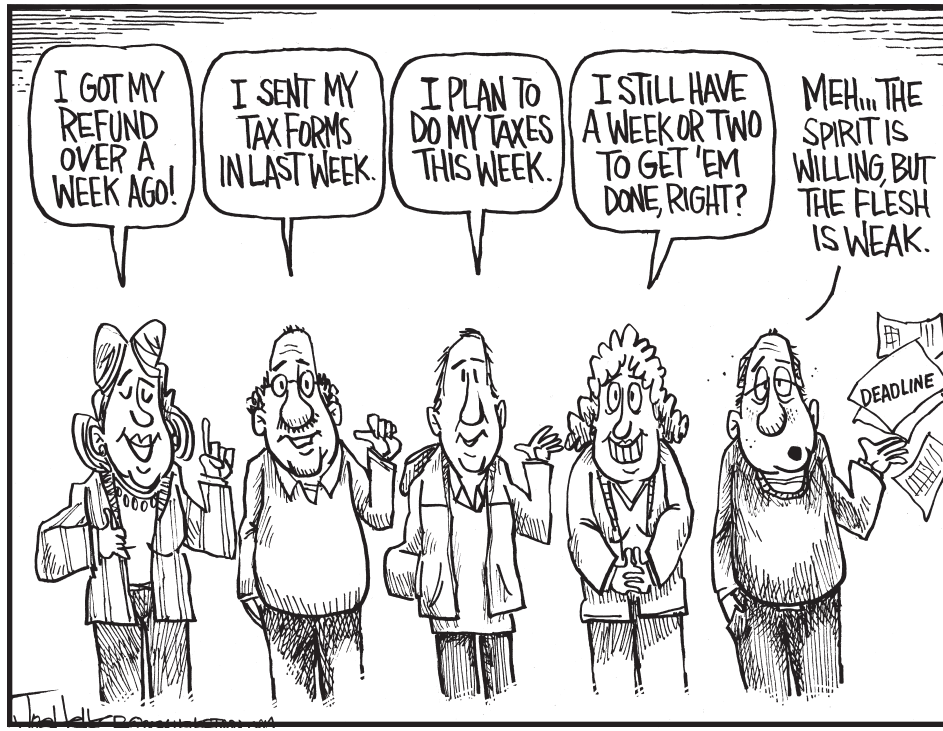
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YOUR VIEW

Kaufmann Engaging With Community, County

On March 7, I attended a legislative forum at the Bennett Legion with our state representative, Bobby Kaufmann. The gathering was modest in size, but it was a good reminder of how valuable these local conversations can be for communities here in Cedar county.

The discussion ranged from township trustees and eminent domain to sidewalks and absentee ballots. Some residents came with specific questions, while others simply listened and learned about the concerns their neighbors were raising.

In a time when much of our political discussion happens online, face-to-face conversations still matter. Community forums allow people to ask thoughtful questions, share experiences, and hear different perspectives in a way that social media rarely allows. They provide insight into the everyday issues residents are dealing with. Conversations focused on real places and real situations effecting Bennett, Cedar county and the surrounding area.

Through my career and my service on several state boards, I have the opportunity to visit the State Capitol often and speak with our local legislators. This forum allowed residents who may never travel to the State Capitol to still have the opportunity to meet with Representative Kaufman and hear about the issues being debated in Des Moines. Representative Kaufman was informative; engaged and made you feel like you were just having a conversation among neighbors.

Events like the Bennett forum are a reminder that local democracy thrives when residents show up, listen, and participate. I want to thank Representative Bobby Kaufmann for holding this event and taking the time to engage with our community. I encourage my neighbors across Cedar county to take part in these forums whenever they can; your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference.

Sincerely,
Christina Eicher Bennett

The Constitution be Damned

Full speed ahead seems to be the theme of the current regime in Washington. Never mind the Constitution in Article 1, Section VIII, item 1 gives Congress sole power to impose tariffs, and the same Article and Section, item 11 gives Congress sole power to declare War.

Never mind the Bill of Rights to the Constitution grants the rights to free speech and to peaceably protest, freedom from unreasonable searches without a warrant, the right to a fair trial before being deprived of Life, Liberty, and Property, or that Amendment XIV to our Constitution grants birth right citizenship to any person born in the U.S.

Full speed ahead with Executive Orders to eliminate and change departments created by Congress, feel free to tear down part of the White House, never mind protections given to immigrants, change the voting districts to suit yourself while depriving citizens of fair representation, use your office to enrich yourself, your family and friends often involving foreign deals.

250 years ago, we fought a bloody Revolutionary War to free ourselves from a King who behaved in this manner. We wrote a Constitution which served us well and kept

DNR Accepting Comments on Proposed Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Fee Increase

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comment on a proposed increase to the price of resident and nonresident hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, tags and fees. If approved, the new prices will go into effect on Dec. 15 for the 2027 recreation year.

The proposed price of a resident hunting and resident fishing license would increase by \$1, resident deer license by \$1.50, resident

us free thanks to faithful public servants and millions of Americans who served and sacrificed to defend that Constitution.

On January 20, 2025, our president put his hand on a Bible and took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution. He has made a mockery of both, and fools of us all.

Larry Hodgden
 USAF Veteran
 Tipton

Curious How Things Come About?

Democrat operative deb Vandergast came out with a no holds barred, rousing take them all for Gods Sake, Vaccines are to be ingested, injected, never inspected, don't much matter as long as it's good for Pfizer, Well its good for me Cheer!

What is curious about this is, I have been reading Via Audio book a very recent debut of a Must Read Non Fiction work, that is shooting up the bestseller list,

Forbidden Facts
 Government Decite & Suppression About Brain Damage From Childhood Vaccines. By Gavin de Becker.

Those of you that enjoy a little Mercury with you vaccines take heart its still there! Gavin brings the indisputable truth to his warning, this is Not a hate all vaccines rant by a lunatic but he takes you by the hand and leads you to a horrifying conclusion that not only is mercury as toxic a metal as you could find IS being and was being part of the 80 new born "recommended injections"?

Now I'm just poor old hill Billy, I don't know from nothing, but I can recognize poison, and some of the things that is in vaccines, well like I said I can recognize poison.

This kind of must-read books are made possible by the indefatigable efforts of RFK, Jr, as he brings modern MAHA medicines to the hostile tribes of the Woke villages, who are vaccine fanatics! Mercury is in the Thimerosal vaccines distributed worldwide by the WHO, look it up. Parents, G Parents I beseech you get this book!

Now a quick word on the magnificent job MAGA is going in IRAN, Trump is playing 3D world Dominance Chess while you fools are drooling snot on your woke anti American weak Bull Crap, Trump is ending a 37 year old war, Iowa has paid a dear price in this just and Expertly Fought War, we will continue to degrade their ability to respond, we are in the iron bomb phase of the war of these we have a unlimited supply! They the Irian people will form a new government, also Cuba is close to capitulation after trumps embargo, Cuba is a Gold Mine of opportunity, The people are ready to MCGA they will form a new government kicking communism to the curb!

Trump is a Truly Great Man shoulder to shoulder with Lincoln, George Washington, Churchill, Patton! He can see the battlefield arrayed against up and is winning decisively there by removing an intractable blood thirsty foe and at home, with the Trump/Monroe Doctrine, this is our hemisphere, and we will defend it, I give the dying gasp of Castro misery to be measured in months, maybe weeks, Venezuela belongs to the US Now! Trump Strikes Again, hey Cuba check and mate!

Charlie Keys
 Tipton

trout fee by \$0.50, and resident lifetime hunting and lifetime fishing by \$2.50. The increase will apply to all licenses and fees.

This is the first license fee increase since 2019.

Comments may be emailed to wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov, given verbally by calling 515-201-3376, or in person at 1 p.m., March 24, at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, in Wildcat Den conference room, in Des Moines. Public comments will be accepted through March 24. The fee increase was approved at the February meeting of the Natural Resource Commission.

The Challenge Of Small Cars And Ceiling Fans

Several years ago, a Facebook friend who is a past schoolmate from the mid-1950s sent me some copies of yearbook photos from that era. The photos included one of his class, the class a year behind him and my class which was two years behind his.



COUNTRY ROADS

Arvid Huisman

The first-grade photo (my class) brought back a lot of memories. Surprisingly, I remembered all but one of my first-grade classmates.

Even more surprisingly, I had forgotten how large I was. Smack dab in the middle of the photo—in the middle of the second row—there was this boy obviously much larger than all his classmates. An old school file discovered a few years ago indicated I was 4'4" and 88 pounds in first grade.

Like the St. Bernard who thinks he's a lapdog, I don't spend much time thinking about my size.

Today I stand 6'7" tall and weigh more than 300 pounds. Throughout my childhood I stood a head taller than all my classmates. That was the norm and I didn't pay much attention to the height of my friends. Some had brown eyes, some had blue eyes. It made no difference.

Adolescence is the time when a guy is more likely to be a wise guy. During my high school years I was sometimes asked, "How tall are you?" A wise guy would respond, "I didn't know they stacked (cow manure) that high!" We all laughed; what else are you going to do?

Other than not fitting well in our student desks being very large was not a problem in high school. Except at school dances.

Possessing all the grace of a drunken moose, I was not a dancer, but I wanted to participate in school activities. With most of the girls in our school being shorter than 5'9" (or so) and at least a few slow dances on the program, this could be awkward.

My date for a senior year dance was 5'2". Dancing was awkward but, hey, she was cute.

When Dan Cupid's arrow hit, I fell in love with a brown-eyed lovely who was only 5'4". Not a problem for me but a statuesque coworker accused "all you tall guys" of preferring short girls. What could I say? All the girls I knew were shorter than I was.

My "short" bride and I had two children; a son who grew to 6'3" and a daughter who is 5'10".

Well-fitting and fashionable clothing can be a challenge for large people. Thanks to a family of clothiers who "adopted" me I was able to be presentable for most occasions. In retirement, however, I have become a fan of fashions with elastic.

Children's reactions to my size have been fun. In a supermarket in Sioux City, a small boy holding his mother's hand stared at me as they passed by. He said, "Mom, that man is really big!"

His mother jerked his hand to pull him along and whispered, "Don't say things like that." Maybe she thought I didn't realize I was big.

At a store just a week ago, a cute little guy who couldn't have been more than three stopped in his tracks and just stared at me for a while. I imagine when you're about two-feet tall I can be a daunting sight.

Two factors have made being large a bigger (no pun intended) problem in recent times. Many things have become smaller in the past 50 years. In the 1970s I could comfortably drive any full-size sedan. Today, I am limited to the largest minivan on the market. When I began traveling for my job in the early '80s, airplanes were generally comfortable. These days Hollywood should make a movie: "Honey, They Shrank the Airplane!"

Also, age has made being large more difficult. Chairs made for normal people (average U.S. women are 5'4" and men are 5'10") are too low for tall old people. One Sunday a few years ago I needed help getting up from my chair at church. Subsequently, I found a device on online that gives me a boost when it's time to stand.

Genetically, my size comes from my father's side. Great Uncle Klaas Huisman, born in 1884, was 6'6" and weighed 300 pounds in his prime. My paternal grandmother was 6' tall. It's in the genes.

I have endured the teasing and struggled with ill-fitting clothing and shrinking cars. Today my biggest challenge is ceiling fans.

(Arvid Huisman can be contacted at huismaniowa@gmail.com. ©2026 by Huisman Communications.)

82nd Indivisible

Who pooped in the river? Iowa Legislators want to know...

There has been a lot of crap coming from the Iowa House of Representatives lately, and Study Bill 657 is no exception. It would require the DNR to determine what percentage of excrement came from what animal in a polluted river before it could be added to the impaired waters list. Never mind that this testing would be expensive and likely result in violations of the EPA's minimal requirements for drinking water, it's probably impossible. This proposal is a pathetic response to an issue that has put Iowa on the map for having some of the most polluted rivers and second for new cancer diagnoses in the nation.

Democrats knew when Iowa DNR Director



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