

# GOVERNMENT



## HOMETOWN PRESS REPUBLICAN VIEW

BY CHUCK GRASSLEY, Republican  
US Senate, District 3



### Q&A: Wake-Up Call to Save Social Security

**Q: What should Iowans know about the solvency of Social Security?**

**A:** The Senate Budget Committee recently held a hearing to examine the facts facing Social Security that every American needs to know. According to the recent projections from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund is on the brink of insolvency. In just six years, the fund's reserves will be depleted. Without changes in law,

revenue collected from payroll taxes will be sufficient to pay only 72% of scheduled benefits.

Enacted 90 years ago in 1935, the Social Security Act has been amended over the years to include benefits for dependents, survivors, and disability insurance. Since then, the ratio of covered workers to beneficiaries has shifted significantly. In 1940, the ratio between workers paying into the system and Americans receiving benefits was nearly 160 to 1. Today, the ratio is 2.7 to 1 and declining. Simple math explains why this demographic shift is straining the

financial solvency of the program.

This fiscal cliff is a wake-up call for federal policymakers, candidates for federal office, and grassroots leaders. At the Senate Budget Committee hearing, lawmakers and the panel of witnesses unanimously agreed the imminent financial shortfall needs to be addressed sooner, rather than later. Social Security is part of the social fabric of America. More than 70 million Americans depend on the program for monthly benefits. That's roughly 1 in 5 Americans. On top of that, more than 164 million Americans have earnings withheld from their paychecks through the 12.4% payroll tax that fund current benefits. Although ideological differences divide Americans on how to shore up Social Security, it's important to know that if no changes to current law are made, recipients could see a 28% reduction in monthly benefits from

2033 to 2036, according to the latest CBO estimates. That fact alone ought to inform the urgency of the situation. Kicking the can down the road will make policy choices even more difficult.

### Q: What needs to happen to shore up Social Security?

**A:** History shows we can meet the moment. More than 40 years ago, President Ronald Reagan and House Speaker Tip O'Neill did just that. Facing a six-month window until insolvency impacted scheduled benefits, they set partisan politics aside and rolled up their sleeves to preserve Social Security. The 15-member National Commission on Social Security Reform issued a report in 1982 projecting the OASI trust fund would become insolvent within six months. The so-called Greenspan Commission made recommendations to Congress to secure solvency of

Social Security for generations to come. Reagan and O'Neill threw their political weight behind the key principle that taxpayers and recipients would have skin in the solution. The bipartisan endorsement by the White House and the Speaker of the House helped pave the path for enactment of the 1983 Social Security Amendments. As the only currently serving lawmaker who was in the U.S. Senate during the historic Reagan-O'Neill agreement, I've urged political and grassroots leaders to take a page from history and stop kicking the can down the road. Critics who say Social Security is a Ponzi scheme are wrong. It's a social contract administered by the federal government that forges a generational commitment between workers and retirees. That promise also means structural reforms to ensure solvency for future generations shouldn't negatively impact current recipients or those nearing retirement.

## PUBLIC NOTICES/iowapublicnotices.com

3/26/26, 12:50 PM

Local Government Property Valuation System

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

County Name: POWESHIEK COUNTY County Number: 79

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:

Meeting Date: 4/16/2026 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Poweshiek County Courthouse, Boardroom, 302 E Main St, Montezuma, IA

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request. County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult [dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals](http://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals)

Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget" amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

County Website (if available)  
[www.poweshiekiowa.gov](http://www.poweshiekiowa.gov)

County Telephone Number  
(641) 623-5723

		Budget 2026/2027	Re-Est 2025/2026	Actual 2024/2025	AVG Annual % CHG
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>					
Taxes Levied on Property	1	10,315,007	9,416,830	10,067,797	1.22
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0	
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	227,000	236,500	0	
Net Current Property Taxes	4	10,088,007	9,180,330	10,067,797	
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	0	2,000	17	
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	0	0	55,993	
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	2,979,716	2,377,581	1,528,520	39.62
Intergovernmental	8	7,846,107	5,305,878	5,472,895	
Licenses & Permits	9	25,950	21,800	110,359	
Charges for Service	10	701,860	809,340	731,591	
Use of Money & Property	11	581,094	697,402	988,539	
Miscellaneous	12	134,300	262,010	167,949	
<b>Subtotal Revenues</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22,357,034</b>	<b>18,656,341</b>	<b>19,123,660</b>	
<b>Other Financing Sources:</b>					
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	0	0	
Operating Transfers In	15	6,273,387	4,990,677	4,834,490	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	0	0	30,795	
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Sources</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28,630,421</b>	<b>23,647,018</b>	<b>23,988,945</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>					
<b>Operating:</b>					
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	5,728,500	5,377,162	4,458,307	13.35
Physical Health and Social Services	19	650,865	651,848	428,173	23.29
County Environment and Education	21	936,869	899,478	830,861	6.19
Roads & Transportation	22	9,054,357	8,564,590	8,526,978	3.05
Government Services to Residents	23	810,516	924,737	826,931	-1.00
Administration	24	2,004,532	1,906,025	1,611,772	11.52
Nonprogram Current	25	136,494	136,824	118,170	7.47
Debt Service	26	2,673,071	1,258,748	1,261,648	45.56
Capital Projects	27	4,448,794	884,000	1,012,776	109.59
<b>Subtotal Expenditures</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26,443,998</b>	<b>20,603,412</b>	<b>19,075,616</b>	
<b>Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Operating Transfers Out	29	6,273,387	4,990,677	4,834,490	
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0	
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Uses</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32,717,385</b>	<b>25,594,089</b>	<b>23,910,106</b>	
<b>Excess of Revenues &amp; Other Sources over (under) Expenditures &amp; Other Uses</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-4,086,964</b>	<b>-1,947,071</b>	<b>78,839</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	33	13,497,080	15,444,151	15,365,312	
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	34	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	35	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Restricted	36	0	0	11,599,565	
Fund Balance - Committed	37	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Assigned	38	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	9,410,116	13,497,080	3,844,586	
<b>Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9,410,116</b>	<b>13,497,080</b>	<b>15,444,151</b>	
Proposed property taxation by type:		Proposed tax rates per \$1,000 taxable valuation:			
Countywide Levies*:	5,924,429	Urban Areas:		3.86208	
Rural Only Levies*:	4,390,578	Rural Areas:		7.81208	
Special District Levies*:	0	Any special district tax rates not included.			
TIF Tax Revenues:	1,687,222				
Utility Replacement Excise Tax:	262,394				

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:

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### Lynnville Council holds public hearing

The Lynnville City Council held a Max Levy Public Hearing on Monday, Mar. 30, at 5:30 p.m. at Lynnville City Hall. Mayor Mark Newberg called the meeting to order with Tanis Comegys, Jack Hill, and Garret DeHoedt present. Bailey Tompkins was absent. There was no public input and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The council then met and set the budget hearing for Apr. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Kyle Terpstra had requested via a letter to purchase or move his current cemetery plots to the south of his parents. After reviewing the cemetery plot map, the council denied this request due to the placement would be in a walkway. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

### Conservation Board Meeting April 7

The Poweshiek County Conservation Board will meet on Tuesday, Apr. 7, at the Diamond Lake Foster Center beginning at 9 a.m. The Foster Center is located on the south side of Diamond Lake at 4896 Stagecoach Road, Montezuma. The public is always welcome, for more information please call 641-623-3191.

SINCE 1839

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**Sinclair NAPA Montezuma**