

Greetings from the Statehouse

It has been a busy and productive week here at the Capitol, this week marked the second full week of floor debate. A few notable bills that passed this week in the House and will head to the Senate for consideration include:

House File 2305 - Hospice Program Requirements, a bill I managed passed the House on Thursday. The bill updates existing Iowa code regarding end-of-life care and advanced planning directives allowing Physician Assistants and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners to be attending providers regarding hospice and palliative care and removes current requirement that a hospice program must provide palliative care to be eligible for a license. The bill also provides a hierarchy of individuals that can approve hospice and palliative care for an incapacitated patient in a terminal condition when advanced planning directives have not been established.

House File 2543 - Subacute Mental Health Care. This bill passed unanimously in the House on Monday. The measure makes multiple changes to current law regarding subacute mental health care programs. These programs provide treatment for individuals who need in-person, intensive support, but who are not at a high enough risk to remain in emergency hospitalization. The measure would eliminate a current limit of 10 days for a person to receive subacute mental health care without approval of a longer period by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

House File 2610 - Career and Technical Education Programs. This bill focuses on enhancing education programs and systems in Iowa, particularly in the areas of career and technical education (CTE), general education frameworks and the implementation of a corequisite model in community colleges. The bill amends existing laws to replace the term "service" with "content" in relation to CTE areas, ensuring that these areas align with a national framework representative of all career pathways. The bill also introduces definitions for high-demand, high-skill and high-wage occupations, which will guide the development of CTE programs and partnerships. Additionally, it mandates that regional CTE partnerships demonstrate alignment of expenditures with these defined occupations.

As a member of State Government Committee, we have recently passed several bills that have come to the House floor for debate including the following:

House File 2328 - Report on State Employee Salaries, a bill requiring DAS to provide the report on state employee salaries on the Department's website. Electronic copies may still be requested by individuals for a fee not to exceed the cost of providing an electronic copy.

House File 2509 - Airport Alcohol Sales. This bill amends code to allow licensed retailers at commercial airports to sell and dispense alcohol an hour before the earliest scheduled commercial flight.

House File 2588 - Public Improvement Exclusions, a

bill for equipment acquired by or for a city utility related to an electric generating project is excluded from the definition of "public improvement." Adds the furnishing of a manufactured home, including construction of the foundation or tie-down systems as excluded from "public improvement."

House File 2330 - Public Document Request Standards, an Iowa Public Information Board bill to create more direct acknowledgement and provide estimated times and costs for fulfilling a public records request.

The Iowa House advanced bills from Commerce Committee on Monday related to insurance, electric transmission line construction, emergency planning and land restoration including:

House File 2633 - Organ Donor & Life Insurance, a bill I am cosponsoring with Representative Young, this bill prohibits life, disability and long-term care insurance from limiting coverage for living organ donors. The bill prevents insurers from declining coverage, limiting coverage or charging higher premiums solely because an individual is a living organ donor.

House File 2227 - Transmission Line, Ag Restoration, a bill requiring certain agricultural land restoration following the construction of a 200-kilovolt electric transmission line and requires transmission line owners to repair agricultural land, including drainage tile structures, cover crops or other vegetation and impacted soil following construction.

House File 2228 -

Transmission Line Right of Way, a bill requiring the DOT to coordinate with utilities and transmission line developers regarding the use of highway/interstate right of ways for transmission line construction and would clarify that transmission projects can be built in interstate right of ways and require the Iowa Department of Transportation to engage with transmission line operators to review highway corridors as a potential easement for projects.

House File 2583 - Transmission Line Emergency Planning, this bill came from discussions with IUC regarding out-of-state transmission owners. The IUC recommended additional emergency planning and response requirements including filing an emergency response plan with the IUC, notifications to IUC and department of homeland security and emergency response, as well as civil penalties for violations of these requirements. The bill passed unanimously and would require electric transmission line owners

to submit independent emergency response plans to the Iowa Utilities Commission.

Throughout the week the Capitol was visited by numerous groups including Homeschool Iowa, Community College Day, Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Day, Area Agencies on Aging Capitol Day, Arts & Culture Advocacy Day, United Way of Central Iowa and many Northern Iowa Community College (NICC) students I enjoyed meeting.

I appreciate visits from constituents and learning about the issues that are of concern. Kindly contact me ahead of time if you are planning a trip to the Capitol - it helps me plan my schedule to meet with you.

**Very truly yours,
Rep. Michael Bergan**

Michael Bergan represents House District 63, which includes all of Howard and Winneshiek Counties and northern Fayette County.

Celebrating 100 years
easterseals
Iowa

Easterseals Iowa is celebrating 100 years in 2026
Save the Date for our celebration on
Saturday, June 6, 2026

Scan the QR code or visit eastersealsia100years.com to sign up for updates on events throughout the year.

Support Easterseals and make an Iowa impact *together.*

CITY NAME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF OSAGE - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY		CITY #: 66-627	
OSAGE		Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	
The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows: Meeting Date: 3/23/2026 Meeting Time: 05:30 PM Meeting Location: Osage City Hall			
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.			
City Website (if available) www.osageia.org		City Telephone Number (641) 732-3709	
Iowa Department of Management			
	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2026 - 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2026 - 2027
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	112,899,463	113,062,046	113,062,046
Consolidated General Fund	917,267	917,267	918,588
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	194,665	194,665	199,975
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	229,523	229,523	239,971
Other Employee Benefits	262,049	262,049	257,632
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	159,895,082	168,077,466	168,077,466
Debt Service	0	0	0
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	1,603,504	1,603,504	1,616,166
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE	14.20294	14.18251	14.29451
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	257,825	254,904	254,904
Ag Land	775	775	766
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE	3.00375	3.04036	3.00375
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year Certified 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	674	700	3.86
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year Certified 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	2,928	3,271	11.71
Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.			
Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: Less than 1% increase for wage and property insurance rate increases			

COUNTY NAME: HOWARD COUNTY		NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY		COUNTY NUMBER: 45	
		Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027			
The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows: Meeting Date: 3/23/2026 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: 137 N Elm St Courthouse Cresco, IA 52136					
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.					
County Website (if available) www.howardcounty.iowa.gov		County Telephone Number (563) 547-9203			
Iowa Department of Management					
	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2026/2027	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027		
Taxable Valuations-General Services	778,086,568	798,529,684	798,529,684		
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service	4,755,836	4,755,836	4,920,715		
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service	847,581,435	904,468,500	904,468,500		
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service	342,601	342,601	345,552		
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	5,098,437	5,098,437	5,266,267		
Tax Rate-Countywide	6.51643	6.33453	6.54427		
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	577,964,086	579,810,906	579,810,906		
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	2,216,036	2,216,036	2,290,253		
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	3.83421	3.82300	3.95000		
Rural Total	10.35064	10.15653	10.49427		
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed					
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027	Percent Change		
Urban Taxpayer	309	321	3.88		
Rural Taxpayer	491	514	4.68		
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Urban Taxpayer	1,344	1,497	11.38		
Rural Taxpayer	2,133	2,401	12.56		
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