

agingWATCH



Mid-term elections to shape policy affecting older Iowans

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As the last of the political ads are replaced by commercials for holiday shopping and candidates across the country catch their breath after lengthy campaigns, it is time to consider how the results of the mid-term elections on Nov. 4 will influence policy affecting older Iowans.

On the national level, Republicans will gain control of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives when Congress reconvenes in January. This likely means there will be some legislation that Congress and the President cannot agree upon, but key leaders are already talking about finding common ground and compromising on issues that significantly impact the American people.

Additionally, with the retirement of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), leadership of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will likely move to Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN). The HELP Committee houses the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, which has jurisdiction over the Older Americans Act (OAA).

Senator Alexander has been actively involved in discussions to reauthorize the OAA over the past several years, so it is possible those discussions will continue.

Here in Iowa, the re-election of Governor Terry Branstad to a record sixth term means the Iowa Department on Aging will remain focused on its strategic priority of modernizing the aging network to improve efficiencies, enhance communications and ensure a greater continuity of person-centered services and supports to help older Iowans maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

While Democrats currently retain a slim majority in the Iowa Senate (26-24), a special election will have to take place to fill U.S. Senator-elect Joni Ernst's recently vacated seat. The Republicans will have the advantage in the House (57-43), suggesting policy affecting older Iowans will continue to be shaped by an overall focus on limiting spending and maintaining a balanced budget.

Looking ahead to the 86th Iowa General Assembly

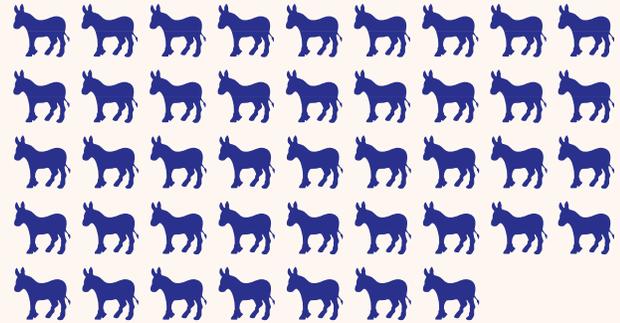
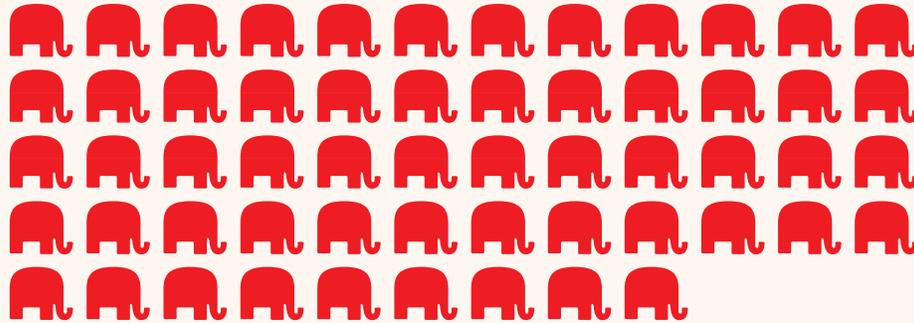
When the 86th Iowa General Assembly convenes on Jan. 12, it will look much like the last General Assembly, with Democrats retaining the majority in the Iowa Senate, Republicans controlling the House of Representatives and Governor Terry Branstad returning for a sixth term in office. Election results are as follows:



IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

57

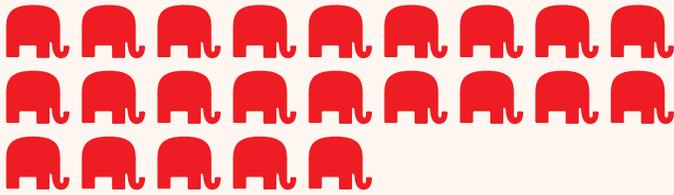
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REPRESENTATIVE	DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE	DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE	DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE	DIST.	REPRESENTATIVE	DIST.
John Willis	1	Kevin Koester	38	Tom Sands	88	Helen Miller	9	Art Staed	66
Megan Hess	2	Jake Highfill	39	Gary Carlson	91	Chris Hall	13	K. Running-Marquardt	69
Dan Huseman	3	Peter Cownie	42	Ross Paustian	92	David Dawson	14	Todd Taylor	70
Dwayne Alons	4	Chris Hagenow	43	Linda Miller	94	Charlie McConkey	15	Mark Smith	71
Chuck Soderberg	5	Rob Taylor	44	Quentin Stanerson	95	Scott Ourth	26	Dave Jacoby	74
Ron Jorgensen	6	Chip Baltimore	47	Lee Hein	96	Dan Kelley	29	Sally Stutsman	77
Tedd Gassman	7	Rob Bacon	48	Norlin Mommsen	97	Rick Olson	31	Mary Gaskill	81
Terry Baxter	8	Dave Deyoe	49			Ruth Ann Gaines	32	Curt Hanson	82
Mike Sexton	10	Pat Grassley	50			Brian Meyer	33	Jerry Kerns	83
Gary Worthan	11	Josh Byrnes	51			Bruce Hunter	34	Vicki Lensing	85
Brian Best	12	Linda Upmeyer	54			Ako Abdul-Samad	35	Mary Mascher	86
Mary Ann Hanusa	16	Darrel Branhagen	55			Marti Anderson	36	Dennis Cohoon	87
Matt Windschitl	17	Brian Moore	58			John Forbes	40	Jim Lykam	89
Steven Holt	18	Walt Rogers	60			Jo Oldson	41	Cindy Winckler	90
Ralph Watts	19	Sandy Salmon	63			B. Wessel-Kroeschell	45	Phyllis Thede	93
Ciel Baudler	20	Kraig Paulsen	67			Lisa Heddens	46	Mary Wolfe	98
Jack Drake	21	Ken Rizer	68			Todd Prichard	52	Abby Finkenauer	99
Greg Forristall	22	Dean Fisher	72			Sharon Steckman	53	Charles Isenhardt	100
Mark Costello	23	Bobby Kaufmann	73			Patti Ruff	56		
Cecil Dolecheck	24	Dawn Pettengill	75			Nancy Dunkel	57		
Stan Gustafson	25	David Maxwell	76			Bob Kressig	59		
Joel Fry	27	Jarad Klein	78			Timi Brown-Powers	61		
Greg Heartsill	28	Guy Vander Linden	79			Deb Berry	62		
Zach Nunn	30	Larry Sheets	80			Bruce Beringer	64		
John Landon	37	Dave Heaton	84			Liz Bennett	65		

IOWA SENATE:

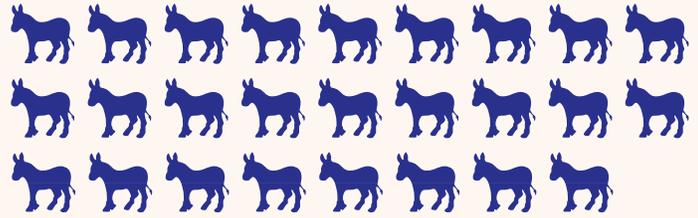
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SENATOR	DIST.
David Johnson	1
Randy Feenstra	2
Bill Anderson	3
Dennis Guth	4
Tim Kraayenbrink	5
Mark Segebart	6
Rick Bertrand	7
Jason Schultz	9
Jake Chapman	10
Tom Shipley	11
Joni Ernst*	12
Julian Garrett	13
Amy Sinclair	14

SENATOR	DIST.
Jack Whitver	19
Brad Zaun	20
Charles Schneider	22
Jerry Behn	24
Bill Dix	25
Michael Breitbach	28
Tim Kapucian	38
Ken Rozenboom	40
Mark Chelgren	41
Roby Smith	47
Dan Zumbach	48

26



SENATOR	DIST.
Mike Gronstal	8
Chaz Allen	15
Dick Dearden	16
Tony Bisignano	17
Janet Petersen	18
Matt McCoy	21
Herman Quirmbach	23
Mary Jo Wilhelm	26
Amanda Ragan	27
Tod Bowman	29
Jeff Danielson	30
Bill Dotzler	31
Brian Schoenjahn	32

SENATOR	DIST.
Rob Hogg	33
Liz Mathis	34
Wally Horn	35
Steve Soddors	36
Bob Dvorsky	37
Kevin Kinney	39
Rich Taylor	42
Joe Bolkom	43
Thomas Courtney	44
Joe Seng	45
Chris Brase	46
Rita Hart	49
Pam Jochum	50

*A special election will be held to fill the seat left vacant by U.S. Senator-elect Ernst.

Legislation passed to combat elder abuse in Iowa

At the end of last session, Senate File 2239 passed both chambers and was signed into law by Governor Branstad to provide relief from elder abuse. Under the law, vulnerable older Iowans can file a petition in a state court to seek relief from elder abuse in a manner similar to current domestic abuse laws. The courts then have the power to enter temporary or permanent no contact orders.

The law also mandated several agencies (the Office of the Attorney General, the Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Departments of Human Services, Inspections and Appeals and Public Health) to provide written recommendations about strengthening Iowa's elder abuse prevention, detection and intervention efforts to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Department of Management by Aug. 15.

Together, the group determined work needs to continue to increase public awareness about elder abuse while systemic data is collected and analyzed to identify barriers and gaps in service. The Office of the Attorney General specifically recommended adding a new criminal offense of financial exploitation; expanding the definition of those with whom a vulnerable elder could have a "confidential relationship" to include banks, attorneys, insurance brokers and realtors;



and amending the civil protective order provisions of Iowa Code 235F to address due process and other process-related concerns.

Additionally, the group noted the benefit of Senate File 2168, which created the Iowa Uniform Power of Attorney Act. This law applies to financial power of attorney documents and provides oversight and additional safeguards for older Iowans who name another individual as an agent to act on their behalf.

IOWA GOVERNMENT 101: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS JUST A CLICK AWAY



If it has been a while since you last cracked a civics education textbook or you are curious about how to contact your legislators, you will be delighted to discover the Iowa Legislature website (www.legis.iowa.gov).

The site is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to know anything about Iowa government. In addition to providing contact information for every state legislator, the website also includes links to:

- Session calendars;
- Current legislation and historical legislation back to 1995;
- Lists of legislative committees, including committee members and meeting schedules;
- Iowa Law and Administrative Rules;
- Contact information for lobbyists, including declarations and reports;
- Senate and House journals and fiscal reports;
- Educational fact sheets about the legislative process; and
- Fun facts about the State of Iowa and the State Capitol.

In addition, the site offers live audio and video streaming of Senate and House proceedings whenever the chambers are in session, as well as a video archive of House and Senate proceedings sorted by date or by bill.

2015 Iowa Legislative Session timetable

(Session timetable is subject to change)

JANUARY 12:

First day of session
Iowa Code Sec. 2.1

FEBRUARY 13 (Friday of the 5th Week):

Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts to the Legislative Services Agency
Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29

MARCH 6 (Friday of the 8th Week):

Final day for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House Bills out of House committees
Joint Rule 20

MARCH 16-20 (10th Week):

Senate only considers Senate bills and unfinished business; House only considers House bills and unfinished business
Joint Rule 20

MARCH 23 – APRIL 3 (11th and 12th Weeks):

Debate not limited by rule

APRIL 3 (Friday of the 12th Week):

Final day for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees
Joint Rule 20

APRIL 6-10 (13th Week):

Senate only considers House bills and unfinished business; House only considers Senate bills and unfinished business
Joint Rule 20

APRIL 13 (Beginning of the 14th Week):

Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
House Rule 31.8

Primarily, only the following bills are eligible for consideration:

- Bills passed by both Houses
- Ways and Means Bills
- Appropriations Bills
- Government Oversight Bills

Joint Rule 20

MAY 1 (110th Calendar Day of the Session):

Per diem expenses end
Iowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)

A new vision for Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center



The Iowa Department on Aging (IDA), along with the Area Agencies on Aging and a number of partner organizations, are working to re-brand Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center as LifeLong Links. The effort is part of a capacity building project that will enable LifeLong Links to better serve older Iowans, disabled Iowans, veterans and their caregivers as they begin to think about and plan for long-term independent living.

Modeled on the "no wrong door" approach, LifeLong Links will provide a single point of entry to many of the state's information and referral resources, including the Iowa Area Agencies on Aging, Iowa COMPASS, the Iowa Family Caregiver Support Program and Iowa 2-1-1.

Consumers may access LifeLong Links through a website (www.lifelonglinks.org), a toll-free call center (866.468.7887) or by visiting one of the LifeLong Links Local Coordination Centers located throughout the state.

From there, individuals can request information about support services related to a specific topic (e.g., housing, health care, transportation, etc.) or complete an assessment to allow an information and referral specialist to evaluate the situation and provide appropriate guidance.

Depending on the needs of the consumer, he or she also may be referred to a trained options counselor, who can begin a person-centered, interactive planning process to help the consumer identify long-term support preferences and develop an individual action plan.

In order to make LifeLong Links a success, the IDA will be working over the next year to develop a single database that integrates aging and disability information and referral data.

Additionally, the IDA will be marketing LifeLong Links on both a statewide and local level to increase public awareness and educate target audiences about accessing and utilizing LifeLong Links. The campaign will include television, radio and newspaper advertising as well presentations to a variety of audiences.

Standings Bill provides funding for food security for older Iowans

Standings Bill HF2473 passed late last session with a provision to appropriate \$250,000 to the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) to award to the six Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to provide congregate meals and home-delivered meals to food-insecure older Iowans.

Along with the additional funding, the IDA and AAAs are working to identify cost-saving measures to ensure the meal program's sustainability. During a one-day summit, ideas such as implementing a statewide

menu to increase purchasing power and engaging in new public-private partnerships were discussed.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 43,662 (or seven percent) of Iowans aged 60 or older in 2012 were food insecure and about 14 percent received some type of nutrition assistance. Research suggests that older Iowans who participate in congregate or home-delivered meal programs see a significant decline in nutrition risk.

GET TO KNOW: IOWA'S STATE SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKER

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Tyler Eason was appointed Director of the Office of Substitute Decision Maker (OSDM) in October following the re-establishment of the Office in May.

Tyler earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Iowa before graduating from Drake University Law School. Prior to accepting this position, he served as a prosecuting attorney in Mahaska and Story Counties, an attorney with Workiva (formerly WebFilings) and in private practice.

Tyler's vision for the OSDM is to "work tirelessly to advocate on behalf of Iowa citizens, to educate individuals and groups on our areas of expertise and to serve as a substitute decision maker for those who are most in need."

Iowa Code 231E and Iowa Administrative Code Section 17, Chapter 22, will serve as road maps to ensure the Office meets the duties and responsibilities the General Assembly set forth. The goals for the upcoming months are to:

- Re-establish the foundational aspects of the Office in order to serve the citizens of Iowa in the best way possible;
- Communicate with as many groups and constituencies as possible to re-establish the presence and the purpose of the OSDM; and
- Begin discussions and plans for optimizing how the OSDM can provide support across the State of Iowa.

Iowa Department on Aging budget includes funding for new initiatives

Last session, the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) received full and continued funding through the Health and Human Services Budget Bill (HF2463) as well as additional money to fund two new initiatives to improve the quality of life for older lowans.

The IDA was appropriated additional funding to establish the Office of Substitute Decision Maker and received \$525,000 to work to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Both initiatives were defined in a subsection of the bill that reads as follows:

“Of the funds appropriated in this section, \$813,666 shall be used for the purposes of chapter 231E and section 231.56A, of which \$288,666 shall be used to fund the initial reestablishment of the Office of Substitute Decision Maker pursuant to chapter 231E, and the remainder shall be distributed equally to the Area Agencies on Aging to administer elder abuse, neglect and exploitation prevention programs pursuant to section 231.56A, in accordance with the requirements of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §3001 et seq., as amended.”

Reestablishing the Office of Substitute Decision Maker is significant for older lowans because it ensures support is available for individuals in need of the substitute decision-making services of a guardian, conservator, representative payee, attorney-in-fact or personal representative.

The Office closed in 2009 following a re-appropriation of funding, but Iowa legislators, recognizing its significance in helping to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, set aside dollars last session to restore the Office and the assistance it provides to older adults and substitute decision makers, attorneys and courts statewide.

The provision of additional funding to strengthen elder abuse awareness and prevention programs through the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) is also noteworthy, as it helped place an Elder Rights Specialist in each of the six AAAs.

These professionals are trained in dealing specifically with elder abuse cases and provide specialized advocacy and assistance to protect and enhance the health, safety, welfare and rights of older lowans.

HHS BUDGET BILL POLICY PROVISIONS & DIRECTIVES

In addition to the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) budget items approved through Health and Human Services Budget Bill (HF2463), the bill included several notable policy provisions and directives that impact older lowans:

- The IDA was directed to analyze the meal program and submit findings to the General Assembly and the Governor’s Office.

Due: Dec. 15, 2014

- The Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS) was directed to study community-based placement options for persons with serious mental illness. The IDA was named a stakeholder in the study.

Due: Dec. 15, 2014

- The IDA, along with IDHS and the Iowa Departments of Public Health, Workforce Development and Corrections, were directed to develop an inter-agency collaborative report to provide an integrated approach to addressing the medical and psychological needs of individuals upon release from a correctional facility.

Due: Dec. 15, 2014

- The Legislative Council was directed to establish a committee to study issues related to aging lowans and long-term care. Members shall include representatives from the IDA, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and consumers appointed by various partner organizations.

Due: For consideration by the General Assembly during the 2015 Iowa Legislative Session

- IDHS was directed to engage stakeholders with expertise in issues relating to aging to review the potential for developing and submitting a Medicaid program state plan amendment to cover home and community-based services for eligible lowans ages 65 and older.

Due: Dec. 15, 2014

Total Funding for the Iowa Department on Aging* \$11,419,732

Amount includes funding for the following initiatives:

Transfer for Senior Volunteer Program	\$279,946
Unmet Needs Identified through ADRC Network	\$250,000
Home and Community-Based Services	\$600,000
Transfer to Guardianship/Conservatorship Pilot	\$20,000
Office of Substitute Decision Maker	\$288,666
Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention	\$525,000

*This amount does not include funding for the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) or new funding for the involuntary discharge specialist. The budget for the OSLTCO is located in a separate and distinct division.

Older Iowans Legislature identifies priorities for 2015

In late September, the Older Iowans Legislature convened at the Iowa Capitol to identify bills to introduce to the General Assembly during the 2015 Iowa Legislative Session.

The non-profit group works to improve the quality of life of older Iowans, with special emphasis on the frail elderly and those who have contributed much to society, but have exhausted their resources and are in need of assistance to lead meaningful lives.

Of the 17 bills presented and debated, six were enacted by the Older Iowans Legislature as priority bills for 2015:

▶ ELDER ABUSE

This bill calls for an act to expand the current Iowa Elder Abuse Law and make amendments to the civil protective order provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 235F that address due process and other process-related concerns.

▶ SEX OFFENDERS IN NURSING HOMES

This bill calls for an act to house residents of nursing homes who are known sex offenders in appropriate settings to ensure the safety of all residents and staff.

▶ LEGISLATIVE LONG-TERM CARE COMMISSION

This bill calls for an act to establish a Legislative Long-Term Care Commission to ensure the availability of long-term services and supports for Iowans.



▶ ELIMINATE INSTITUTIONAL BIAS OF IOWA'S LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM

This bill calls for an act to eliminate the institutional bias of Iowa's long-term care system and bring Iowa into full compliance with the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision of 1999.

▶ ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF OLDER IOWANS

This bill calls for an act to improve older Iowans' access to mental health services.

▶ OMNIBUS FUNDING BILL

This bill calls for an act to appropriate funds for a modest cost-of-living increase for programs administered by the Iowa Department on Aging and additional funds for the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Office of Substitute Decision Maker.

Additional bills enacted by the Older Iowans Legislature covered a variety of topics, including:

- Investing in Nursing Home Quality
- Establishing Universal Design for New Homes
- Increasing Reimbursement for Home and Community-Based Service Providers
- Establishing a Multi-Generational Housing Task Force
- Implementing a Care Act
- Ensuring Iowans Have Access to Health and Long-Term Care
- Establishing a Fall Prevention Program for Older Iowans
- Revising and Modernizing the Reimbursement System for Nursing Homes

AgingWatch is provided in the spirit of information and education. The opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Iowa Department on Aging or its programs. The Iowa Department on Aging shall not be liable for any damages that may result from errors or omissions in information distributed in this publication.



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