

Representative Cindy Golding

House District 83

Under the Golden Dome
Summer Edition #1

Hi friends,

With the ending of the session, legislators left Des Moines to return to “normal” at home. What I discovered is that being out of session does not mean getting back to “normal.” Legislative activities continue throughout the summer, with constituent meetings, forums on issues, meetings with experts and stakeholders impacted by new or proposed legislation, Presidential candidate visits, etc. etc.

Newsletters during the summer will include highlights of some of the bills passed and signed into law. If you are interested in specifics of any of the legislation, you can click on the link to go to the actual bill. We also will hold events around the district. We have had great attendance and much enthusiasm for what we accomplished and what we plan to do in the next session.

***Thoughts as we celebrate Memorial Day:** It is a time for the country to reflect and remember — on the men and women who have sacrificed for our country, on the principles upon which the nation was founded, and on the role we all have to play in protecting the freedoms of future generations.*

Fun Fact: Perhaps the [Earliest Memorial Day Ceremonies](#) was held by freed African Americans at the close of the Civil War. People recently freed from slavery in Charleston honored fallen Union soldiers with a celebration at the racetrack turned into a Union prison camp.

This great Republic is worth the battle for the future. What role will you play?

The following two issues are time-sensitive.....

[House File 718](#) – **Property Tax Reform Signed into Law**

Click on the link for the entire bill.

As promised, we began the long process of revamping Iowa’s property tax mess.

For any Iowan homeowner 65 years old or older, there is an immediate reduction on your property assessment, but you MUST apply for it. Click the link below for the form.

[Homestead exemption for 65 Years + home owners.](#)

This application must be filed or postmarked to your city or county assessor **on or before July 1** of the year in which the credit or exemption is first claimed. Upon filing and allowance of the claim, the claim is allowed on that homestead for successive years without further filing as long as the person qualifies for the homestead credit or exemption. A claim filed after July 1 of the year for which the person is claiming the credit or exemption shall be considered a claim filed for the following year. Contact information for all assessors can be found at the Iowa State Association of Assessors website: iowa-assessors.org

Remember, this legislation does not guarantee that your property tax bill will not increase. Multiple taxing authorities combine to make your total bill, with school districts having the largest dollar amount. This year, we focused on slowing the growth, not cutting property tax revenue for schools, cities, and counties.

Property tax is a most convoluted shell game. As taxpayers, we need to raise our voices to push back on the taxing of unrealized gain of our homes and businesses. The only real change will happen when we work together with our cities, counties, and schools to reign in uncontrolled spending.

Students First ESA (the School Choice bill)

The application process will open at **8 a.m. on May 31**.

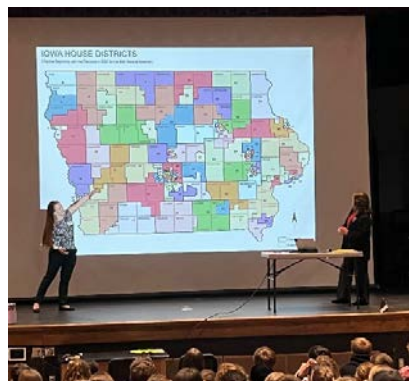
The following resources have been added to the [Students First ESA webpage](#).

- A webinar recording and presentation slide deck from the webinar designed for parents and guardians that was delivered in Spanish have been added to the [Application Training Webinars for Families section](#).
- Several new questions have been added to the [Questions and Answers section](#) of the webpage that address the application process, eligibility criteria, and funding.
- A new frequently asked questions resource for nonpublic school administrators has been added to the [Information for Accredited Nonpublic Schools section](#) of the webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact the Iowa Dept of Education at 515-281-5294

Next week I will share details about the Education reform legislation that has been signed into law

Highlights from “A Day in the District”



Sharing insights of freshmen legislators at Mt. Vernon Middle School 8th grade with Rep. Elinor Levin



Good friends from Cedar Rapids



Srpingville Forum



Listening to constituents with
Attorney General Bird



The Mount Vernon Marching Mustangs will be representing Iowa in the National Memorial Day parade in Washington DC. The students are very excited visit museums, go to Arlington National Cemetery and watch the National Memorial Day concert. Here is a link to the parade <https://www.americanveteranscenter.org/avc-events/parade/national-memorial-day-parade/watch-parade/>

Stay in touch.

Bewteen now and January 2024 we will be framing the legislation for the next session and tweaking those things that were set aside.

*I will be visiting all of our 11 towns and will be scheduling “**A Day in the District**” events at locations throughout District 83. If you have a favorite local business you would like to highlight, please drop me a note. If there is an event in your area, please let me know.*

Governor Reynolds will be joining us in Cedar Rapids for a “Salute to Veterans” on July 11. Watch for more details.

Several Presidential candidates are making their way across Iowa. Regardless of your political affiliation, I encourage you to go to their events. As Iowans, we have a unique opportunity to see them without the filter of the media. Ask the hard questions. Decide for yourself which of the candidates best represents your values.

For more information or to contact me:

Go to CindyGolding.com or email me at cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov or call me at 319-360-1028

Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend!

Cindy