



Representative Cindy Golding

House District 83

Under the Golden Dome #13

Happy Easter Week – HE is Risen!!

The events of this week have been intense, eventful, and important.

The Governor signed the massive Government Reorganization bill that will bring many efficiencies to our red-tape mess. We know there will be a few “hick-ups” along the way, but I have been very impressed with the cooperation and collaboration among departments.

We passed a number of Senate bills, amending several in the process. We continued to pass many of our more conservative House bills, pushing them on to the Senate for a vote. Other incredibly important issues have been stalled in the Senate, like eminent domain and voter integrity. This is as frustrating for me as I’m sure it is for you.

Links below will take you to some of the various bills we debated and passed.

Highlights in this edition:

- **ESA FAQs**
 - *Funds will be deposited into an education savings account (ESA) to be used for tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses as specified in the legislation (see below)*
- **House Republicans Release Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024**
 - *Budget subcommittees have already begun work on the individual line items (see below)*
- **Mad About Your New Property Tax Assessment?**
 - *A property owner may protest an assessment between April 2 and April 30 (see below)*

Senate File 496 – Parent Empowerment

- The House passed Senate File 496, which contains many education proposals. We amended the legislation, sending it back to the Senate for their consideration.
- There’s quite a bit in this bill, so, for more detailed information, take a look at the link.

Senate File 494 – Public Hearing on Government Assistance bill

- The House heard from lowans in a public hearing on SF494. This bill aims to ensure that the funds are available for lowans who truly need government assistance for food and health care.

School Choice Legislation – For questions about the specifics, please click here [Students First Act](#)

House Republicans Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024

House Republicans released spending parameters for the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget, once again proposing a responsible, conservative funding plan for the state. Our plan of \$8.5791 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 calls for an increase of \$364.3 million over the current year.

The funding breakdown amongst the various budget subcommittees is:

	FY 2024 Governor After Realignment	FY 2024 Senate	FY 2024 House
Administration & Regulation	\$69,480,223	?	\$70,488,763
Agriculture & Natural Resources	\$41,773,227	?	\$43,544,227
Economic Development	\$41,188,399	?	\$42,113,893
Education	\$978,788,573	?	\$984,921,856
Health & Human Services	\$2,108,568,679	?	\$2,135,383,594
Judicial Branch & Justice Systems	\$874,755,753	?	\$885,843,753
State Aid to Schools & Standing Appropriations	\$4,371,992,932	?	\$4,416,801,866
TOTAL	\$8,486,547,786	\$8,486,547,786	\$8,579,097,952

The largest increase goes to the state’s local school districts, with an additional \$127 million. The budget also contains the funding already passed for the implementation of the Educational Savings Account program.

The House budget includes new funds for increases to the Department of Corrections and state public safety programs. Provider rate increases for nursing homes, mental health providers, and substance abuse treatment will be funded in the Medicaid program. Additional funds will also be used to address workforce shortage issues facing a number of professions.

Budget subcommittees have already begun work on the individual line items contained in their individual budgets. As that work is completed, those numbers will become public. Senate Republicans have yet to release any individual budget parameters. It is not known if there is a plan to do so.

Mad About Your New Property Tax Assessment?

Remember – your local school board, city council and county supervisors determine your property tax.

Let them know!!

The law in Iowa states that “assessed value” is equal to “market value”. The assessor finds the market value by analyzing recent sales, but also looks at the replacement cost (the amount it would cost to rebuild the property) less depreciation. Assessed value should be as close to market value as possible. After considering all relevant information, assessments are sent out to homeowners by April 1 of the assessment year. A homeowner will not actually pay the taxes on these assessments until September of the following year.

What if a homeowner completely disagrees with the assessment of their home and property? Fortunately, there is a process for you to argue your case. The first step is to file with the local Board of Review. Here is the form needed: [Board of Review Petition](#). Additionally—this website will describe the process: <https://paab.iowa.gov/appealing-your-assessment>.

The actual dollar amount you will pay is a very convoluted process. I have been exploring ways to simplify the process – starting with removing the state mandate of “current market value.” In my opinion, just because your neighbor sells to a high bidder, your taxes should not go up!

For the Kids

2023 Choose Iowa Calendar Contest

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig is encouraging school-age students to participate in the 2023 Choose Iowa Calendar Contest hosted by IDALS. Artwork submitted should feature at least one aspect of Iowa agriculture, with an emphasis on food, livestock, or crop production. Submissions will be judged on both creativity and the connection of agriculture to everyday life. Winners will be announced at the 2023 Iowa State Fair.

Details:

- students up to 18-years-old
- Pictures should be drawn on plain white, 8.5 by 11-inch paper in a horizontal orientation using only black lines.
- The pictures should not be colored in.
- Entries can be emailed to chooseiowa@iowaagriculture.gov
- or mailed to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Attn: Choose Iowa Calendar, 502 E 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.
- Each submission should include basic information about the artist (on the back of the entry or a separate sheet), including the artist’s name, age, grade, school, and hometown, as well as the name, email and phone number of a parent or guardian.
- For consideration, entries must be postmarked or e-mailed to IDALS by June 1, 2023.



Signing the Reorganization bill



Discussing issues with University of Iowa Public Health Dept.



First Lego League of Robotics Enstines.
Learning about their project



American Advertsing Federation
(they didn't ask for ANY money!!)



American Institute of Architects.



Iowa Beverage Association.