



# Representative Cindy Golding

## House District 83

### Under the Golden Dome #17

#### Adjourned Sine Die



*Hi friends,*

*The legislature has officially adjourned "sine die" (without another day) for the 2023 session. This same group of legislators will be back for the 2024 session (the second half of the 90th General Assembly). After that, Representatives and a few Senators will be up for reelection in Nov 2024. Other Senators will serve 2 more years in their term.*

*During the past several days, the House and Senate worked along with the Governor's office to find compromise on the budget. We worked through several important pieces of legislation and set some aside to continue discussions next year.*

*While this newsletter covers the end of the 2023 legislative session, it is not the end of my communication with you. This edition will cover the Property Tax legislation. Next week I will dig into more details on the budget and the Youth Employment Opportunity Bill. Summer editions will discuss other bills signed into law or those pending further review in the 2024 session.*

*But First.....*

## **CO2 Pipeline Update:**

Federal regulators want to hear from residents in Iowa regarding the proposed carbon capture pipeline. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (Division of the DOT) says it will hold public meetings on **May 31 and June 1st** in Des Moines. They plan to strengthen oversight of carbon pipeline safety following an investigation into a pipeline rupture near Satartia, Mississippi. If you plan to attend, please let me know! (send a text to 319-360-1028)

Registration information can be found [at this link](#).

More information on the public meeting and [background here](#).

Clay County Court Ruling in favor of Property rights [click HERE](#)

## **House File 718 – Property Tax Reform Signed into Law**

HF 718 passed nearly unanimously. It provides roughly \$100 million in property tax relief and is Phase #1 of a comprehensive revamping of our property tax system. Click on the link for the entire bill.

### **Here's how it works:**

#### **1) Direct Notification of Tax Bill Increases**

Property owners will now receive a parcel-specific notice of their tax bill's proposed increase and the public budget hearing's date, time, and location.

##### **How this will save you money:**

For change to happen, the new Direct notification is dependent on voters attending public hearings and confronting local elected officials. Then, those elected officials can choose to listen or ignore their constituents. The root of all property tax growth is local and county government spending; therefore, the best defense to rising tax bills is for citizens to engage in the process and hold their elected representatives accountable.

#### **2) Levy Consolidation**

The bill consolidates many of the smaller levies into the city and county general levy. Because consolidation may push the general levy beyond the existing levy cap, the bill includes a process to bring rates back down to the maximum.

##### **How this will save you money:**

Consolidation will increase transparency and help control the cost of city and county government. However, several levies are NOT impacted, including municipal transit, aviation authority, insurance premiums, local emergency management, EMS, liability, debt service, IPERS, law enforcement, police/fire retirement, ag land, flood and erosion, natural disaster, and pioneer cemetery.

#### **3) November-Only Bond Issues and Spending Questions**

To ensure the highest participation of Iowa voters, bond issue elections will only be held in November, the most recognized time to vote.

##### **How this will save you money:**

A higher percentage of the electorate will vote on bond issues that raise property tax bills. This might make it more difficult for bond issues to pass. However, the bill also raises the threshold at which the

need for a bond referendum is triggered. This change could make it easier for local governments to issue debt without taking those decisions to the voters. Keep a watchful eye!

#### **4) Expanded Property Tax Credits for Seniors and Veterans**

All Iowans 65 and older will have the homestead exemption to \$6,500. The military service property tax exemption will increase to \$4,000.

##### **How this will save you money:**

This exemption will decrease the taxable valuation of property owned by eligible Iowans

*These reforms will take effect before the new assessments received last month are used in calculating property tax bills you will receive in September 2024 and March 2025.*

*Remember, this legislation does not guarantee property tax bills 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 the most convoluted shell game I have ever seen. As taxpayers, we need to push back on the taxing the 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.***

## **District 83 News**

### **Secretary Naig Announces Funding for 16 Urban Water Quality Projects**

***\$14.6 million in total investment will be made to support ongoing statewide water quality efforts***

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (May 3, 2023) – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced today that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will partner in 16 urban water quality projects across the state by investing nearly \$2.8 million. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, utilizing the state's Water Quality Initiative (WQI) and funding from the Conservation Infrastructure Program (CIP), will provide cost-share grants that cover up to 50 percent of the total cost of each project. The overall cost of the 16 projects is expected to be approximately \$14.6 million, which includes \$2.8 million from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and \$11.8 million from local sources.

#### **Center Point is one of those 16 projects!**

Center Point Urban Water Quality Initiative Project

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Grant: \$350,000

A wetland will provide stormwater management for a new development area along Mustang Lane.

Several bioretention cells and permeable paver areas in Fross Park are also being implemented. These practices will improve water quality in the East Branch Blue Creek watershed and the Cedar River.

## **Highlights from the week**

*Although I'm not Jewish, I was honored to participate with Speaker ProTem John Wills in presenting HR6, a resolution declaring May to be Jewish American Heritage Month! House resolutions are not binding law, but rather express the collective sentiment of the House on a particular issue, person, or event.*

**A Resolution designating May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month.**



**WHEREAS**, in 1654, a small ship carrying 23 Jewish refugees sailed into the present-day Port of New York and New Jersey and became the first Jewish communal presence to settle on American soil; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jewish refugees expanded the frontier of religious freedoms that would help define the bedrock principles of justice, equality, and freedom upon which the United States of America was built; and

**WHEREAS**, many Jewish American survivors of the Holocaust have dedicated their lives to fighting for civil rights and educating future generations about the dangers of bigotry and antisemitism and the resilience of the human spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jewish experience in America has consistently reminded us that liberty and opportunity ultimately triumph over prejudice and hate; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month is traditionally observed nationwide in May of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States is currently experiencing a rise in antisemitism, and according to the American Jewish Committee, one in four Jewish Americans has experienced antisemitism this past year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anti-Defamation League reports that in 2021, antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high across the United States with a total of 2,717 incidents of assault, harassment, and vandalism; and

**WHEREAS**, Jewish American Heritage Month acknowledges the achievements of Jewish Americans in the military, the arts, civil rights, education, entertainment, history, law, literature, medicine, music, politics, science, sports, and other areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Jewish American Heritage Month is a time to reflect on the unique and important role of Jewish Americans and to redouble efforts to combat antisemitism; and

**WHEREAS**, in May, we honor the timeless traditions, heritage, and contributions of Jewish Americans that drive our progress as a nation each and every day; NOW THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, That the House of Representatives designates the month of May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month and invites the citizens of Iowa to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

**What's Next?? Stay in touch.**

*Between 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.*

Go to [CindyGolding.com](http://CindyGolding.com) or email me at [cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov) or call me at 319-360-1028

Have a wonderful weekend! *Cindy*