

LINN COUNTY

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



TOP PRIORITIES

Commercial Property Tax Backfill

Continue to backfill reduced local government revenue resulting from the rollback of commercial and industrial property taxes.

Mental Health and Disability Services

Provide the sustainable funding necessary for Mental Health and Disability Services regions to deliver core services. Eliminate the mental health levy cap to address property tax disparities between counties and to allow each county to equitably participate in its region.

Decategorization Services

Restore the transfer of Department of Human Services Child Welfare funds to Decategorization Boards for services that help prevent child and family involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Early Childhood Iowa Restrictions

Enhance the effectiveness of Early Childhood Iowa funds by removing the categorical restrictions on their use and allow Early Childhood Iowa Governance Boards to address unique local needs of at-risk families as documented in Community Plans.

Water Quality

Establish a stable, on-going revenue source for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (I-WILL) to support water quality and watershed management initiatives. Maintain the current funding distribution formula.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

County Bonding

Encourage fiscally prudent project planning by allowing counties the same ability as cities to issue bonds for public buildings when the principal amount of the bond, rather than the project cost, does not exceed statutory limits.

Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates

Address the instances of cost-shifting State expenses to local property tax payers. Reimburse local governments for state approved tax credits. Allow county departments to charge fees that cover the cost of providing services to reduce property tax payer subsidy.

Opioid Addiction

Provide funding to increase access to opioid addiction services.

Sixth Judicial District Judges

Increase the number of judges in the Sixth Judicial District in order to address the backlog of pending cases and the current caseload demand.

County Zoning Equity

Provide counties the same ability as cities have to uniformly and consistently apply zoning.

Medical Transportation

Ensure contract compliance for non-emergency medical transportation provided through contracts with Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME). Change contract language to base payments to contractors based on the number of rides provided rather than the number of eligible riders.

Resolution Publication

Allow resolutions that are part of meeting minutes published in an official newspaper to be published in summary, or by reference, rather than in their complete text provided that the complete text is posted on the county's official website.

Minutes Publication

Allow counties to publish a summary of minutes of all meetings of the Board of Supervisors provided that the entire minutes of each meeting are also posted on the county's official website. Clarify the definition of "proceedings" in Iowa Code § 349.18(1).

Surviving Owner Title Transfer

Allow for a no-charge vehicle title transfer after the death of an owner to any other surviving owner, not limited to spouses.

Vehicle Title Security Interest

Permit County Treasurers to accept a cancellation of a security interest in a vehicle by a notation on the face of the certificate of title or by a separate notarized lien release.

PROJECT REQUESTS

Transportation Assets

Provide funding to assist in updating and/or replacing public transportation assets, many of which are well beyond their useful life expectancy, and develop a sustainable funding mechanism for future years.

REAP – Resource Enhancement and Protection

Invest in Iowa's natural and cultural resources by providing the allowable annual appropriation of \$20 million in the Resource and Enhancement (REAP) fund.

Trail Bridge

Partner with Linn County in the development of a trail adjacent to the Highway 100 extension project.

Trail Grants

Invest in Iowa's quality of life infrastructure by increasing the amount appropriated for trails grants and institute a funding formula that emphasizes funding trails in areas of the state with growing populations.

Roadside Vegetation Pollinators

Promote the stability of agricultural productivity and natural ecosystems by financially supporting roadside management strategies that encourage the planting of native vegetation and reduce the impacts of mowing and spraying.

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