



Corridor

JULY 2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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First Citizens Bank

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Henkel Construction

Chelsy Snyder Anderson, Treasurer
Dean Snyder Construction

Collin Davison, Secretary
Laird Law Firm

Scot Smed, Past Chairman
Bergland + Cram

Directors:

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City of Clear Lake

Christy Marchand
CFO Systems

Collin Davison
Laird Law Firm

Emily Peters
Union Pacific Railroad

Christy Marchand
CFO Systems, LLC

Chuck Schafer
North Iowa Cooperative

Rod Schlader
MercyOne North Iowa

Ex-Officios:

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City of Clear Lake

Mayor Bill Schickel
City of Mason City

Supervisor Tim Latham
Cerro Gordo County

Dr. Steven Schulz
North Iowa Area Community College

Aaron Burnett
City of Mason City

Tom Meyer
Cerro Gordo County

Scott Flory
City of Clear Lake

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND OVERVIEW FOR 2022 SESSION

THE IOWA CHAMBER ALLIANCE RECENTLY ISSUED their 2022 End of Session Legislative Report. North Iowa Corridor partners with the Iowa Chamber Alliance and Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) to drive their common priorities at a state level, according to Schreck. The ICA is a non-profit coalition of leading chambers of commerce and economic development corporations in Iowa, including Mason City. PDI is a non-profit organization of over 300 economic development professionals in the state. PDI and the ICA identified four priority issues for the 2022 session: Workforce Recruitment and Retention, Economic Development Environment, Fair and Responsible Tax Reform, and Investment in Iowa Infrastructure.

Iowa continues to rebound from the 2020 pandemic, ranking #1 in Opportunity and #12 Overall in the U.S. News and World Report for 2022. During the March meeting, the Revenue Estimating Conference projected a 4.2% growth for FY22 over FY21. The first estimate for FY23 is slightly lower with a decrease of -0.2%. The Legislature approved a FY23 budget of \$8.209 billion.

During the Condition of the State, Governor Reynolds introduced a broad agenda for the upcoming legislative session, including tax reform. House File 2317 was signed into law on March 1st. The bill makes significant changes to the Iowa's tax laws by eliminating taxes on retirement income, creating a individual income 3.9% flat tax by 2026, and gradually lowering corporate income taxes to 5.5%. The Governor also encouraged the legislature to address school choice, childcare shortages, and the ongoing workforce shortage.

In 2022, the ICA monitored the following activity:

- 1,369 bills and study bills (study bills are prospective committee bills) were introduced
- 107 resolutions were introduced
- 1,350 amendments were filed. Amendments can be as simple as changing a single word in a bill or can be the equivalent of a lengthy, complicated bill.
- 146 bills and resolutions passed both chambers and were sent to the Governor/PD

Legislation of note from the 2022 session includes:

- Childcare (HF 2198, HF 2127, HF 2252) – Establishes new child-to-staff ratios in child care centers, allows 16-year-olds to work without additional supervision, allows child care centers to collect the difference between CCA rates and private pay rates from families, and expands CA eligibility to parents with permanent disabilities. HF 2198 – Sent to Governor, HF 2127 – Sent to Governor, HF 2252 – Signed by Governor.
- Workforce Omnibus Bill (SF 2383) – Includes provisions related to the expansion of work-based learning, recruitment of healthcare workers, city and county inspections of manufactured houses, and eliminates certain fees for veterans. Sent to Governor.
- Revitalization Areas (HF 626) – Bill to allow cities to designate revitalization areas that would provide property tax exemptions to qualified real estate. Passed Ways and Means Committee.

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