



# **2023 Legislative Overview**

**90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**January 6, 2023**

# **2023 Legislative Session**

Happy New Year and Cheers to a productive and prosperous 2023! We hope you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season. It is once again time for us to represent you before the Iowa Legislature. This is the first year of (a 2-year cycle) the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and it has arrived with many known changes and some expected challenges. With Republicans holding onto the Trifecta after the fall election, House Republicans selected Pat Grassley to serve as the Speaker of the House and Matt Windschitl as their Majority Leader once again. House Democrats elected Jennifer Konfrst to once again serve as their Leader. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans were in a different position after President of the Senate Jake Chapman was defeated by Senator Sarah Trone-Garriott. Sen. Jack Whitver, now the most senior leader in the Iowa legislature, continues in his role as the Senate Majority Leader and has been joined by Amy Sinclair who emerged as the new President of the Senate after the November election. Senate Democrats also re-elected Zach Wahls as their Leader. House Republicans grew their majority following the election and now hold 64-seats while Senate Republicans enjoy a 34-seat supermajority.

**Below please find an update on the House and Senate composition along with their caucus leaders and key staff in the Governor's office.**

## **Session Schedule**

Session kicks off Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, when the legislature gavel in to start their 110-day session. Individual bill draft requests are due by February 10<sup>th</sup>. The 110th legislative day of the session is April 28th when legislators' per diem expires. The [2023 Session Timetable](#) contains those dates referenced above and all-important deadlines for session.

- March 3, 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative Funnel Deadline
- March 31, 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Funnel Deadline
- April 28, 2023 – 110th Day of Session
- TBD, 2023 – Adjournment

Each week the leaders issue a calendar outlining the proposed schedule for the week in each chamber. So, if you would like to follow what's going on you can follow [this link to the chambers](#). To catch a glimpse of the first week you can find the calendars here: [Senate Calendar](#) [House Calendar](#)

## **Governors Address**

A note of interest, Governor Kim Reynolds announced this week she will again deliver her annual Condition of the State Address during prime time, on Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Iowa PBS will be providing a livestream online, and it can be watched on the Governor's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. The Governor will also hold her inaugural swearing in and ball on Friday, January 13, 2023.

## **Key Issues**

The first week of session is generally marked with speeches from leadership and the Governor outlining their agendas and promises for the session. With 43 new members to the legislature and 54 individuals in new seats and the Governor's inaugural festivities, there will be much emphasis put on the celebratory side of the first week.

After the Governor easily glided to re-election, she has largely been driving the republican agenda setting with leaders in both chambers following her lead. Key issues identified include:

1. Education Reforms/Governor's School Choice/Vouchers Bill
2. Property Tax Cuts
3. Workforce
4. Tort Reform
5. Government Efficiencies
6. Gun Laws
7. Although abortion has been identified in the press, leaders have said they don't intend to take action until the Supreme Court rules on the 6-week heartbeat law passed in 2018

Here is what we do know: despite inflation and workforce challenges, Iowa's economy appears to be fairly stable. According to the last two Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) meetings, the budget is projected to be flat for Fiscal Year 2024. The December REC projected a .1% increase even with the implementation of the income tax reforms passed in the 2022 session. Although Iowa's economy is stable, the REC remains cautious and suggested the economy is still unpredictable.

## **Communication & Bill Tracking**

Of immediate importance is to ensure your organization is up to speed on the changes to our **bill tracking and reporting system and procedures**. We hope you are just excited as we are for this new technology which will help us be more efficient and timelier in our reporting. On Wednesday we hosted a training to demonstrate the benefits of the new system and how to use it. If you were not able to join us or need a refresh, you can access the 30-minute training [here](#).

Before Monday you should receive a test email from [admin@advocacyiowa.com](mailto:admin@advocacyiowa.com) with your organization's login and password. After accessing the portal, please feel free to reach out to our admin Jessica with any questions or additional needs. In the meantime, we ask you to be patient as we work out the kinks and let us know how we can continue to improve the system for you.

To assist you with bill declarations, please find attached our **Policy Filter** document that may be helpful when deciding if it's worthwhile to register on a specific piece of legislation.

We will again provide our weekly updates electronically no later than noon on Monday for the previous week's action. We encourage you to share this with your board, advocates, volunteers,

members, and others who may benefit from the information. *Thank you for updating your daily bill and weekly update distribution contact lists in December.* Please let us know if you have any additional updates to those distribution lists.

### **Staffing Updates**

Jessica Meyer is new to our team this fall as our Executive Administrative Assistant. She will be assisting with client communication and bill tracking this session. As a graduate of the University of Iowa, she came to us after working at Wells Fargo for the past eight years. She, her husband Josh and 6-month-old daughter Allie reside in Newton. Jessica will serve as your main point of contact for lobby day needs, bill declarations, and your tracking document. She will be taking care of everything behind the scenes! Her contact information is below.

In addition to your team of Threase, Nick, Chelsea, and Bob representing you at that Statehouse on a daily basis while Jessica will be running point on the administrative side, we will have two interns, Myia Sims a Senior at Drake University and Ilianna Murphy a Sophomore at Simpson College. We are glad they will both be able to work with us at the statehouse.

**As always, please feel free to contact the Advocacy Strategies Team with any questions, comments, or concerns. We are pleased to be representing your interests during the 2023 Legislative Session and throughout the year. Contact information for your lobbying team is below. We look forward to a successful session and working with you in the days ahead.**

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# Iowa House Composition

2023 Iowa House Composition

**64 Republicans**

**36 Democrats**

## House Republican Leadership

Speaker of the House Pat Grassley (North Central Iowa)

Majority Leader Matt Windschitl (Western Iowa)

Majority Whip Henry Stone (Northcentral Iowa)

House Speaker Pro Tempore John Wills (Northwest Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Jon Dunwell (Central Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Craig Johnson (Northeast Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Brent Siegrist (Southwest Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader David Young (Central Iowa)

## House Democratic Leadership

Minority Leader Jennifer Konfrst (Greater Des Moines)

Minority Whip Lindsay James (Eastern Iowa)

Assistant Minority Leader Sue Cahill (Central Iowa)

Assistant Minority Leader Heather Matson (Greater Des Moines)

Assistant Minority Leader Amy Nielsen (Greater Iowa City)

Assistant Minority Leader Sharon Steckman (North Central Iowa)

# Iowa Senate Composition

2023 Iowa Senate Composition

**34 Republicans**

**16 Democrats**

## **Senate Republican Leadership**

Majority Leader Jack Whitver (Greater Des Moines)

Senate President Amy Sinclair (South Central Iowa)

Majority Whip Waylon Brown (North Central Iowa)

Senate President Pro Tempore Brad Zaun (Greater Des Moines)

Assistant Majority Leader Chris Cournoyer (Eastern Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Carrie Koelker (Northeast Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Mike Klimesh (Northeast Iowa)

Assistant Majority Leader Jeff Reichman (Southeast Iowa)

## **Senate Democratic Leadership**

Minority Leader Zach Wahls (Greater Iowa City)

Minority Whip Sarah Trone-Garriott (Greater Des Moines)

Assistant Minority Leader Eric Giddens (Northeast Iowa)

Assistant Minority Leader Pam Jochum (Northeast Iowa)

Assistant Minority Leader Nate Boulton (Greater Des Moines)

Assistant Minority Leader Herman Quirnbach (Central Iowa)

# **Governor's Office**

Governor Kim Reynolds & Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg

## **Governor's Staff**

Taryn Frideres , Chief of Staff

Jacob Nicholson, Chief Operations Officer

Stephanie Groen, Deputy Chief of Staff

Alex Murphy, Communications Director

Damian Bell, Communications Advisor and Chief Speechwriter

Michael Boal, Senior Legal Counsel

Nick Davis, Deputy Legal Counsel

Megan Hall, Director of Boards and Commissions and Legal Assistant

Molly Severn, Legislative Liaison and Agriculture Policy Advisor

Nate Ristow, Workforce and Public Safety Policy Advisor

Patrick Tomka, Senior Tax, Commerce, and Economic Policy Advisor

Clare Kelly, Health Policy Advisor

Jane Dufoe, Education Policy Advisor

Meaghan O'Brien, Director of State-Federal Relations

Eric Baker, Director of Strategic Operations

Alex Brynes, Executive Assistant to the Governor