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## Cornerstone Iowa Newsletter

### Friday, January 5, 2024

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### **2024 Legislative Priorities for the State House**

At 10:00 AM Monday morning, legislators will gavel in for the second year of the 90th Iowa General Assembly. Governor Reynolds will give her Condition of the State Address on Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM in the House chamber. She will lay out her priorities for the legislative session and introduce her FY 2025 budget.

#### ***Governor***

The Governor is expected to reveal a tax plan as one of her priorities for the 2024 legislative session. The tax plan will likely include adjustments to the state income tax. Governor Reynolds and Republican legislators have cited the significant balance of the Taxpayer Relief Fund and the state budget surplus as reasons for further tax cuts. Additionally, news reports indicate that one of the Governor's priorities may be increasing teacher pay. Further, the Governor is expected to propose the elimination of many of the state's boards and commissions, along with making changes to those that would remain.

#### ***House & Senate Republicans***

Republican legislators have communicated a number of priorities for the upcoming session. These priorities include tax relief, improving educational outcomes, maintaining public safety in Iowa, focusing on Iowa's economy, upgrading technology within state government, and ensuring that government is transparent and efficient. Within the

### ***House & Senate Democrats***

Democratic legislators have also put forth a list of priorities. These include strengthening Iowa's public education system by increasing state funding, protecting a woman's right to choose, making marijuana legal for adult use, raising wages for workers, and lowering costs that families face, especially for housing and childcare.

## **December REC Meeting Updates**

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) met on December 13. The REC's purpose is to make revenue estimates for the General Fund for the current fiscal year and the following fiscal year. The revenue estimates established at the December meeting must be used by the Governor in the preparation of her budget message at the beginning of session and by the General Assembly in the budget process for FY 2025, unless a meeting at a later date establishes a lower estimate.

At the December meeting, the REC estimated that net General Fund receipts plus transfers for FY 2024 will be approximately \$9.75 billion. This is a decrease of \$98.8 million from FY 2023 actuals. The REC also estimated that net General Fund receipts plus transfers for FY 2025 will be approximately \$9.64 billion. This is \$109.4 million less than the FY 2024 estimate.

For more details on the revenue estimates, see the [spreadsheet](#) released by the LSA. The REC's next meeting will be held in March.

## **Iowa Caucuses Fast Approaching!**

The Iowa caucuses are happening on Monday, January 15. Iowa holds the nation's first caucus, followed closely behind by New Hampshire holding the nation's first primary, which will be held on Tuesday, January 23 this year.

There is a relatively large pool of candidates for Iowa's Republican caucus. The candidates include Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Chris Christie, Asa Hutchinson, and Ryan Binkley. Former President Trump is currently leading in polls, followed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley.

Both parties will hold their caucuses in-person on January 15. However, the Democratic caucus will only include conducting traditional party business. The expression of presidential preference for Democrats will be solely conducted through mail, and results will be released on March 5. The last day to request a presidential preference card for the Democratic caucus is February 19.

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## **Cornerstone Article on Crisis Communications**

O'Dwyer's recently released its January 2024 special issue focusing on crisis communications. Featured in the special issue is an article entitled "Navigating a Volatile

Cornerstone's seasoned, bipartisan communications experts can help businesses navigate this.

Read the full article [here](#).

## Upcoming Fundraisers

### **Fundraiser for Reps. Ann Meyer, Joel Fry, and Brian Best**

Sunday, January 7 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm  
Cornerstone Government Affairs, 212 E. 3rd Street, Floor 2, Des Moines

### **Fundraiser for Reps. Helena Hayes, Bob Henderson, and Jon Dunwell**

Sunday, January 7 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm  
Cornerstone Government Affairs, 212 E. 3rd Street, Floor 2, Des Moines

### **Fundraiser for Reps. Chad Ingels, Shannon Latham, and Ray Sorenson**

Sunday, January 7 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm  
303 East Court Ave, Des Moines

### **Fundraiser for Reps. Michael Bergan, Jacob Bossman, Taylor Collins, Martin Graber, Brian Lohse, and Norlin Mommsen**

Sunday, January 7 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm  
Big Grove Brewery and Taproom, 555 17th St, Des Moines

### **Fundraising Reception for Iowa House Democrats**

Sunday, January 7 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm  
Peace Tree Brewing, 317 E. Court Ave, Des Moines

### **Fundraiser for House Speaker Pat Grassley, House Majority Leader Matt Windschitl, and Reps. Jane Blommingdale, Bobby Kaufmann, Shannon Lundgren, Gary Mohr, and Carter Nordman**

Sunday, January 7 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm  
Big Grove Brewery and Taproom, 555 17th St, Des Moines

## In the News

- [ABC News: With Less Than 2 Weeks Until Iowa GOP Caucuses, Here's What to Know](#)
- [Radio Iowa: GOP Ponders Next Steps on Tax Policy for 2024 Iowa Legislature](#)
- [WHO 13: Governor Reynolds Holds Annual Public State Budget Meeting](#)
- [Iowa Public Radio: Iowa Republicans Say They'll Wait for Iowa Supreme Court Ruling Before Considering Anti-Abortion Amendment](#)
- [Axios: Why Iowa Rejected \\$29 Million in Child Food Aid](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Federal Judge Blocks Enforcement of Iowa Law Banning School Books, Gender Identity Instruction](#)
- [Iowa Public Radio: Iowa to Consider Ending Gender Balance Law as Part of Boards and Commissions Review](#)

## Senate Week 1 Schedule

\*\*\*Subject to Change\*\*\*

Monday, January 8	Tuesday, January 9	Wednesday, January 10	Thursday, January 11	Friday, January 12
<b>On Call (AM)</b> <b>10:00 SESSION</b> <b>Rules and Administration</b> RM 116	<b>9:00 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Agriculture</b> RM 116  <b>11:00 Commerce</b> RM 116	<b>9:00 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Joint Session, Condition of the Judiciary</b> House Chamber	<b>9:00 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Joint Session, Condition of the Guard</b> House Chamber	<b>9:00 SESSION</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>1:00 Natural Resources and Environment</b> RM 116  <b>2:00 Appropriations</b> RM 116  <b>3:00 Education</b> RM 116	<b>1:00 State Government</b> RM 116  <b>2:00 Judiciary</b> RM 116  <b>3:00 Health and Human Services</b> RM 116  <b>6:00 Joint Session, Condition of the State</b> House Chamber	<b>1:00 Workforce</b> RM 116  <b>2:00 Transportation</b> RM 116  <b>2:30 Veterans Affairs</b> RM 116  <b>3:00 Ways and Means</b> RM 116		

## House Week 1 Schedule

Monday, January 8	Tuesday, January 9	Wednesday, January 10	Thursday, January 11	Friday, January 12
<b>10:00 House Convenes</b> House Chamber	<b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Republican HR Training</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>11:15 Democrat HR Training</b> RM 19	<b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Joint Session: Condition of Judiciary</b>	<b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>10:00 Joint Session: Condition of National Guard</b>	<b>7:30 SESSION</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>3:00 Administration and Rules</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	<b>1:00 Local Government</b> RM 19 <b>Agriculture</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Health and Human Services</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>2:00 Education</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Commerce</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>3:00 Environmental Protection</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult  <b>6:00 Joint Session: Condition of the State</b>	<b>1:00 Public Safety</b> RM 19 <b>Economic Growth and Technology</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>State Government</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>2:00 Veterans Affairs</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Transportation</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>3:00 Ways and Means</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Appropriations</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	<b>1:00 Natural Resources</b> RM 19 <b>Labor and Workforce</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Judiciary</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	

## 2024 Session Timeline

The full 2024 legislative calendar can be found [here](#). Below are key dates of interest.

**JANUARY 8** – First day of session.

**JANUARY 9** – The Governor's Condition of the State address. Governor Reynolds

reported out of Senate committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees.

**MARCH 15** – *Second Funnel*. Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees.

**APRIL 16** – 100th calendar day of the session. Per diem expenses end.

## The Iowa Cornerstone Government Affairs Team

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*Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any comments, questions, or concerns.*



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*Cornerstone is a full-service, bipartisan consulting firm specializing in federal and state government relations, public affairs and strategic communications, and advisory services.*

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