

PREPARING FOR COUNTY DAY

County Day is March 13, 2024

On County Day, all local government affiliates, under the ISAC banner get an opportunity to visit the Iowa State Capitol and visit with their local legislators.

Print & Share these Materials

This additional information can guide you through a conversation with your legislators and community. You may also use the sheets with a blue color block on the left hand side as a resource to LEAVE with the individuals you meet.

- Page 5 - Iowa Economics, inflation & charts
- Page 6 - About County Recorders & legislative priorities
- Page 7 - About Modernization Initiative
- Pages 8 & 9 - general ICRA brochure (double-sided, print test recommended)

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION OR ATTACH A BUSINESS CARD SO PEOPLE CAN REACH OUT TO YOU!

What to do and what to avoid

DO

- ☒ Practice your talking points
- ☒ Identify yourself & who you represent
- ☒ Introduce your talking points (**Key Messages?**)
- ☒ Keep it Simple
- ☒ Relate to situations in your home district
- ☒ Thank legislators for their time

DON'T

- ☒ Be offended if a legislator is unable to meet with you
- ☒ Overstate or exaggerate
- ☒ Forget to say "Thank you"
- ☒ Forget to follow up 1-10 days after the meeting
- ☒ Forget to leave behind reference materials



SCAN THIS CODE!



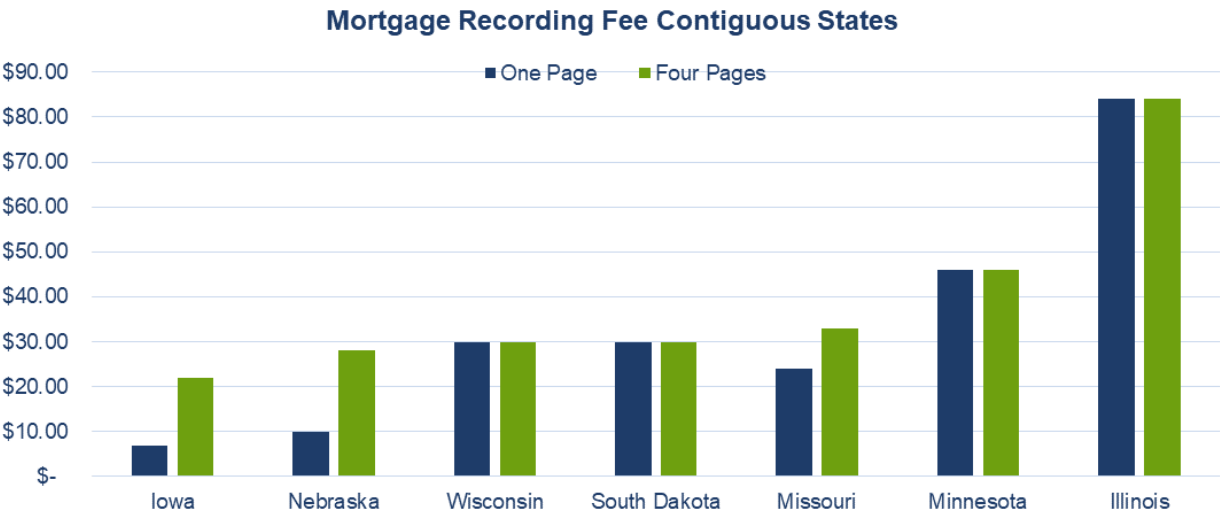
IOWA ECONOMICS



Every parcel, building, and piece of property in Iowa is represented in a document that has been recorded in a county recorder’s office. These documents are a visible sign of a complex process that is foundational for the economy.

INFLATION VS. LAST FEE CHANGE

1 Page Rates		4 Page Rates	
1985 - Current	Inflation Adjustment	1985 - Current	Inflation Adjustment
\$7 in 1985	\$20.02 in 2023	\$22 in 1985	\$62.91 in 2023



CURRENT FEES IN OTHER STATES

The graphs above illustrate fee comparisons with states in the central United States. Iowa has the lowest recording fees.

SCAN THIS CODE!

ABOUT

FIND YOUR LOCAL COUNTY RECORDER



Q

What does a County Recorder do in my community?

While the office was first established in 1839 with the basic duty to maintain official records of real estate documents in order to preserve property rights, the position acquired more responsibilities over time.

You may go to the County Recorders Office for

- Vital records such as a birth, marriage, or death certificate
- Marriage license
- Passport Application and photo (may vary in some counties)
- Recreational vehicle registrations and titles
- Hunting and fishing licenses (may vary in some counties)

Q

How many departments do County Recorders work with daily?

- Iowa Secretary of State
- Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Revenue
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of State

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Modernize and improve services for the real estate industry and Iowa citizens
- Work to prevent and detect property fraud
- Maintain security for real estate records and information
- Increase the digitization of older paper records including surveys and plats

Iowa Land Records was established under Chapter 28E to provide Iowa counties with an electronic services system for land record information, electronic recording and other services as amended by 2021 Iowa Acts, Chapter 126, Section 2. See also, https://iowalandrecords.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SOS-Filing_28E.pdf

ABOUT MODERNIZATION

Contact: **Census Lo-liyong**
Policy Coordinator
clo-liyong@clris.com



What is the Iowa County Recorders Association modernization initiative?

It's a proposal we're planning to bring forward in 2025 to modernize recording services.

County Recorders have some important goals:

- Detecting and preventing property fraud
- Increasing access to more property information in other systems
- Indexing more data and improving search tools
- Doing more to protect court officers and law enforcement
- Lowering costs by making real estate filing and research more efficient
- Digitizing and publishing more older records including surveys and plats
- Leveraging technology to speed up processes requiring document review
- Maintaining security of real estate information and historic records



What resources are needed to accomplish goals?

Adjustment to recording fees (user fees) makes the most sense.

Did you know that Iowa recording fees haven't been updated since 1985? Almost forty years! To put this in perspective, the cost of a postage stamp has tripled in that same time span – from \$0.22 to \$0.68.



What are the proposed fee changes?

Iowa recording fees are the lowest in the Central U.S., and revenue from recording fluctuates with the real estate economy.

The recording fee has been \$5.00 per page since 1985. This is still a work in progress, but I know our study group intends to keep it below the inflation rate.

We know we need to be realistic, and the fee should be simple and easy to understand.



What happens next?

Our Association is hoping to have a final plan ready in July. We are actively communicating with our stakeholders and customers in developing these plans.



ABOUT RECORDERS

The office of County Recorder was created by the first Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa in 1839. The basic duty of a county recorder was to maintain official records of real estate documents in order to preserve property rights. Over time, county recorders acquired more responsibilities, serving as Registrar of Vital Records, passport agents, issuer of recreational vehicle registrations and titles. Hunting and fishing licenses are also managed by recorders in some counties.

Did you know many county recorders work with multiple departments daily?

- Iowa Secretary of State
- Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Revenue
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of State

IOWA ECONOMICS

Every parcel, building, and piece of property in Iowa is represented in a document that has been recorded in a county recorder's office. These documents are a visible sign of a complex process that is foundational for the economy.

RECORDER SERVICES



REAL ESTATE RECORDS



VITAL RECORDS

Birth, Death & Marriage Records



**MARRIAGE
LICENSES**



TITLE & REGISTRATIONS

ATV, Boat, Snowmobile, ORM, ORV



**MILITARY
RECORDS**



OTHER SERVICES MAY VARY

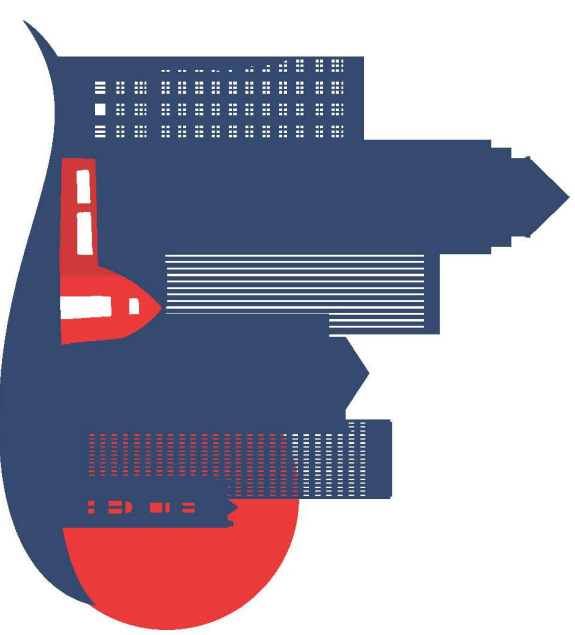
- Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- Passport Application & Photos

FIND YOUR LOCAL
COUNTY RECORDER

SCAN THIS CODE:



**IOWA COUNTY
RECORDERS
ASSOCIATION**





CERTIFICATIONS

In 2010, the Iowa County Recorders Association Executive Board appointed a task force to research and develop a formalized continuing education program. These informational seminars help county recorders and deputies more effectively fulfill their managerial duties and professional responsibilities.

Designed as a two-year program, the Iowa County Recorders Association Certification Program consists of 12 core credit hours that must be earned to obtain certified recorder status or certified deputy status.

TRAINING

In addition to the certification program, recorders attend several meetings and conferences planned by the Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa County Recorders Association and Iowa Land Records. District meetings are also held for recorders to collaborate and strategize with their colleagues in smaller working groups. These groups discuss and review legislative issues, policy, recording standards, and procedural changes.

Recorders also attend software user group meetings to help solve issues and recommend improvements.

ICRA COMMITTEES

The Iowa County Recorders Association has several committees in place to assist with various aspects of the association:

- Vital Records Committee
- DNR Liaison Committee
- Certification Committee
- Records Retention Manual Committee
- Recorders Manual Committee
- Policy Committee
- District Committee

ESS COMMITTEES

(IOWA LAND RECORDS)

County recorders also serve on various committees relating to the Electronic Services System (ESS), also known as Iowa Land Records. The committees and subcommittees make decisions in relation to the state-wide land records system. Iowa county recorders are represented on:

- ESS Coordinating Committee
- ESS Finance Subcommittee
- ESS Standards Subcommittee
- ESS Communications Subcommittee

“I enjoy being an active member of the Iowa County Recorders Association because it allows me to build relationships with fellow county recorders and gain more knowledge to better serve my customers and community.”

Samantha Boothby
Cherokee County Recorder

IOWA LAND RECORDS AND ELECTRONIC SERVICES SYSTEM

Did you know that Iowa was one of the first states to implement a statewide digital system for land records? All 99 Iowa counties have participated in the Iowa Land Records system since it was created in 2007 from an Iowa bill, SF453, to “implement electronic recording and electronic transactions in each county and develop a county and statewide internet website to provide electronic access to records and information.”

Iowa Land Records is an easy-to-use online database that allows users to search for and submit real estate documents for recording. The online database is maintained by county recorders and the associated organization, Electronic Services System.

In 2022, **60%** of all land records in Iowa were recorded electronically. More than **23 million documents** are available for businesses and individuals to search.

IOWA LAND RECORDS

Users Search Submit

Start a New Search

Names Search

Reference Search

Location Search

Document Type Search

County Search

Advanced Search

Saved Searches

See all

Need Help? Contact us or find a training resource.

Contact Us Find Resources

Iowa Land Records

Search. Submit. Succeeded.

Start a new search by choosing an option here or start a search you have previously saved.