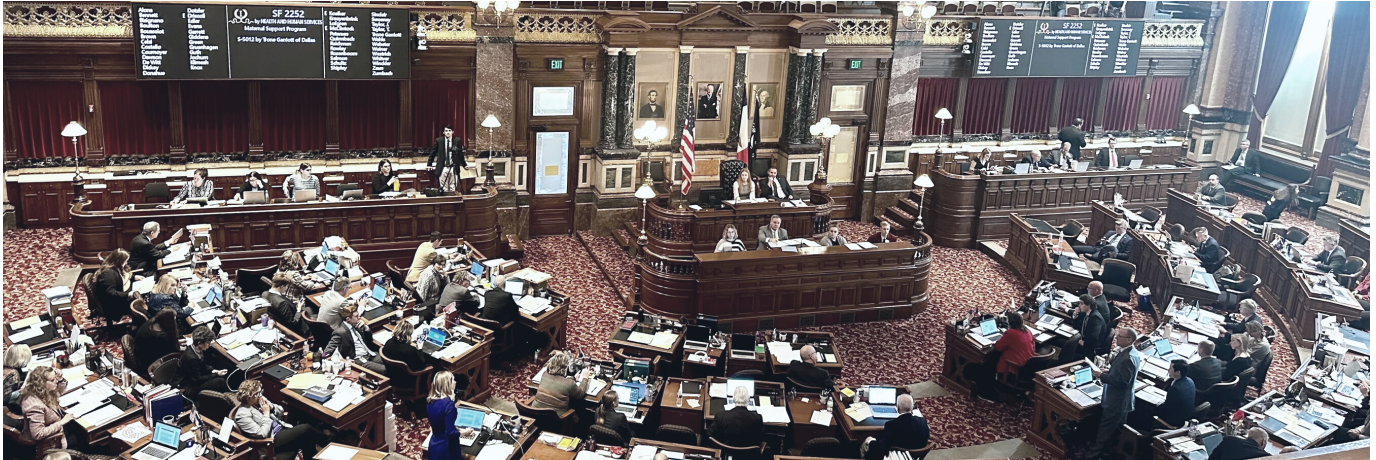


IOWA COUNTY RECORDERS ASSOCIATION POLICY BRIEF



MARCH 4, 2024

END OF 1ST FUNNEL
WEEK

COUNTY DAY IS COMING

ADVOCACY CHALLENGE
SCHEDULE

MATERIALS TO PRINT

[LINK TO ICRA HUB](#)

END OF THE 1ST FUNNEL WEEK

Census K Lo-liyong

At the end of the first funnel week of the Iowa General Assembly, several bills have moved forward in both legislative chambers.

ICRA Advocacy efforts focused on the pausing the advancement of SF 2065 (County Recorders Notification Bill), the bill did not progress beyond the funnel week. ICRA also monitored HF 2539, the Public Records Education and Enforcement Bill. The bill advanced with an amendment that decreased the violations by 50%. Iowa Public Information Board will be in charge of approving education material and reviewing violations.

(continued on page 2)

(continued) 1st FUNNEL WEEK

HF 2299, the Open Records Request bill, has progressed through the House. The bill would authorize a governmental body to provide requested public records in a comparable alternative format to the format requested. This legislation is significant for recorders, as it alleviates the burden of using additional resources to modify records to meet specific requests.

While two bills on abolishing the compensation board (**HF2514**) and (**SF2226**) were debated in subcommittees. Both bills would abolish the county compensation boards, transfer responsibilities to the board of supervisors with a 3% annual increase. The **SF 2226** did not advance beyond the subcommittee level. The **HF 2514** advanced with an amendment that stipulates that the elected officials would receive the same percentage of annual increase.

SF 2328 Deer Vehicle Motor Collision Bill

The bill proposes that residents involved in a vehicle collision can receive a free antlerless deer hunting license and tag upon submitting a police report or insurance claim. During the subcommittee meeting, the Senators were informed about the challenges related to administering the bill for free. DNR requested for a pause to free hunting tags until they release their deer depredation study results.



SF 2429 Paddlecraft Bill. The bill proposes vessel registration exemptions specifically for paddlecraft, including canoes, kayaks, and similar human-powered vessels. The bill was an amendment from a bill proposed last year, it was advanced to the Appropriation Committee awaiting a subcommittee date.

SF 2331, Publication Requirement bill, amends publication requirements for official notices and introduces effective date provisions. Counties can publish required notifications and publications on the internet if no newspaper meeting the requirements for official publications exists in the county.

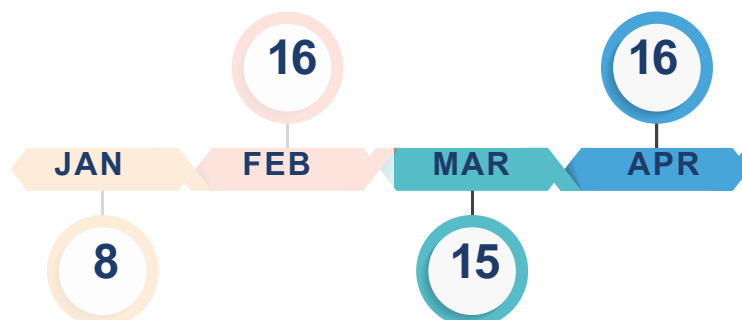
SESSION TIMELINE

Feb 16 - First funnel

- Debate period

Mar 15 - Second funnel

Apr 16 - Session's 100th day,
per diem ends



ADVOCACY CHALLENGE

OCTOBER	Make A List Compile a list of 10-20 key stakeholders that use your office services frequently. Refer to the OCTOBER Iowa Land Records newsletter for the complete list of suggestions.
NOVEMBER	Send A Greeting Card The Holiday Season is here, send a greeting card to 10-key stakeholders in your county (October's Challenge). Perhaps this is your first time reaching out and this could be a way to introduce yourself.
DECEMBER	Regroup & Start An Outreach Log Celebrate your accomplishments, & start your advocacy outreach plan, start your advocacy communications log.
JANUARY	Sign up for the Advocacy Kickoff Sign up for the virtual event hosted on February 7 at 9 a.m. https://iowalandrecords.org/form-advocacy-webinar-sign-up/
FEBRUARY	Attend Kickoff & Develop Key Messages Participants report on advocacy challenges, communications and develop key messaging for their community's needs.
MARCH	Meet With Your Legislators & Review Fact Sheet Participate in County Day or schedule a local meeting with your legislators. Prepare for your meet and greet by reviewing the Talking Points and Fact Sheet. Remember to print and share your customized ICRA brochure too!

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!



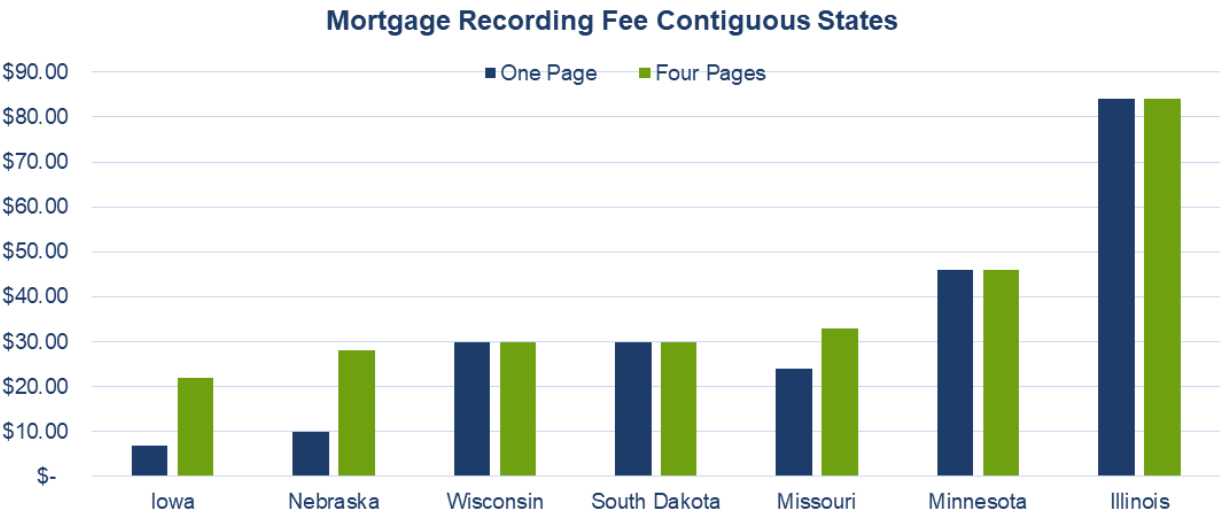
IOWA ECONOMICS



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

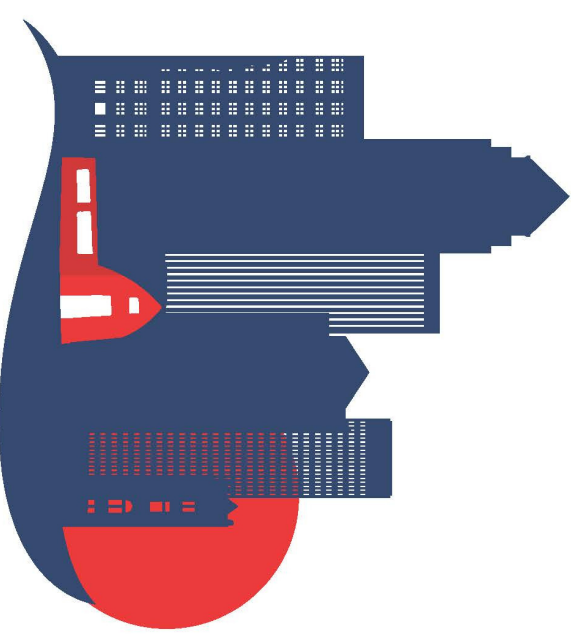
- Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- Passport Application & Photos

FIND YOUR LOCAL COUNTY RECORDER

SCAN THIS CODE!



**IOWA COUNTY
RECORDERS
ASSOCIATION**





CERTIFICATIONS

In 2011, 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
- Records 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.

