



“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.” - Abraham Lincoln

October 26 2017

www.iowaHouseRepublicans.com

Appropriations

(Contact Brad Trow at 1-3471)

Inside this issue:

October REC forecast calls for revenue growth in FY 2018, 2019, but at a slower pace

State revenue continues to grow, but at a slower pace than previously projected. This was the conclusion of the state’s Revenue Estimating Conference when it held its October meeting last Thursday.

Nationally, the three-member panel noted that wage and income growth has been steady this year. New factory orders have risen and the value of the dollar, a key factor in the country’s exports, has been declining. All these factors are positives for the state and national economy. But there are also indicators that serve as a caution as well. New home construction has tapered off.

For Iowa, all three members of the REC noted that the state was experiencing slow to modest growth this year. The state’s unemployment rate and the numbers of new filings for unemployment benefits are very low. Wages have been growing, with some of that due to the very tight labor market. Retail sales, which were surprisingly lower last year, have returned to a more normal pattern of growth this year.

As for the agriculture sector in Iowa, there are some signs of improvement. John Deere has reported two straight quarters of improved revenues and has recalled a number of employees that were laid off in the past year. While ag land prices continue to slide, the decline is at a slower rate than the past couple of years. Still, commodity prices continue to trend lower as this year’s crop has produced strong yields in spite of the summer’s drought-like conditions.

All these factors led the REC to continue to project state revenue growth, just at a slower pace than what they had forecast last March.

\$7.2375 billion. This is a reduction of \$127 million from the March 2017 figure of \$7.3645 billion. The new figure would amount to revenue growth of 2.4 percent when compared to FY 2017. The new estimate puts Iowa’s revenue forecast in line with the current experience of several neighboring states like Minnesota and Missouri, which are also experiencing slower growth than they had projected last spring during their legislative sessions.

In detail, the group lowered their forecast for growth in personal income tax collections and sales/use tax receipts. In March, both were expected to grow at or above 6 percent. Now, they are expected to grow around 4 percent. They also raised their forecast for the amount of tax refunds expected to be paid out by the state this year. One positive area is the forecast for corporate tax revenue, which went from an expected decline of 4.4 percent last March to projected increase of 7.8 percent today.

The revised FY 2018 estimate is slightly below the budget passed last spring, which spent \$7.248 billion and paid off \$20 million of the funds borrowed from the Cash Reserve Fund. Also during Fiscal Year 2018, the state will have to pay back the \$13 million transferred from the Economic Emergency Fund by Governor Reynolds last month at the close of the books for FY 2017.

“The REC will re-visit this number at their December Meeting.”

FY 2018

For Fiscal Year 2018, the REC lowered their projection for the General Fund to

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FY 2019

For the next fiscal year, the REC is currently projecting that General Fund will be at \$7.5363 billion. That is a growth rate of 4.1 percent above the current projected level for FY 2018. The new estimate is \$90 million less than the initial REC forecast for FY 2019 made last March. It is important to remember that \$110 million of the FY 2019

General Fund has already been appropriated to complete the repayment of April's transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund.

In detail, the REC expects personal income tax receipts to grow by 4.7 percent for the year. Sales and use tax collections are projected to maintain the growth expected in FY 2018, by growing by 3.4 percent in FY 2019. After expected corporate tax payments in FY 2018, the REC believes growth

in this category will be down to 1.1 percent. Overall, the October forecast calls for increased General Fund receipts of \$298.8 million in Fiscal Year 2019.

The official estimate used to develop the FY 2019 budget will be made at the next REC meeting, which will be held in mid-December. The date for the meeting has not been set, but the Iowa Code requires it to occur on or before December 15th.

Agriculture

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

IDALS Encourages Livestock Farmers to Make Sure Information is Up to Date

On Monday, October 9, 2017, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release in which the state agency encourages all Iowa livestock farmers to make sure that all locations where they have livestock have a premises identification number (PIN) and to make sure their information is up-to-date. IDALS will be contacting livestock producers who have previously registered a premises in an effort to update the Iowa Premises Registration database of Premises Ident-

tification Numbers (PIN's). Farmers are asked to respond to the letter and either confirm the information is correct or respond with their updated information. Producers in the following counties can expect to receive their letters in October: Allamakee, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Blackhawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Buena Vista and Butler. In November, letters will be sent to producers in Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay and Clayton coun-

ties. The Department will then continue alphabetically through the counties over the next several months.

Farmers can complete or renew their premises registration by completing the form found on the Department's website at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/pdf/premiseIDapp2.pdf> and submitting the signed form to IDALS. Iowa currently has more than 32,500 premises registered.

IDALS Announces 11 Iowa Projects to Receive Grants to Help Promote Specialty Crops

On Thursday, October 19, 2017 the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) announced that eleven projects in Iowa have been selected to receive grant funding to help enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. IDALS received \$282,032 through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service to support the program. Iowa agricultural non-profit organizations, cooperatives, specialty crop industry associations or organizations, and producer groups were eligible to apply for funding. IDALS also invited public comment from specialty crop stakeholders to help identify priorities for the program and established a Review Committee to help review, evaluate, and make recommendations on which grant proposals submitted to IDALS should receive funding. The maximum grant award from IDALS to subgrantees is \$24,000 and administrative and indirect costs are not allowed. Grant funds shall be used for projects that benefit and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops industry as a whole, and cannot be for projects that directly benefit a particular product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

"Specialty Crops" that are eligible under this program are fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. The funds not passed through to Iowa organizations

will be used by the Department to administer the grant. The full list of the 11 funded projects follows here:

Lutheran Services in Iowa - \$24,000

This project will provide refugees specialty crop producer training with a focus on food safety, organic production, and crop planning. Lutheran Services in Iowa will provide classroom, in-field, and experiential trainings for farmers to improve their skills and knowledge in these fields.

Iowa State University of Science and Technology - \$23,750

Iowa State University will work to improve productivity and expand production of specialty leafy greens in hydroponic systems by developing species-specific requirements for fertilizing during seedling production and nutrient solution for production in hydroponic system through scientifically based quantification of mineral nutrient requirements.

Iowa State University of Science and Technology - \$23,968

Iowa State University will conduct research on evaluating season extension strategies for production of spring vegetable crops. The research will study different row cover materials that can be utilized: 1) to extend growing season and 2) as a sustainable pest management tool. Broccoli will be used as a test crop and data will be collected on

several crop growth parameters and environmental factors such as temperature, relative humidity, etc.

Allamakee New Beginnings, Inc. dba Iowa Food Hub - \$21,198

Iowa fruit and vegetable growers are facing pressure to comply with food safety standards, known as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and wholesale buyers are increasingly requiring a third-party GAPs certification. Allamakee New Beginning, doing business as the Iowa Food Hub, will manage funding for a state-wide GAP/GHP Cost-Share Program to defray the cost of these voluntary audits for any Iowa specialty crop farmer.

Golden Hills Resource, Conservation & Development - \$23,991

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), working with New Tree School, local growers, and other partners, will create new markets for sales of locally-sourced and locally-propagated native oak trees. They will first identify public and private lands with old-growth oak trees from which to harvest acorns. Project partners such as farmers and landowners with an interest in propagating oaks will be identified and trained in proper growing practices.

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The James Gang dba Iowa Valley Global Food Project - \$23,331

Iowa Valley Global Food Project (IVGFP) is committed to creating an agricultural model where local residents and “New Iowans” (families that have recently immigrated to Iowa) can work hand-in-hand to grow specialty crops, communicate and exchange ways to improve local food quality, support families that lack access to food, provide training and working opportunities, and host community events that focus on agricultural education and cross-cultural exchange.

Members from all corners of the Johnson County will have the opportunity to access community garden plots, gain new gardening skills, and grow food for the community.

University of Northern Iowa - \$17,186

The Greens-to-Go program and partners (Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Jesse Cosby Center, several churches, several local farms, UNI students and neighborhood youth, and AmeriCorps members) will operate in more neighborhoods, reach more families, increase the volume of local products sold at these neighborhood stands, and assist recent refugees in developing

marketing skills to sell their vegetables at local markets. Greens-to-Go is a mobile produce stand organized by University of Northern Iowa’s Local Food Program. Teams of youth go to local farms on a weekly basis (June-Oct) and harvest a wide variety of fruits and vegetables with their own labor, purchase them at very reasonable prices, and then resell at no profit through Greens-to-Go in several low-income neighborhoods in Waterloo, Iowa not served by farmers markets or grocers.

Practical Farmers of Iowa - \$24,000

Many specialty crop farmers in Practical Farmers’ membership are asking for training on machinery and equipment for specialty crop production, and see this knowledge gap as a barrier to scaling up their production. The central objective of this grant is to improve the competitiveness of specialty crops in Iowa through farmer-to-farmer education on machinery and equipment.

Southern Iowa Resource, Conservation & Development - \$23,968

This project is aimed to draw the millennial demographic to farmers markets. Southern Iowa Resource, Conservation & Development will use text message marketing and Facebook advertising, to exclusively pro-

mote specialty crop farmers’ market vendors at area farmers’ markets, in addition to radio and newspaper ads.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Johnson County Extension - \$20,764

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will partner with, the Native Fruit Association, Levi’s Indigenous Fruit Enterprises (“LIFE”), and Red Fern Farm, to develop a website with a series of professionally produced videos to promote the cultivation and consumption of three native Iowa Fruits: American persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*, pawpaw *Asimina triloba*, and Aronia berry *Aronia melanocarpa*.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Local Foods Program - \$24,000

This program will explore barriers that are restricting food access, and provide guidance, partnerships, technical assistance, support and incentives to help educate area Iowa schools on how to find solutions. Not only will this result in increased purchases from specialty crop growers, but the evaluation component will provide a Toolkit that can be a model for other schools in their efforts to purchase healthy, local foods.

Economic Growth

(Contact Brittany Telk at 1-3452)

IEDA Tax Incentive Series: Accelerated Career Education

In an effort to ensure a skilled workforce, the IEDA offers several workforce programs. The first being the [Accelerated Career Education program](#), which is designed to provide businesses with an enhanced, skilled workforce. The program assists Iowa’s community colleges to either begin or expand programs that train individuals in the occupations most needed by Iowa’s businesses.

Businesses enter into an agreement with a community college to sponsor a portion or all of the positions created by establishing a new or expanding a current educational program. By sponsoring this educational program, a company agrees to consider the

student for employment upon completion of the requisite training. These businesses must assist with program design and provide a 20% match of the program costs, pro-rated by the percentage of positions sponsored. And those businesses that enter into an agreement with the community college offset the costs of the program through tax benefits; however, these are contingent upon the number of program job credits a company accrues and are awarded based upon the number of seats sponsored; they can be equal to up to 10% of the hiring wage (which must be 200% of the federal poverty guideline for a family of two) that a sponsoring business would pay to an individual that completes the program require-

ments; and the job credits are a diversion of a company’s current state of Iowa personal income withholding tax and are paid to the community college over the life of an agreement, usually 5 years.

In order to be [eligible](#), a business must be engaged in manufacturing, construction, research and development or providing services.

The funding for this program is established in Iowa Code, and requires the Legislature to allocate money each year, which comes through the Education Appropriation bill. For FY 18, \$6 million was appropriated.

Source: IEDA

IEDA Tax Incentive Series: Angel Investor Tax Credits

As a way to increase the availability and accessibility of venture capital, the IEDA administers the Angel Investor tax credit program. The incentive is geared toward ventures at the seed capital investment stage. The program encourages the creation of wealth through high-paid new jobs while promoting industrial development and innovation. The total amount per fiscal year is \$2 million. Investors can receive \$100,000 in tax credits, maximum, per calendar year per household. The investors in any one business can be issued a maximum of \$500,000 in tax credits per calendar year. This tax credit does not fall under the IEDA's High Quality Jobs cap.

The [tax credit](#) is equal to 25% of an investor's equity investment. It is refundable to investors who file personal net income tax, and not refundable for investors filing corporate income tax, franchise tax, taxes on gross premiums or moneys and credit taxes.

To be a certified qualifying business and for its investors to be eligible to receive a tax credit, [a business must satisfy the following criteria](#) at the time for which an investment tax credit is claimed:

- Principal operations located in the state of Iowa; a business is considered to have its principal business operations located in Iowa if:

At least 50% of all employees in Iowa

At least 50% of the business's total payroll to employees reside in Iowa

Headquarters is located in Iowa (the headquarters are defined as the home office for a substantial amount of executive employees)

- In operation six years or less
- Must be participating in an entrepreneurial assistance program (this requirement may be waived by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) if the business can establish that the owner/business has other experience that adequately replaces participation in an entrepreneurial assistance program)
- Cannot be primarily engaged in retail sales, real estate or the provision of health care services or other services requiring a professional license
- Net worth must be less than or equal to \$10 million
- Must have secured all of the following at the time of application for tax credits:

At least two investors (with regard to this criterion, an "investor" includes a person who executes a binding investment commitment to a business)

Total equity financing, binding investment commitments, or some combination thereof, equal to at least \$500,000 from investors

For an investor:

- Must make an investment in a certified Qualifying Business
- Must make Investments in the form of cash for equity
- Must have less than a 70% ownership stake in the Qualifying Business

Businesses applying for a Qualifying business certification must submit an application and supporting documents for IEDA staff review, and if the criteria is met, the IEDA will send out a certification letter. Investments will be eligible if they were made 120 days prior to the application submission, or any point after. For investors, after making an investment in a certified qualifying business, submit an application to receive a tax credit. The applications are processed on a first come-first served basis. The IEDA Board must approve this tax credit, and if it is approved, IEDA staff issues a tax credit certificate. For applications totaling more than \$2 million, the applications will be placed on a waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis in the next fiscal year.

Source: IEDA

Education

Contact Jason Chapman at 1-3015)

Future Ready Iowa Alliance Recommendations Released

The Governor's office announced last week that the Future Ready Iowa Alliance issued recommendations to make major steps forward in achieving the goals of the Alliances' efforts.

The Alliance was created by Executive Order 88, issued by Governor Branstad in September of 2016. It was helped in part by a \$170,000 grant from the National Governor's Association (NGA), a grant meant to help states develop strategies to

The recommendations issued are an attempt to move Iowa towards achieving what Governor Reynolds identified as her administration's No. 1 goal: 70% of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by the year 2025. In order to achieve that goal, an additional 127,700 Iowans need to earn post-secondary degrees and other credentials.

The recommendations:

- Establish a Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and Future Ready Iowa Grant Program for Iowans seeking a degree at Iowa colleges and universities leading to high-demand jobs.
- Better align and expand the existing ecosystem of support for Iowans who

are beginning or returning to complete college or career training, with a focus on low-income Iowans and Iowans who are underrepresented minorities.

- Expand high-quality work-based learning experiences in high-demand careers to all students, but particularly those who are underserved, through increased pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and internship programs for both in urban and rural areas.
- Identify early academic approaches that effectively prepare all students for a changing world. This could include expanding after-school programs for children.

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“align educational opportunities and training with employer demand.”

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- Develop a grassroots strategy to engage the business community, regional workforce boards, STEM regions and other current and future regional collaborations to allow for the mapping of

existing regional and local workforce partnership and filling existing regional gaps.

The press release points out the fact that entry-level STEM jobs pay an average \$42,000 a year, a significant amount more than the average of \$27,000 for non-STEM

jobs. That's real money to fund vacations, cars and gadgets for young graduates. For more details on the recommendations and information about Future Ready Iowa, visit: <https://www.futurereadyiowa.gov/recommendations>

Community Colleges Tuition Report Released

The Division of Community Colleges with the Iowa Department of Education released their Tuition and Fees report last month for FY 2018. The report notes that tuition and fees increased from FY17 to FY18, on average among the 15 community colleges, 3.5% -- from \$170.13 to \$175.98 per credit hour. For a full-time student (12 semester hours for 2 semesters) the average tuition cost is \$4,224. For comparison, the same credit hours at an Iowa Regents University is \$7,240 in tuition.

Here's a look at a few of Iowa's Community College numbers in context from the report:

Highest and Lowest Costs Per Credit Hour:
Iowa Lakes Community College

	(\$194.25)
Iowa Valley Community College	(\$194.00)
Eastern Iowa Community College	(\$155.00)
Des Moines Area Community College	(\$151.00)

Regional and National Comparisons:

For comparisons, the report uses a full-time load of 30 credits hours (15 per semester). Iowa ranks 3rd highest in cost regionally and is in the top 85% nationally.

National:	\$6977 – New Hampshire
	\$6054 – Vermont
	\$5339 – South Dakota

\$4697 – Iowa
\$2086 – Arizona
\$1732 – New Mexico
\$1252 – California

Regional:	\$5339 – South Dakota
	\$5284 – Minnesota
\$4697 – Iowa	\$4293 – Wisconsin
	\$3597 – Illinois
	\$3211 – Nebraska
	\$3203 – Missouri

More details are available in the full report here: [https://www.educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/publications#Tuition and Fees Report](https://www.educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/publications#Tuition%20and%20Fees%20Report)

Environmental Protection

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

EPA Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to End EPA “Sue & Settle” Practice

On Monday, October 16, 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a press release in which the EPA Administrator noted he was fulfilling his promise to end the practice of regulation through litigation that has harmed the American public by issuing an Agency-wide directive today designed to end “sue and settle” practices within the Agency, providing an unprecedented level of public participation and transparency in EPA consent decrees and settlement agreements. Over the years, outside the regulatory process, special interest groups have used lawsuits that seek to force federal agencies – especially EPA – to issue regulations that advance their interests and priorities, on their specified timeframe. EPA gets sued by an outside party that is asking the court to compel the Agency to take certain steps, either through change in a statutory duty or enforcing timelines set by the law, and then EPA will acquiesce through a consent decree or settlement agreement, affecting EPA's obligations under the statute. More specifically, EPA either commits to taking an action that is not a mandatory requirement under its governing statutes or agrees to a specific, unreasonable timeline to act. Oftentimes, these agreements are reached with little to no public input or

transparency. That is regulation through litigation, and it is inconsistent with the authority that Congress has granted and the responsibility to operate in an open and fair manner.

“Sue and settle” cases establish Agency obligations without participation by states and/or the regulated community; foreclose meaningful public participation in rulemaking; effectively force the Agency to reach certain regulatory outcomes; and, cost the American taxpayer millions of dollars. With today's directive, Administrator Pruitt is ensuring the Agency increase transparency, improve public engagement, and provide accountability to the American public when considering a settlement agreement or consent decree by:

1. Publishing any notices of intent to sue the Agency within 15 days of receiving the notice;
2. Publishing any complaints or petitions for review in regard to an environmental law, regulation, or rule in which the Agency is a defendant or respondent in federal court within 15 days of receipt;
3. Reaching out to and including any states and/or regulated entities affected

by potential settlements or consent decrees;

4. Publishing a list of consent decrees and settlement agreements that govern Agency actions within 30 days, along with any attorney fees paid, and update it within 15 days of any new consent decree or settlement agreement;
5. Expressly forbidding the practice of entering into any consent decrees that exceed the authority of the courts;
6. Excluding attorney's fees and litigation costs when settling with those suing the Agency;
7. Providing sufficient time to issue or modify proposed and final rules, take and consider public comment; and
8. Publishing any proposed or modified consent decrees and settlements for 30-day public comment, and providing a public hearing on a proposed consent decree or settlement when requested.

The full directive and memo can be read [here](#).

Human Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

Iowa Supreme Court Justice Keeps Abortion Waiting Period on Hold

On October 2, Judge Jeffrey Farrell ruled against Planned Parenthood of the Heartland in a suit they filed against the state as a result of the passage of Senate File 471. Senate File 471 was signed into law by Governor Branstad on May 5, 2017. The bill implemented a 72 hour waiting period before a physician performs an abortion and prohibited abortions after 20 weeks.

The judge ruled that Planned Parenthood was not able to show that extending the time before an abortion, increasing financial costs, and causing other obstacles created an undue burden on a woman seeking an abortion under the constitution. However, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a notice they plan to appeal the case to the Iowa Supreme Court.

This week, Justices granted Planned Parenthood and the ACLU's motion to extend a previous temporary injunction until they consider the appeal of Judge Farrell's

decision. This means that the 72 hour waiting period in the bill

“will not be enforced until the conclusion of the court case.”

The ban on abortions after 20 weeks is not a part of the court challenge.

Abortion in other states - According to the Guttmacher Institute, 27 states have some form of waiting period before women can get abortions. Those range from 18 hours to 72 hours, with the most common waiting period of 24 hours. Other states also do the following:

- 35 states require women to receive counseling before an abortion is performed.

- 29 states direct the state health agency to develop written materials to be given or offered to the woman before the abortion.
- 15 states require that the woman be informed that she can't be coerced into obtaining an abortion
- 6 states require that the woman be told that personhood begins at conception
- 26 states include information about the risks of abortion
- 29 states include information on the health risks of continuing a pregnancy.

For more information about abortion laws in other states and how they compare to Iowa, click [here](#).

Labor

(Contact Mackenzie Nading at 1-3626)

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.2 Percent

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Iowa Workforce Development reported the following statistics on Iowa's unemployment rate for the month of September: Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.2 percent for September. The state's jobless rate was 3.6 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 4.2 percent in September.

"The State's unemployment rate trended back down to 3.2 percent in September following a slight increase last month," said Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development Director. "Both the labor force and the number of working Iowans improved this month. These gains are important to allow for businesses to expand and to continue economic growth."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 54,600 in September. The current estimate is 7,300 lower than the year ago level of 61,900.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,632,300 in September. This figure was 4,500 higher than August and 4,400 lower than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employ-

ment

Iowa establishments shed 4,000 jobs in September, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 1,586,600 jobs. This was the state's first loss since April and only the third decline this year. Private services were responsible for the majority of the losses this month (-3,300). Government pared 900 jobs, primarily within state government, and is now down 1,300 jobs versus last year. On the other hand, private industries have combined for 15,500 jobs added over the past twelve months.

Education and health services pared 4,500 jobs since August to lead all super sectors. Losses were nearly identical between healthcare and social assistance and educational services. This is the first time since last year that this combined super sector has shed jobs monthly. The loss is partially the result of weaker than expected seasonal hiring in education. Professional and business services shed 1,500 jobs, marking the third loss in the last four months. The professional, scientific, and technical services sector has been responsible for the majority of the losses during that span. Other losses this month were smaller in nature

and included trade and transportation (-500) and construction (-400). Conversely, Iowa businesses experienced strong hiring in accommodations and food services this month leading to a gain of 2,100 in leisure and hospitality. Financial activities also rebounded following an unexpected decline last month and added 1,200 jobs. The only other sector to add jobs this month was manufacturing (+600) which was mostly fueled by hiring in nondurable goods factories.

Since last September, no sector has fared better than education and healthcare services (+4,900). All of the annual growth has been in healthcare and social assistance. The financial activities sector has also continued to trend upward and now stands 4,200 jobs above last year's mark. Leisure and hospitality has gained 4,000 jobs due entirely to strong hiring in accommodations and food services. Private sector losses have been limited to construction (-6,600) and information services (-1,600).

Second Union Recertification Election Results

With the passage of HF 291 in February of this year, legislation that reformed Iowa's collective bargaining laws, a brand new election category for unions was created. Previously there were only certification and de-certification elections. Now, all bargaining units must vote to re-certify and retain their union representation within one year of their collective bargaining agreement expiring. Yesterday marked the end of the second cycle of these new recertification elections that began on October 10. These elections were conducted using the vendor PERB chose through the RFP process called EveryOne Counts using phones and email.

During this two week election cycle there were 497 total bargaining units who qualified for re-certification, totaling approximately 34,000 eligible voters who make up all of those units. This will be the largest group up for re-certification at one time in 2017. The polls closed yesterday at 1 pm, and as of 9 am participation in this election cycle was close to 86%. Total ballots cast by phone were 3,217, and total ballots cast on the web were 25,605.

PERB indicated that they were expecting EveryOne Counts to have the voting reports delivered by late afternoon yesterday. Since that time PERB has been individually re-

cording the vote tallies for each bargaining unit and notifying the interested parties. After notification is made PERB is then updating their website with the results for members of the public to view.

PERB expects vote counting and reporting to continue into Wednesday afternoon, with the hope of having a complete unofficial voting report updated on their website by Wednesday evening. Follow this link to view election results: https://iowaperb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/October%20Results_DAY%201%20COUNT%2010_24_17.pdf

Natural Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

Let's Go Hunting

On October 16, the Iowa DNR launched a campaign called "Let's Go Hunting." The purpose of the effort is to boost the number of hunters in Iowa. The DNR also wants to encourage people to share their hunting experiences with a beginner.

According to the DNR, the number one reason someone tries hunting for the first

time is because they get an invitation from an experienced hunter or family member. The effort will include a series of videos that show why people hunt and a web page and social media contest. The campaign will also promote hunter education.

The website for "Let's Go Hunting" can be found [here](#). It outlines the benefits of hunt-

ing, highlights hunter education, where people can go to hunt and shoot, and it helps connect people with a mentor or hunting partner. It also outlines basic firearm safety and reading materials to help people learn how to hunt.

Public Safety

(Contact Amanda Wille at 1-5230)

Have a Delightful, not Frightful Halloween

Next week thousands of ghost and goblins will be roaming neighborhoods telling jokes for treats. Whether you go door to door for beggars night, or on Halloween, follow these tips for a safe and fun night.

If you're haunting the neighborhood:

- Plan a route before leaving the house. Both you and your kids will appreciate a path with lots of candy close to home.
- Cross Carefully. Remind kids to be aware of cars and to always walk across the street.
- Wear Comfortable Shoes . Sore feet

can cut a fun night short.

- Be Bright! Using reflective tape on your costume and carrying a flashlight makes you more visible to cars.
- Keep it short. Long costumes that drag on the ground can injure kids and adults.

If you're driving you broom:

- Keep your eyes open for ghosts and others who may pop up without warning in the street.
- Put your phone down. Texting and driving is illegal in Iowa. Protect the

trick-or-treaters and stay off your phone until you are home.

- Be extra careful backing out of driveways. Children may try to run past your vehicle to get to the next house faster.

Once you're back in your castle:

- Always examine your candy. Be sure it hasn't been opened or tampered with.
- Share some candy with mom and dad.

Transportation

(Contact: Ashley Beall 1-3440)

New Iowa DOT Park and Ride Location in Davenport

The Iowa DOT is launching a new park and ride site in Davenport. This park and ride site is in continuation of the Iowa DOT's plan to implement their Park and Ride System Plan throughout Iowa. For more details on what this plan entails, click [here](#).

The Park and Ride location was created through a public-private partnership between Thunder Bay Grille in Davenport and the Iowa DOT. The new park and ride site is free to the public and can be used when connecting with public transit, car pools, or

rideshares.

The Park and Ride lot at Thunder Bay Grille holds up to 55 vehicles and can be accessed via Jason Way Court and is located adjacent to Davenport's Citibus Red Line 4 route. It can be scheduled as a pick-up location for River Bend Transit's daily park and ride shuttle service. The services and schedules for these transit organizations are available online and listed below:

- [Citibus](#)
- [River Bend Transit](#)

For more information about commute options as well as more Iowa DOT park and ride locations, click on the links below:

- [iowarideshare.org](#).
- [Interactive park and ride system map](#).

Veterans Affairs

(Contact Kristi Kielhorn at 2-5290)

New WWII Exhibit at Iowa Gold Star Museum

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating its new World War II Pacific Theater exhibit on Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. The new exhibit will include artifacts and memorabilia relating to the service of Iowans in the Pacific Theater during WWII.

The American Volunteer Group ("AVG") "Flying Tiger" display contains artifacts, photographs, newsreel footage, and documents telling the story of Iowa pilots and

ground crewmembers serving in China prior to the U.S. entry into WWII. Suspended over the exhibit is a

"full-scale replica of a Curtiss P-40B Warhawk."

Also included in the new exhibit is a three-dimensional, full-scale diorama with 40-foot

mural depicting the participation of Iowa Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in the Pacific campaign. The exhibit also contains numerous U.S. and Japanese weapons and artifacts acquired by Iowa veterans during World War II.

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is located on Camp Dodge in Johnston. Admission is free. Museum hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ways & Means

(Contact Kristi Kielhorn at 2-5290)

Iowa Airbnb to Pay Tax

In just a couple of days, Airbnb reservations in Iowa will get a bit pricier. On November 1, the vacation rental marketplace will start collecting state and local hotel and motel taxes in Iowa.

The agreement between the Iowa Department of Revenue and Airbnb stipulates that Airbnb will collect taxes on behalf of all Iowa

hosts and remit them to the state. Prior to this agreement—hosts were responsible for collecting and remitting them independently. Airbnb has similar agreements in place for reservations in Illinois, Kansas and Michigan.

Iowa has a five percent state hotel and motel tax. Counties and cities can also imple-

ment their own in addition to the state tax (typically two to seven percent). Airbnb will also collect those local taxes under the agreement. According to Airbnb, there are 970 hosts in Iowa, and there were 20,000 "guest arrivals," or visits, in 2016. That number seems likely to only get bigger.