Federal Government

- House of Representatives
  - 435 members
  - Represent states based on population

- Senate
  - 100 members
  - Two from each state

- Year-round positions
- Frequent breaks between sessions
State Government

- Bicameral Legislature (two branches - House and Senate)
- Referred to as “Iowa General Assembly
- 50 State Senators
- 100 State Representatives
- Each State Senator and State Representative has their own district
- Each Senate District includes two House Districts
- For example, Senate District 35 = House Districts 69 and 70
- To find legislators: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find
Local Government

• What type of government does your city or town have?
  – City Council
  – City Mayor
  – City Manager

• School Boards – Parents can have a HUGE impact

• County Government – Usually 3-5 elected Supervisors per county

• Visit your county website to find more information
Setting the Stage: The Legislative Process

1. Introduction.
2. Committee.
3. Floor Vote.
4. Committee.
5. Floor Vote.
6. Amendments.
7. Governor Signature,
8. Becomes Law.
Iowa Talent Bank

https://talentbank.iowa.gov/

Our government works best when individuals are involved and engaged in their communities.
Advocacy – be HEARD!
6 steps to successful advocacy

- Know your legislator
  - legis.iowa.gov
- Identify your issue
- Develop your message
- Build support for your issue
- Get your message out
- Don’t give up!
How to tell your story

• Be polite
• Be persistent but patient
• Practice and prepare
• Be Clear
• Be personal
• Be honest
Advocacy starts (not ends) here.

• Show up & be visible.
• Don’t give up – multiply!
• Build your own advocacy network.
• Plan you own Capitol event.
• Host a local event.
• Sponsor a candidate/legislative forum.
• Use the media.
• Tell your story in infoNET.
• Vote.
• Stay involved & stay active!
There is power in numbers.
How to Find Your Representatives & Senators

www.govtrack.us/congress.members

https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm