

August 27, 2026



Welcome

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Emerging Policy News:

Medicaid Fraud, Public Health
Realignment, Studies Committee

Amy Campbell & Carlyn Crowe

Elections & Voting:

Election News, Supreme Court Voting
Decision, Constitutional Amendment,
Candidate Questions

Amy Campbell & Carlyn Crowe

POLICY NEWS: Medicaid Fraud Elimination Task Force



Executive Order 20 created an 11-person task force:

- Attorney General
- HHS (Principal Deputy Director)
- Medicaid (Director)
- Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (Director)
- Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing (Director)
- Department of Public Safety (Commissioner)
- Department of Management (Director)
- Governor's Office
- MCOs (Molina, Iowa Total Care, Wellpoint)

Task Force Goals:

- **Strengthen Federal Alignment** - continue cooperation, suspend enrollment of new high-risk providers
- **Increase Fraud Awareness** - promote reporting, increased public awareness and incentives
- **Invest in Program Integrity Technology** – use recovered funds to improve infrastructure
- **Support MCO Provider Network Management**
- **Establish a Quality Initiative** - focus on high-risk services (including ABA)
- **Enhance Reporting** – Expand ways the public can report suspected Medicaid fraud

POLICY NEWS: Medicaid Fraud Elimination Task Force



Work Groups meeting to make recommendations:

- Federal Alignment & Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Optimization
- Technology & Data Analytics
- High-Risk Services & Quality Initiatives
- Managed Care Organization Network Management
- Public Awareness & Reporting Channels

Findings so far:

- Need a single reporting portal.
- Upgrade detection systems.
- Use federal “Medicaid Fraud War Room” for other ideas.
- Expand provider & member awareness on fraud, waste, abuse, reporting.
- Target high risk categories (in-home care, ABA, DME, hospice).
- Look at electronic verification of services.
- Target waste and abuse – paying for no more than what was delivered, needed.

Share your thoughts & concerns:

- MedicaidTaskForceComments@ag.iowa.gov

POLICY NEWS: Studies & Public Health Changes



Interim Study Committees:

- Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Program ([link](#))
- Early Childhood Iowa ([link](#))

Public Health Realignment:

- Moving from 99-county public health system to regional system (using 7 behavioral health districts)
- Lead agency notice of intent to issue request for proposals ([link](#) & [FAQs](#))
- Town hall slides, resources ([link](#))

ELECTION NEWS



Last Minute Changes to Ballot:

- Hudson Mayor Matt Reisetter replaces Rep. Derek Wulf as R on ballot in [HD 76](#).
- US Rep. Nunn's Deputy Chief of Staff Wes Enos replaces Sen. Mike Boussetot as R on ballot in [SD 23](#).
- Sen. Julian Garrett died in June, no special election needed ([SD 11](#))
- List of candidates on Secretary of State website ([link](#))

US Supreme Court Ruling on Mail-In Ballots:

- Trump [Executive Order](#) changes how federal elections are administered, particularly mail-in ballots.
 - Creates state-by-state lists of eligible voters using federal databases.
 - Prioritizes investigating and prosecuting election officials who give ballots to those not on list.
 - Requires USPS to work with states to establish pre-approved lists for mail-in voters.
 - Limits USPS ballot delivery to only those on pre-approved lists.
- Nationally 1/3 of ballots were cast by mail (48 million voters!)
- 23 states and DC challenged this – lower court stopped from going into effect – SCOTUS reversed.
- Broader pause remains in place – USPS not allowed to follow directives, but Trump plans to challenge

Proposed Amendment to Iowa Constitution



Iowans will vote on change on November 3, 2026:

- Iowa Amendment 1 requires 2/3 vote of House & Senate to increase or create a new income tax.
- “Yes” vote supports amending constitution to require more votes to pass an income tax.
- “No” vote means you do not want to amend the constitution, keeping simple majority vote.
- This could be done by law, but Legislature chose to add it to the Constitution (which is hard to change)

What this means for Iowans:

- Less choice in raising revenues if Iowa’s budget faces shortfalls or our economy tanks.
- Protects corporations and billionaires from tax increases, placing burden on everyday Iowans.
- Medicaid and education make up 84% of the state’s budget.
- More reliance on other taxes (user fees, sales tax).

Proposed Amendment to Iowa Constitution



Iowans for Tax Relief are running a “Yes” campaign:

- maketaxhikesharder.com
- Taxes have not been increased since 1974
- Taxes have been cut six times since 1974 (so it’s not “easy” to raise taxes in Iowa)

Common Good Iowa is forming a “No” coalition:

- Labor unions, teachers, nurses, environmental groups, health care providers involved
- Website coming soon

Important Dates for 2026 General Election



- ✓ **Tuesday, August 25** – First Day to Ask County Auditor for Mail-In Absentee Ballot
- ✓ **Wednesday, October 14** – Early Voting Begins, Ballots Mailed
- ✓ **Monday, October 19** – Pre-Registration Deadline; Last Day to Request Mail-In Absentee Ballot
- ✓ **Saturday, October 31** – County Election Offices Open for Early Voting
- ✓ **Monday, November 2** – Last Day of Early (In-Person) Voting
- ✓ **Tuesday, November 3** – Election Day (7 am – 8 pm); Absentee Ballots Must Be Received at County Auditor by 8 pm

What Can You Do? Ask Questions!



- With federal Medicaid cuts about to hit state budgets, **what will you do to guarantee that people with disabilities and seniors can continue to get the help they need** to stay in their own homes and not be forced to use Medicaid to pay for more expensive institutional care?
- The number of students in special education keeps rising, yet funding is never enough to cover actual costs. The same is true for vocational rehabilitation, which helps students with disabilities transition to employment in the community. **What will you do to ensure that students with disabilities are supported to achieve their highest potential?**
- People with disabilities who must use Medicaid for care are limited in the income they can earn and save, as well as the assets they can keep. Medicaid eligibility is a cycle of poverty. At the same time, Iowa has a workforce shortage. People with disabilities want to work, but they can't because they will lose the health care and support that enable them to work. **What would you do to make sure that Iowans with disabilities can earn and save without losing the health and home-based care they need?**
- Iowans with disabilities frequently feel left out of decision making that affects them and their lives because of their disability. **Will you consult with disability organizations and advocates when you are developing policies,** and how will you solicit ideas and feedback on policy or other changes?

What do
you want to
Know?



What Can You Do? Ask Questions!



Other Ideas for Federal Candidates (US Senate, US Representative)

- Will you support raising the SSI asset limit (currently \$2,000 for individuals, unchanged since 1989) and eliminating marriage penalties that cut benefits when people with disabilities marry?
- Where do you stand on federal Medicaid funding, and will you support permanent, adequately funded HCBS so people can receive care at home instead of being forced into institutions?
- Will you oppose efforts to weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act and push back on executive orders that undermine Congressional intent?
- Will you support strengthening the Air Carrier Access Act and DOT enforcement, especially given ongoing problems with wheelchair damage and inaccessible air travel?
- Do you support phasing out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which currently allows employers to pay disabled workers less than minimum wage?

What Can You Do? Ask Questions!



Other Questions for State Candidates (Governor, Attorney General, State Senate, State Representative)

- Will you support raising the Medicaid asset limit and eliminate marriage penalties that cut benefits when people with disabilities marry?
- Where do you stand on state Medicaid funding and what will you do to reduce or eliminate waiting lists for home and community-based services in our state?
- Will you support increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates so direct support professionals and personal care attendants can be paid a living wage?
- What is your plan to increase accessible, affordable housing stock and ensure our state is complying with the Olmstead decision's integration mandate rather than defaulting people into institutions or nursing homes?
- What can you do to improve special education services after AEA changes were made, and how will you address IEP implementation gaps and shortages of special ed teachers/paraprofessionals?



Mark Your Calendars

2026 Capitol Chats (Noon-1 pm)

Thursday, September 24

Thursday, October 22

Thursday, December 3

Sign Up at: iowaddcouncil.org/capitol-chats