

*May 8, 2026*



**Welcome & Quick Poll**  
Brooke Lovelace

**Special Guest: Get Ready for the Primary!**  
Bailey Kelly, Director of Elections  
Office of the Iowa Secretary of State

**Session Ends: What Happened?**  
Amy Campbell

**Where Do We Go From Here?**  
Carlyn Crowe



# Primary Election is Tuesday, June 2, 2026

## Monday, May 18, 2026

- Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail
- Voter Pre-Registration Deadline (saves extra work at the polls)
- Check your registration [here](#).

## Saturday, May 30, 2026

- County auditor offices open for early in-person voting.

## Monday, June 1, 2026

- Last day for early in-person voting.

## Tuesday, June 2, 2026

- Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 pm
- Absentee ballots must be **received** by county auditor before 8 pm

[sos.iowa.gov/elections-voting](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections-voting)



# Session Ends!



*Session Started*

*Second Funnel Deadline*

*Session Ends*

*Most bills become law*

**Jan 12**

**Mar 20**

**May 3**

**July 1**



**Feb 20**

**Apr 21**

**Jun 3**

*First Funnel Deadline*

*100<sup>th</sup> Day (scheduled end)*

*Governor's Bill Signing Deadline*

# Bills that Did Not Pass



## Work Without Worry (HF 424)

- No traction this year.

## Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MEPD) Expansion (SF 2315, HF 2716)

- Increasing income threshold from 250% federal poverty level to **300% federal poverty level**.
- Not counting **spouse's income** in income limits.
- Not counting **pensions** in asset limit.
- Disregarding **one car** from assets.



**LET US WORK!**

A campaign to give people with disabilities the freedom to work.

**The LET US WORK CAMPAIGN will continue!**

# Bills Passed in 2026



- [HF 2585](#): Makes **accessible prescription information** available at no cost upon request.
- [HF 2543](#): Eliminates barriers to accessing **subacute mental health** services (**Signed**)
- [HF 2256](#): Excludes the **inability of parent to access treatment services for child** in definition of child abuse – if they’ve done everything possible to find services for their child (**Signed**)
- [HF 2523](#): Allows parent to consent to their **child’s behavioral health commitment** (**Signed**)
- [HF 2501](#): Eliminates ability to “**attest**” to another voter’s identity (**Signed**)
- [HF 2633](#): Prohibits life insurance **discrimination against living organ donor**.
- [HF 2676](#): Allows any type of **epinephrine delivery system** in schools (not just epi-pens).
- [HF 2739](#): Temporarily **taxes HMOs** to fill Medicaid shortfall (**Signed**)
- [SF 2417](#): Sets guardrails for **AI and chatbots**, including therapy chatbots (**Signed**)
- [SF 2474](#): Requires Education Dept. to map school automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) and list schools with **Cardiac Emergency Response Plans**.
- [SJR 11](#): Constitutional amendment to require 2/3 vote for any **income tax increase**.

# Bills Passed in 2026



- [SF 2422](#): **SNAP/Public Assistance Eligibility** – enacts eligibility changes enacted in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) and asks for waivers to go further:
  - SAVE database checks for all public assistance (Medicaid, FIP, childcare, SNAP)
  - Waiver to allow other databases to determine eligibility, take back SNAP if not used in 90 days
  - Eliminates all Medicaid retroactive eligibility except if pregnant, child, or nursing home resident.
  - Allows only two months retroactive eligibility if are in those categories.
  - Makes it nearly impossible to end Medicaid managed care without legislative approval
  - Prohibits HHS from taking any action to reduce the HMO tax on MCOs.
  - Requires legislative okay for any state plan amendment/waiver that is not expenditure neutral.
  - Requires reporting on Medicaid exceptions to policy (and a review of trends).
  - Directs HHS to set up a system to allow MEPD premiums to be paid online/electronically.

[iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker](http://iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker)

# Bills Passed in 2026



- **SF 2428: School Discipline** – directs schools to follow discipline protocols for both violent and nonviolent disruptive student behaviors.
  - Includes rural/urban pilot for separate schools for special ed/disruptive students (voluntary)
  - Requires Dept. of Education to provide IEP team training on least restrictive environment
  - Allows a teacher to request a meeting with a student’s IEP team in writing at any time.
  - Requires school districts provide access to student IEP to all staff interacting with the student.
  - Requires teachers who work with the student to read the IEP.
  - Requires school districts to inform each teacher/staff of their role in implementing the IEP, list of accommodations/supports to be provided, and requires regular education teachers to confirm in writing that they have read the IEP.
  - Adds mandatory items to IEP: provide all teachers with programs/materials to help support students with disabilities, FAPE (free appropriate public education), teacher responsibility under IEP, and other requirements of least restrictive environment under IDEA.

[iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker](http://iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker)

# HHS Budget Highlights ([HF 2772](#))



- No change in funding for Centers for Independent Living, Statewide Independent Living Council, epilepsy contract, and childhood vision screening.
- Re-establishes the **Comprehensive Family Support Program** (child at home, family support subsidies) – which was accidentally eliminated in 2025.
- Continues Medicaid “cost containment” strategies, including reduced rates for **telehealth-delivered services** (\$491,000) and **speech therapy** service adjustments (\$1.2 million).
- Directs HHS to apply for a waiver of Medicaid's **"Institution for Mental Diseases" (IMD) exclusion**, which would allow HHS to draw down federal matching funds to offset the costs of the state's two Mental Health Institutes (MHIs).
- \$1,227,307 savings to consolidate **Woodward** homes (1 home closed as census nears 100) and continues to fund the now-vacant **Glenwood** at \$942,000 (a decrease of \$648,000).

## Other Budget Highlights



- No change in funding for **Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, HCBS rent subsidies, IABLE** administration, **Farmers with Disabilities Program**, recreational trails, ([HF 2768](#), [HF 2771](#), [HF 2772](#), [SF 2484](#))
- Cuts **public transit** ongoing funding (\$1.2 million) – but provides partial one-time federal match to upgrade buses (\$1.6 million out of the \$3 million needed). ([SF 2484](#))
- New infrastructure appropriations for **ChildServe/On With Life** accommodate young adults aging out and keep them in Iowa (\$4 million) - and eliminated need for exceptions to policy for reimbursement rates ([SF 2484](#), [HF 2772](#))
- New funding for **Iowa HHS' new IT systems and compliance with OBBBA & SF 2442** (Medicaid management, eligibility determination, verification systems, child welfare IT projects, costs of determining Medicaid waiver neutrality, SNAP administration cost sharing required in OBBBA & SF 2422) – **funding totals \$127.4 million!** ([SF 2484](#), [HF 2772](#), [HF 2782](#), [HF 2800](#))
- HHS prohibited from entering contracts (including multi-year) that obligate the state to more than \$5 million - and requires **IT infrastructure long-term plan & review.**

## Summer & Fall are good times to **build relationships!**

**It's a big election year — meet the candidates!**

US Senate (1) - US House (all)

Governor - Iowa Senate (25) - Iowa House (all)

County and local seats (many!)

Grants for **local candidate or issue forums.**

### **Events in the planning process:**

Voter Engagement & Issue Forums

Listening sessions to hear YOUR priorities

Youth Leadership Academy (July 27-31)

“Hear Us Roar” Zoo Day (August 4)

