



# DSM USA

DES MOINES, IOWA

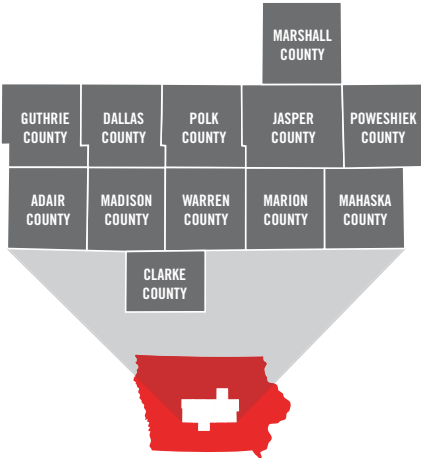
## 20 STATE LEGISLATIVE 26 AGENDA AND PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE



GREATER DES MOINES  
PARTNERSHIP

# MISSION

The **Greater Des Moines Partnership** is the largest regional business, economic development and talent development organization in Iowa and the second-largest regional chamber of commerce in the country, serving 12 counties in Greater Des Moines.



Together with more than 400 Investors and an Affiliate Chamber of Commerce network of more than 7,200 Regional Chamber Members, The Partnership helps businesses grow and advances quality of life in Greater Des Moines with one voice, one mission and as one region, contributing to a vibrant regional economy.

## PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC POLICY CONTACT

**Jenae Sikkink**, *Senior Vice President of Talent Development and Inclusive Strategies*  
jsikkink@DSMPartnership.com

## GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

**Government Policy Council Chair**  
David Stark, UnityPoint Health

## GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The Government Policy Council (GPC), made up of Partnership Investors and Regional Chamber Members, shapes The Partnership's state and federal policy agendas. Agendas are consensus-based and approved by The Partnership's Board.

\* The Partnership's policy team works with Dentons Davis Brown Law Firm for day-to-day lobbying at the Iowa State Capitol throughout the Legislative Session. Policy events exist as an opportunity to connect Partnership Investors and Regional Chamber Members with policymakers, staff and issue experts.

# 2026 PARTNERSHIP ADVOCACY CALENDAR

The Partnership engages in state and federal advocacy, which takes place all year.

DATES AND EVENTS	
★ MONDAY, JAN. 12	State Legislative Reception
★ END OF SESSION	Legislative Recap Update
★ MAY 6 – 8	DMDC 2026
SUMMER	Iowa Legislative Slow-Pitch Softball Game
★ AUGUST	Partnership 101
FALL	Candidate Forums
SEPTEMBER – JANUARY	Government Policy Council Meetings
★ DECEMBER	State Legislative Breakfast

- ★ State Advocacy Events
- ★ Federal Advocacy Events

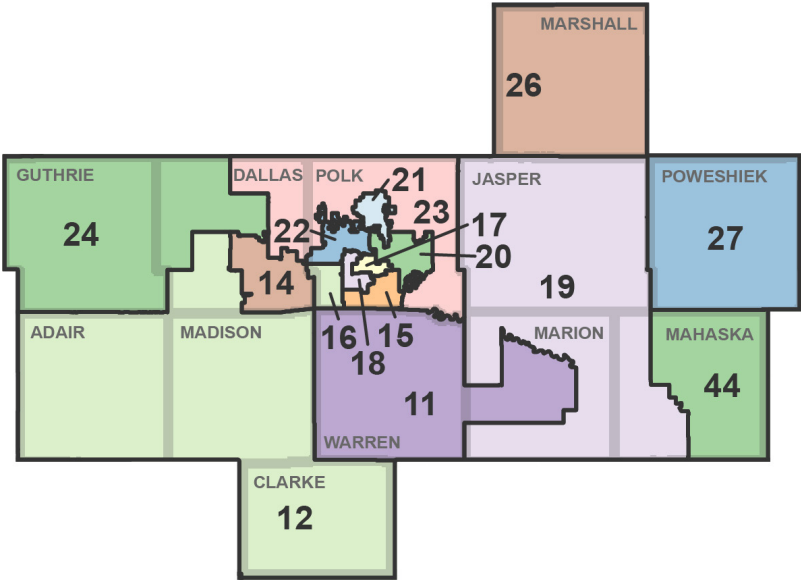
*\*Dates are subject to change*

*The Partnership's advocacy work is a year-round effort and extends beyond this list of opportunities. Other events and ongoing state and federal advocacy opportunities will be shared via the GPC newsletter.*

Sign up at [DSMpartnership.com/newsletters](https://DSMpartnership.com/newsletters).

IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR	
MONDAY, JAN. 12	First Day of Session
WEEK OF FEB. 16	First Funnel Week
WEEK OF MARCH 16	Second Funnel Week
APRIL 21	Final Day of Per Diem Expenses Paid for Session

# THE PARTNERSHIP FOOTPRINT



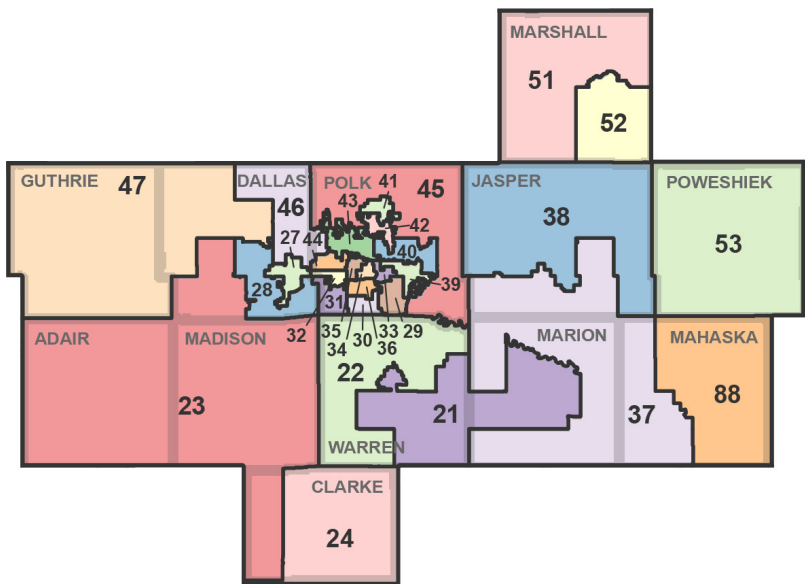
## IOWA SENATE DISTRICTS

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11 – Senator Julian Garrett (R)       | 20 – Senator Mike Pike (R)       |
| 12 – Senator Amy Sinclair (R)         | 21 – Senator Mike Bousset (R)    |
| 14 – Senator Sarah Trone Garriott (D) | 22 – Senator Matt Blake (D)      |
| 15 – Senator Tony Bisignano (D)       | 23 – Senator Jack Whitver (R)    |
| 16 – Vacant*                          | 24 – Senator Jesse Green (R)     |
| 17 – Senator Izaah Knox (D)           | 26 – Senator Kara Warme (R)      |
| 18 – Senator Janet Petersen (D)       | 27 – Senator Annette Sweeney (R) |
| 19 – Senator Ken Rozenboom (R)        | 44 – Senator Adrian Dickey (R)   |

This includes The Partnership's 12 counties only. For full district maps, go to [legis.iowa.gov](https://legis.iowa.gov).

\* The special election for this race took place after the time of printing.

# THE PARTNERSHIP FOOTPRINT



## IOWA HOUSE DISTRICTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 21 – Representative Brooke Boden (R)       | 38 – Representative Jon Dunwell (R)    |
| 22 – Representative Samantha Fett (R)      | 39 – Representative Rick Olson (D)     |
| 23 – Representative Ray Sorensen (R)       | 40 – Representative Bill Gustoff (R)   |
| 24 – Representative Sam Wengryn (R)        | 41 – Representative Ryan Weldon (R)    |
| 27 – Representative Kenan Judge (D)        | 42 – Representative Heather Matson (D) |
| 28 – Representative David Young (R)        | 43 – Representative Eddie Andrews (R)  |
| 29 – Representative Brian Meyer (D)        | 44 – Representative Larry McBurney (D) |
| 30 – Representative Megan Srinivas (D)     | 45 – Representative Brian Lohse (R)    |
| 31 – Representative Mary Madison (D)       | 46 – Representative Dan Gehlbach (R)   |
| 32 – Representative Jennifer Konfrst (D)   | 47 – Representative Carter Nordman (R) |
| 33 – Representative Ruth Ann Gaines (D)    | 51 – Representative Brett Barker (R)   |
| 34 – Representative Rob Johnson (D)        | 52 – Representative David Blom (R)     |
| 35 – Representative Sean Bagniewski (D)    | 53 – Representative Dean Fisher (R)    |
| 36 – Representative Austin Baeth (D)       | 88 – Representative Helena Hayes (R)   |
| 37 – Representative Barb Kniff McCulla (R) |  |

This includes The Partnership's 12 counties only. For full district maps, go to [legis.iowa.gov](https://legis.iowa.gov).

# AFFILIATE CHAMBERS

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## I PARTNERSHIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AFFILIATES

Adel Partners Chamber of Commerce

Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce

Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce

Bondurant Chamber of Commerce

Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce

Clive Chamber of Commerce

Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce

DSM West Side Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce

Grimes Chamber and Economic Development

Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce

Indianola Chamber of Commerce

Johnston Chamber of Commerce

Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Madison County Chamber of Commerce

Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce

Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce

Pella Area Community & Economic Alliance

Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce

Perry Chamber of Commerce

Go Polk City Chamber + Economic Development

Urbandale Chamber of Commerce

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce

West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce

**THE PARTNERSHIP IS THE  
SECOND-LARGEST REGIONAL  
CHAMBER IN THE COUNTRY.**



# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## FEATURED PRIORITIES

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Recognizing the competitive nature of economic development and the vital need to attract both business and talent to Iowa, the Greater Des Moines Partnership supports economic development tools and incentives that empower state and local governments and sustain a competitive tax environment, and advance a streamlined, efficient, and modernized tax structure that promotes growth among businesses and nonprofits.

### WORKFORCE READINESS

A skilled workforce is essential for Partnership Investors and the Affiliate Chamber of Commerce network of Regional Business Members. The Partnership supports strategies and programs that attract new talent, retain and upskill existing workers, and expand access to work-based learning, internships, apprenticeships and career pathway opportunities.

### HOUSING

The Partnership supports the creation and expansion of housing options through funding and policies that incentivize communities and employers to invest in new and existing housing for all Iowans.

# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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The Partnership appreciates the opportunity to work with the Governor, the General Assembly and state agencies to accomplish mutually beneficial legislative goals and objectives for the economic betterment of the State of Iowa.

## I ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Greater Des Moines Partnership's mission is economic and talent development and it supports policies that promote economic growth and vitality for the region. With a long-standing, valuable collaboration with public, private and nonprofit organizations, The Partnership drives economic growth through business and talent attraction and development. Therefore, it supports key themes, along with the policies, programs and tools that enable:

- A streamlined pro-growth tax environment with a modernized structure that encourages business and nonprofit growth and ensures value on taxes paid; investments in public infrastructure, sustainable government services and workforce attracting amenities. Reflects the principles of neutrality, simplicity and predictability, along with protection of existing tax exemptions and economic development tools, including the preservation of Iowa's corporate single-factor income tax formula.
- Protecting and improving economic development tools such as tax increment financing (TIF) and Local Option Sales and Services Taxes (LOSST), to ensure communities have resources to drive investment, maintain strong bond ratings and support economic growth.
- State economic development programs that effectively incentivize business and nonprofit job growth, high-quality public infrastructure services and placemaking.
- Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) programs that support small businesses' vitality and entrepreneurship.
- Strategies that enable local governments to diversify revenue streams and reduce reliance on property taxes.
- Policies that grow Iowa's research and development ecosystem.
- A comprehensive approach to emerging technologies, ensuring equal access and privacy protection, in coordination with federal policy and private partners to foster an environment of investment and innovation.



# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I WORKFORCE

Talent recruitment and retention remain top priorities for Partnership Investors and the Affiliate Chamber of Commerce network of Regional Business Members. The Partnership supports policies that ensure Iowa continues to be a welcoming place that is open for business and that strengthen participation in today's workforce. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Affordable, accessible options for high-quality child care that enable parents to remain in the workforce.
- Growing Iowa's skilled workforce through effective programs, such as the Jobs Training Program (260E), Industrial New Jobs Training Program (260F) and expansion of registered apprenticeships, quality pre-apprenticeship and specialized certificates.
- Leveraging best practices to uplift, upskill, recruit and retain talent including veterans, returning citizens, refugees and global talent.
- Policies that encourage students and young professionals to remain in or return to Iowa post-graduation.

## I EDUCATION

The Partnership understands that education is an important early investment in creating a high-quality workforce and believes in a strong educational system that delivers human, technical and readiness career skills, including essential soft skills. The Partnership also recognizes the importance of ensuring students have access to resources necessary to support ongoing education. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Creative solutions and partnerships with schools to support blended early-learning and early childhood education opportunities, including funding full-day preschool for students at 185% of poverty in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.
- Expanding work-based learning, mentorship opportunities and industry recognized credentials for students and creates incentives for businesses and nonprofit organizations to participate in building Iowa's talent pathways.
- Increasing flexibility in teacher certification, accelerated review and approval of out-of-state teachers and the expansion of programs which effectively address teaching shortages.
- Funding and initiatives that help students efficiently complete postsecondary degrees, internships or certificate programs in Iowa.
- Expanding access for Iowa's students at public and private higher education institutions.

# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports investments in programs and policies that benefit business, people and communities, including housing and technology infrastructure, arts, culture and heritage, recognizing the importance of these investments to economic development, tourism and the attraction and retention of a strong workforce. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Continued improvement and expansion of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.
- Additional funding for the Brownfield and Grayfield Redevelopment Tax Credit Program.
- Expanding Iowa's housing options through targeted and coordinated regulatory reform and increased investment in the State Housing Trust Fund; expanding the Workforce Housing Tax Credit program and increasing the per-unit limit and annual allocation of credits to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program; establishing a State Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program; and funding for down payment assistance and closing cost programs.
- Increased funding and support for programs and policies to preserve existing housing stock, prevent property abandonment, stabilize tax revenue and avoid blight.
- Continued funding for high-performance deployment of broadband.
- Continued improvement and expansion of Destination Iowa and other placemaking and quality of life programs.
- Continued improvement and expansion of investment in arts and culture through the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa, State Historical Preservation Office and other programs that connect arts and culture through education.
- Continued investment for trails through the IDOT State Recreational Trails Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and consideration for a funding mechanism for regionally coordinated development and maintenance of the trails network.
- Maintaining support for Iowa's gaming industry and tax rates.
- Continued investment for trails through the IDOT State Recreational Trails Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and consideration for a funding mechanism for regionally coordinated development and maintenance of the trails network.
- Maintaining support for Iowa's gaming industry and tax rates.

# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I ENERGY

The Partnership supports comprehensive policies and balanced regulatory practices that ensure energy remains safe, affordable and reliable, and promotes Iowa's renewable energy sources avoiding cross subsidization between rate classes. Specifically, this includes:

- Building transmission and energy infrastructure projects necessary to deliver renewable energy through sources such as wind, solar, hydrogen and nuclear.
- Research and development to improve traditional energy sources.
- Policies that support the biofuels industry.
- Policy efforts to aid in the creation of new markets for carbon.



# 2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I HEALTH CARE

A strong health care system is integral to a healthy business ecosystem and crucial to attracting and retaining talent. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Initiatives to address the health care workforce shortages, such as state funding for apprenticeships, fellowships, preceptorships, residency, faculty and including targeted student loan repayment programs for recruitment and retention of health care professionals.
- Adequate funding and operations of the Medicaid program. This involves preserving the existing benefit levels for all Medicaid members to support overall health outcomes.
- Ensuring small businesses and nonprofits have access to affordable health care insurance.
- Initiatives that improve access to maternal, dental, vision, geriatric and behavioral health care services and pediatric provider and specialty services.

## I SUSTAINABILITY

The Partnership believes that good stewardship of Iowa's natural resources are crucial to a healthy community and the foundation of a strong economy. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- An active, adequately funded Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- Appropriate liability protections to communities supporting outdoor recreation amenities for economic development and placemaking strategies, including the use of port authorities.
- Effective land stewardship techniques which leverage technology, data and best practices.
- Regional coordination and funding to modernize flood mitigation and resiliency strategies, water systems, source water protection and wastewater treatment, while advancing watershed planning, conservation practices, nutrient management and sustainable development.





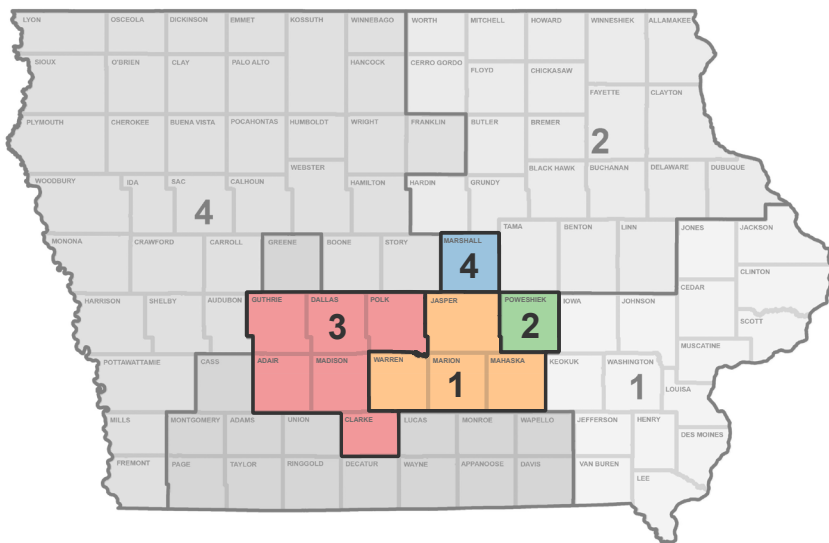


- Effective strategies for prevention and mitigation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), harmful algal blooms (HABs) and other pollutants that threaten drinking water supplies, aquatic habitats and recreation opportunities.
- Collaboration among water stakeholders across rural, suburban and urban Iowa to enhance water quantity and resources through cooperative efforts that deliver shared benefits.
- Research, promotion and education initiatives through agricultural checkoff programs.
- Maintaining or increasing funding for important infrastructure programs including the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) and the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).
- The completion of the Des Moines International Airport terminal project.
- Direct use tax on aircraft sales to the existing State Aviation Fund for the purpose of increasing support of the Vertical Infrastructure Programs.
- Maintaining or increasing funding for public transit while diversifying revenue alternatives to reduce reliance on property taxes.
- Focused RUTF investment in the primary roads of Iowa's ground transportation system.
- Policies and programs that ease the introduction and adoption of emerging technologies, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure, transportation network companies and technology for autonomous vehicles.

## **I TRANSPORTATION**

The Partnership supports investment in a complete, multimodal transportation system that efficiently moves goods and people, creates jobs and spurs economic growth, and prioritizes safety for all users. To that end, The Partnership supports:

# 2026 FEDERAL ADVOCACY



## IOWA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

- Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
- Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks, IA-1 (R)
- Representative Ashley Hinson, IA-2 (R)
- Representative Zach Nunn, IA-3 (R)
- Representative Randy Feenstra, IA-4 (R)

# DMDC

A large, high-quality photograph of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., taken at sunset. The building's iconic dome is illuminated from within, and the warm light of the setting sun creates a golden glow across the sky and the building's facade. The reflecting pool in the foreground is calm, mirroring the building and the sky.

**Learn more about The Partnership's federal  
advocacy efforts and register for the annual  
DMDC trip from May 6 – 8, 2026 at:**

**[DSMpartnership.com/federalpolicy](https://DSMpartnership.com/federalpolicy)**





[DSMpartnership.com](https://DSMpartnership.com)