



# DSM USA

DES MOINES, IOWA

## 20 STATE LEGISLATIVE 25 AGENDA AND PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE



# MISSION

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The Greater Des Moines Partnership is the economic and community development organization that serves Greater Des Moines (DSM), Iowa. Together with 23 Affiliate Chambers of Commerce, more than 6,500 Regional Business Members and over 400+ Investors,

## THE PARTNERSHIP DRIVES ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION AND AS ONE REGION.

Through innovation, strategic planning and global collaboration, The Partnership grows opportunity, helps create jobs and promotes the DSM region as the best place to build a business, a career and a future.

### PUBLIC POLICY TEAM

- **Jenae Sikkink**, *Senior Vice President of Talent Development and Inclusive Strategies*  
jsikkink@DSMpartnership.com  
(515) 286-4927
- **Ryan Moon**, *Director of Government Relations and Public Policy*  
rmoon@DSMpartnership.com  
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### GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

- **Government Policy Council Chair**  
Daryl Bouwkamp, Vermeer Corporation

### GOVERNMENT POLICY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

The Government Policy Council (GPC), made up of Partnership Investors and Affiliate Chamber Member organizations, shapes The Partnership's state and federal policy agendas.

\* 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 Members with policymakers, staff and issue experts.

# 2025 PARTNERSHIP ADVOCACY CALENDAR

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

DATES AND EVENTS	
★ MONDAY, JAN. 13	State Legislative Reception
★ APRIL/MAY	Legislative Recap Update
★ MAY 7 – 9	DMDC 2025
JUNE	Iowa Legislative Slow-Pitch Softball Game
★ AUGUST	Partnership 101
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER	GPC Meetings
★ DECEMBER	State Legislative Breakfast

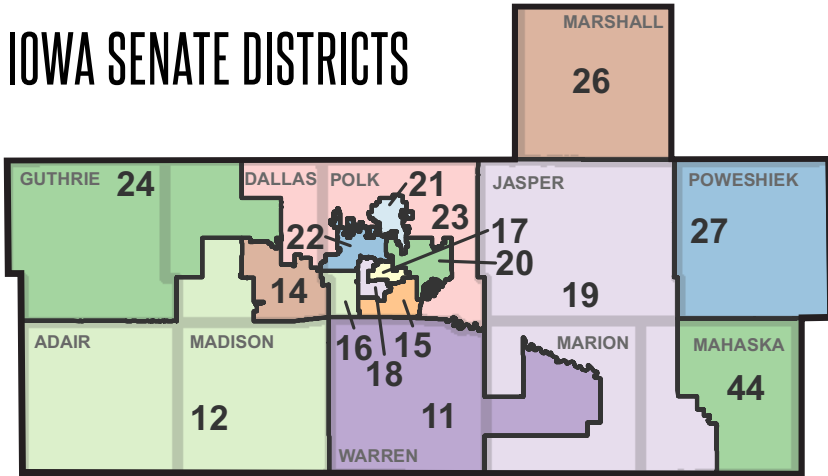
★ State Advocacy Events  
★ Federal Advocacy Events  
*\*Dates are subject to change*

*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).

# THE PARTNERSHIP FOOTPRINT

## IOWA SENATE DISTRICTS



## IOWA SENATE DISTRICTS

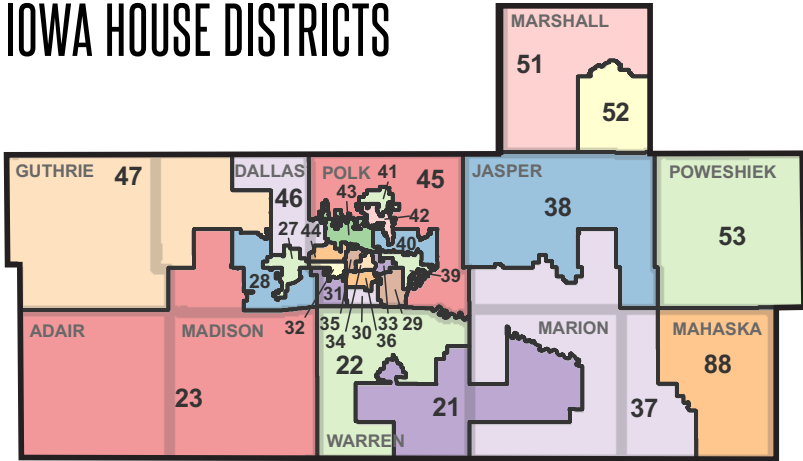
- 11 – Senator Julian Garrett (R)
- 12 – Senator Amy Sinclair (R)
- 14 – Senator Sarah Trone Garriott (D)\*
- 15 – Senator Tony Bisignano (D)
- 16 – Senator Claire Celsi (D)
- 17 – Senator Izaah Knox (D)
- 18 – Senator Janet Petersen (D)
- 19 – Senator Ken Rozenboom (R)
- 20 – Senator Mike Pike (R)\*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

This includes The Partnership's 11 counties only. For full district maps, go to [legis.iowa.gov](https://legis.iowa.gov).

\* At the time of printing, this race was under a recount. Refer to [legis.iowa.gov](https://legis.iowa.gov) for any updates.

# THE PARTNERSHIP FOOTPRINT

## IOWA HOUSE DISTRICTS



## IOWA HOUSE DISTRICTS

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|--|--|
| 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)   |
| 27 – Representative Kenan Judge (D)        | 41 – Representative Ryan Weldon (R)    |
| 28 – Representative David Young (R)        | 42 – Representative Heather Matson (D) |
| 29 – Representative Brian Meyer (D)        | 43 – Representative Eddie Andrews (R)  |
| 30 – Representative Megan Srinivas (D)     | 44 – Representative Larry McBurney (D) |
| 31 – Representative Mary Madison (D)       | 45 – Representative Brian Lohse (R)    |
| 32 – Representative Jennifer Konfrst (D)   | 46 – Representative Dan Gehlbach (R)   |
| 33 – Representative Ruth Ann Gaines (D)    | 47 – Representative Carter Nordman (R) |
| 34 – Representative Rob Johnson (D)        | 51 – Representative Brett Barker (R)   |
| 35 – Representative Sean Bagniewski (D)    | 52 – Representative David Blom (R)     |
| 36 – Representative Austin Baeth (D)       | 53 – Representative Dean Fisher (R)    |
| 37 – Representative Barb Kniff McCulla (R) | 88 – Representative Helena Hayes (R)   |

This includes The Partnership's 11 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

FuseDSM

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

Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce

Pella Area Community & Economic Alliance

Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce

Go Polk City Chamber + Economic Development

Urbandale Chamber of Commerce

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce

West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce



# 2025 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## FEATURED PRIORITIES

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Recognizing the competitive nature of economic development and the vital need to attract business and talent to Iowa, The Partnership supports economic development tools and incentives that enable state and local governments and enhance an overall competitive tax environment and a streamlined, efficient, and modernized tax structure that promotes business growth.

### WORKFORCE READINESS

A well-educated and skilled workforce is a top priority for Partnership Investors, Affiliates and Members. The Partnership supports workforce strategies and programs that attract new talent, assists with the retention and training of talent, and supports work-based learning 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.

### QUALITY OF LIFE

A strong quality of life and placemaking are important to attracting and retaining talent and play a key role in the transformation and vibrancy of Iowa communities, main streets and local economies. The Partnership supports continued investment in programs that support quality of life projects driven by public-private partnerships.

# 2025 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 Partnership's mission is economic development, and as a membership organization representing DSM, 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, efficient and competitive tax environment with a modernized structure that encourages business growth and ensures value on taxes paid; investments in public infrastructure, sustainable government services and creation of 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.
- Local government tools to incentivize economic development and maintain strong bond ratings. The Partnership opposes any efforts to limit Iowa's tax

increment financing (TIF) law or Local Option Sales and Services Taxes (LOSST), which are both valuable tools in assisting development in rural, suburban and urban areas.

- Updating state economic development programs that incentivize business and job growth, high-quality public infrastructure services and placemaking.
- Funding for Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) programs that support small businesses and entrepreneurship.
- Strategies that enable local governments to reduce reliance on property taxes by expanding alternative revenue sources.
- Policies and targeted programs that grow Iowa's research and development ecosystem.
- Funding for state agencies and programs that cities and counties can use to build high-quality infrastructure and improve service delivery, including but not limited to the Urban Water Quality Initiative (WQI) grant.
- 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.



# 2025 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I WORKFORCE

Talent recruitment and retention remain top priorities for Partnership Investors, Affiliates and Members. Ensuring that Iowa's workforce has access to affordable, high-quality child care and preschool is critical to keeping parents in the workforce and attracting new talent. Policies should help ensure Iowa continues to be a welcoming place that is open for business. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Affordable, accessible options for high-quality child care.
- Growing Iowa's skilled workforce through investment in 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 such as veterans, returning citizens, refugees and global talent.
- Supporting students to remain in 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 career readiness skills. 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.
- Increasing work-based learning support and opportunities and experiences for students and creates incentives for businesses and nonprofit organizations to participate in building Iowa's talent pathways.
- Increased 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 such as the Iowa Tuition Grant, Kibbie Grant, Iowa Scholars and the Future Ready Last Dollar scholarship program.

# 2025 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 increased investment in the State Housing Trust Fund, creation of a State Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, funding for down payment assistance and closing cost programs, increased funding for programs to preserve existing housing stock and increasing the per-unit limit and annual allocation of credits to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program.
- Continued funding for high-performance deployment of broadband.
- Ongoing investment in placemaking programs such as Destination Iowa.
- Continued investment in arts and culture through the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa, State Historical Preservation Office and other programs that connect the arts and culture through education.

# 2025 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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- 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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 healthcare workforce shortages, including but not limited to state funding for apprenticeships, fellowships, preceptorships, residency, faculty and including targeted student loan repayment programs for recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals.
- Initiatives to address violence prevention for direct healthcare workforce professionals.
- Initiatives that improve access to maternal and behavioral health care services.
- Initiatives to ensure oversight, sustainable funding and access as the Health and Human Services alignment initiatives are implemented including Home and Community Based Waiver programs, behavioral health and disability realignment.

# 2025 STATE POLICY AGENDA

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## I SUSTAINABILITY

The Partnership believes that investment in soil and water infrastructure is crucial to a healthy community and the foundation of a strong economy. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Funding of Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and ICON Water Trails project.
- Appropriate liability protections to communities supporting outdoor recreation amenities for economic development and placemaking strategies, such as the use of port authorities.
- Effective land stewardship techniques which leverage technology, data and best practices.
- Policies and funding for the modernization of flood mitigation and resiliency strategies, water systems, source water protection and wastewater treatment, including increased investment in Iowa's Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program.
- Regional, coordinated watershed strategies, planning and ongoing funding to implement plans through targeted conservation and flood mitigation practices, proactive approaches to optimize nutrient and chemical applications and sustainable urban and rural 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 between water quality advocates and the agricultural sector, aiming to improve water quality through cooperative efforts that benefit all stakeholders.
- Research, promotion and education initiatives through agricultural checkoff programs.



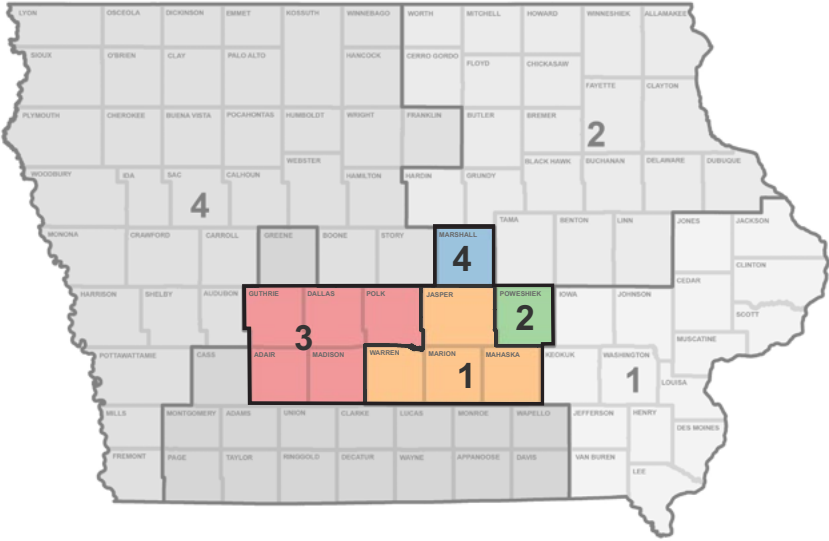


## **I TRANSPORTATION**

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

- 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 through the Vertical Infrastructure Program and other funding streams.
- Direct use tax on aircraft sales to the existing State Aviation Fund for the purpose of increasing support of the Vertical Infrastructure Programs.
- Interstate designation for the Purple Heart Highway (U.S. 65/Iowa 5 Beltway).
- Authorizing alternative revenue to diversify public transportation funding and 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.
- Policies, programs and funding that support the successful implementation of Vision Zero plans.
- Effective expansion of the region's freight and passenger rail system.

# 2025 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)

\* At the time of printing, this race was under a recount.  
Refer to [house.gov](http://house.gov) for any updates.

# DMDC



**Learn more about The Partnership's federal advocacy efforts and annual DMDC trip at:  
[DSMpartnership.com/federalpolicy](https://DSMpartnership.com/federalpolicy)**





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