**Iowa Legislative Report**

**87th General Assembly, 2017 Session**

**IA State Police Association**

**Week 1: January 9 - 13, 2017**

**Paula Feltner & Mike Heller, Lobbyists**

 Amid pomp and ceremony, lawmakers from both parties convened at the state Capitol on January 9th, 2017 to kick off the **first session** of the **87th General Assembly**. Riding high after a wave election that granted them [total control of the state Legislature](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/11/09/gop-wins-majorities-iowa-house-senate-gronstal-defeated/93087764/),  Iowa **Republicans now control the House, Senate and governor's office for the first time in 20 years**. Republicans took control of the State Senate with a **29-20** advantage (there is one independent this year), and expanded their lead in the House to **59-41**. The spotlight will be focused squarely on the Republican-dominated House, Senate and Governor’s office to see how they handle their new power in the upcoming session.

 Opening day of the legislature, the new Republican leadership in each chamber

addressed the bodies and introduced their leadership teams. The **names are hotlinked**. **If one of these leaders is in your districts, make it a point to sign up for his/newsletters and attend the legislative forums. Congratulate the leader on his/her leadership position and tell them you are looking forward to working with them on any issues that affect you. Offer yourself as a resource on those issues. Exchange contact information. MAKE IT A POINT TO MEET THESE LEADERS BEFORE WE HAVE A SPECIFIC ISSUE WE NEED YOU TO CONTACT** **THEM ON**. **THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT SINCE THE SENATE SWITCH TO DOMINANT REPUBLICAN CONTROL.**

The new Majority **Republican leaders in the** **Senate** are:

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| President: | [Jack Whitver](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9768) (R – Ankeny) |
| President Pro Tempore: | [Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=140) (R -  |
| Majority Leader: | [Bill Dix](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=22) (R- Shell Rock) |
| Majority Whip: | [Charles Schneider](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10829) (R – West Des Moines) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Michael Breitbach](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10730)(R – Strawberry Point) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Randy Feenstra](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6565) (R –Hull) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Amy Sinclair](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10729) (R –Allerton) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Dan Zumbach](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10733) (R – Ryan) |

 The **Senate Democratic** leaders are:

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| Democratic Leader: | [Robert Hogg](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6257) (D – Cedar Rapids) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [Joe Bolkcom](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=123) (D – Iowa City) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [William A. Dotzler Jr.](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=157) (D – Waterloo) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [Rita Hart](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10734) (D - Clinton) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [Liz Mathis](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10318) (D – Cedar Rapids) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [Matt McCoy](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=134) (D – Des Moines) |
| Assistant Democratic Leader: | [Herman C. Quirmbach](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=161) (D – Ames) |

The **Majority Republican leaders in the House** are:

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| Speaker: | [Linda L. Upmeyer](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=180) (R – Mason City) |
| Speaker Pro Tempore: | [Matt W. Windschitl](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6282) R –Missouri Valley) |
| Majority Leader: | [Chris Hagenow](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6584) (R – Windsor Heights) |
| Majority Whip: | [Zach Nunn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14803) (R – Altoona) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Megan Jones](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10747) (R –Sioux Rapids) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Jarad J. Klein](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=9408) (R – Kiota) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [Mike Sexton](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=1153) (R – Rockwell City) |
| Assistant Majority Leader: | [John H. Wills](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=13794) R – Spirit  |

The **House Democratic leaders** are:

Minority Leader: [Mark D. Smith](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=64) (D – Marshalltown)

Assistant Minority Leader: [Bruce Bearinger](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=10738) D – Oelwein)

Assistant Minority Leader: [Liz Bennett](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=14806) (D – Cedar Rapids)

Assistant Minority Leader: [Brian Meyer](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=6377) (D – Des Moines)

Assistant Minority Leader: [Helen Miller](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=87&personID=219) (D – Ft. Dodge)

 On Tuesday, Governor Branstad gave his annual, and final, [Condition of the State Address](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RRfICeJRSaHqg-KlZk0FrXOw2tqZpnGDRCH7zDrffuBypoKMt2uT2iymAajxE6IPkwlCmAPblNDUaS3N5VcvZhV6iay4LMXKFI-rUpSWkJV6vF1_Qzn_Hs4AO4ysmF8QugMAxfm8aO7g3BW-VJEonFv-y7nRhs0p8YqANs-CkCciY2jzw_Xm_Z8E6CP10dh6XjYALQ_fGV3G6xGyfx8MGlhUZzqDz9fhrA319sf8R3i0__4TvKsj4Ny63rRzIyENe7dtRIyJ_qoBZy9YLD0d-MUlM-_J4G5u5sCNRxzbgvjiXfrPKEz1Cw==&c=hfw9fqzaNnnJXPni45aBfbOMc2-E88pk7r0tXmGo7tEWRwQF1-PC4w==&ch=7Uh0sKl6zwimNjRi-e9RMlMW21xTdUYgbB1jiz0VkyEyQexvkQH9Zg==).  The six-term Republican chief executive, who has been tapped as the next U.S. ambassador to China, laid out his agenda to a joint session of the Iowa Legislature. The speech was back-dropped by the Revenue Estimating Conference news that the state budget revenue shortfall for **this fiscal year, FY 2017,** is projected to be $**110.8 million**. That means that legislators need to cut this amount million from the **2017 or current year budget** before they even start on the FY 2018 budget. Members of the House Appropriations Committee starting working this first week with the Senate and the Governor’s office to make these reductions to the budget.

 To meet this budget shortfall for 2017, Governor Branstad outlined $110 million in current-year budget cuts and adjustments , including $34 million from higher education and $20.3 million from the Department of Human Services. In those cuts he exempted only K-12 education and Medicaid. This first bill passed this sessionwill address those cuts. He also released his budget for FY 2018 - FY2019 and called for more computer science courses in schools, curbing a dramatic upturn in traffic deaths, and funding water quality programs statewide. A copy of A copy of his remarks and proposed budget can be found here:

<https://dom.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/01/bib_final_fy2018.2019.pdf>

 On Wednesday, Chief Justice Cady presented his [Condition of the Judiciary Address](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RRfICeJRSaHqg-KlZk0FrXOw2tqZpnGDRCH7zDrffuBypoKMt2uT2tfzO5G4V73KBVCdQzDrMXP-fTPXP-7OtchQokcZRJ2R-8DlDUR2rKBbtqLutF8xaG5bzY5XitI9Vtj1i0B8AoEztcwuQFGYcTCsrSdriMF9nl5UI4X1PwQ7gFSbJWTHxO1rX7e9OhFuUc5Yf-weiv_dTs76ITmpMVL4ac4YA4G5GhPrcc-jvyAKhGfbowRzAl9Ehdzp_WutPzXeG5cFs8E5FmmlThldAInFswaWkoOJR1hE8jmNXYs=&c=hfw9fqzaNnnJXPni45aBfbOMc2-E88pk7r0tXmGo7tEWRwQF1-PC4w==&ch=7Uh0sKl6zwimNjRi-e9RMlMW21xTdUYgbB1jiz0VkyEyQexvkQH9Zg==) (full text) to the legislature. Cady said that the delivery of court services depends on the amount of investment by the Legislature and said that fewer resources for the court could hinder the delivery of those services. Cady asked for a 6.9 % increase in funding to $194.3 million for FY 2018. This would allow all county courthouse to be open full-time, would allow a pay raise for judges and magistrates and would be used to improve IT services.

 Several issues have been tossed around as items that will be dealt with this legislative session. Once the FY17 budget is resolved, Republicans have said they will set supplemental state aid for schools in the first 30 days and construct next year’s state budget. Many other issues mentioned as possible sources of legislation include water quality, collective bargaining, second amendment issues, expansion of school tuition organization tax credits, school funding choice, medical cannabis access, statewide minimum wage, and moves to make state government "smaller and smarter".

 Many bills will be filed because there are so many new members and there has been a huge party shift in both caucuses. At this point all we know for sure is that **there will be bills that affect this group that will call for you working with your local House member and your Senate members. It is imperative that you get to know the NOW before you have to talk to them about specific issues. These steps will make sure that when you do have to talk to them on a very important issue, they will know you, have a good impression of you as an activist in the district or a good source of information, and will be more open to your specific ask.**

* Identify your Representative and Senator. “I don’t know who my legislators are”. If this describes you, you aren’t the only one in this situation. While it’s important to pay attention to the issues and get to know your legislators, it’s also okay if you aren’t there yet. Remember that each person has one Senator and one Representative. It is ALWAYS MOST EFFECTIVE to contact your OWN Senator and Representative because you are a voter in their districts. To find out who your two Legislators are, go to “FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR” at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>/find. Enter your address on the right side of the page and you will get both your State Representative and your State Senator. Click the two names and you will be taken to a site where you can find out all kinds of information about each person(district, home address, home phone, committees, etc). YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR THEIR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
* Make it a point to reach out to both your Senator and Representative. There are many effective ways to do it effectively. When you use the above link to find your legislators, you will get the names of your legislator and your Representative. Click on their names and you will be directed to a web page with contact information (address, phone number and email). At the bottom of that page there will be a link: “Subscribe to X’s legislative newsletter.” Do this for both your Senator and Representative. Every legislator uses his/her newsletter signup list to know who is interested in what they are doing! From these weekly newsletters you will get valuable information on when they will hold forums, what bills they are working on, and what they deem important. From their newsletters you also will be invited to follow them on Facebook which can also provide a friendly link.
* Attend Legislative forums in your district! The legislature most commonly adjourns Thursday afternoon so legislators are in the district Friday and Saturday and most hold weekly forums each Friday and/or Saturday. THE TIMES AND PLACES ARE USUALLY IN EACH LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS. This is a great opportunity to get to know them, to educate them on issues important to you, to get to know them, and to get the latest news on what's happening at the Capitol.  There is a sign in sheet at the forums and, although no one has to talk directly to a legislator, they are very in tune with who and which groups attend their forums. They always mention that they saw a client there and appreciated it. It lets them know you want to keep informed and that your are interested in what they are doing on your behalf at the capitol. You can also go to the links below every Wednesday to find legislative forums by chamber or party:

<http://www.iowahouserepublicans.com/forums>

<http://iowahouse.org/forums/>

<http://www.senate.iowa.gov/democrats/events/>

<http://www.iowasenaterepublicans.com/events/>

* Contact legislators by mail or phone. Personal letters may be mailed to legislators at the State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50319) or of course to their home addresses on the links on the legislative website. Legislators can be called on the phone at home Fridays and Saturdays or during the week at the Capitol through the House switchboard at (515) 281-3221 or the Senate switchboard at (515) 281-3371. A switchboard operator will take your message and the legislator will call you back. As a last resort you can email your legislators but be warned that this is the LEAST ADVISABLE METHOD of communicating with your legislators. Many legislators do not use email so often they are deleted by staff and legislators don’t even see them. If you confirm through personal conversation that your legislator DOES use email, you can get their emails by going to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>.

 No matter how you contact them, talking to a legislator is no different that talking to anyone else. Whether you are advocating in person, via phone or meeting them at a forum, there are a few simple things to keep in mind:

• If you don’t know a lot about a subject, it’s ok to keep it simple (in fact it is usually better this way).

• Identify yourself, your title and your organization or where you work.

• Briefly state the bill number, and/or the issue, and your positions, and the impact on your occupation and/or patients

• Ask/determine the legislator’s position on the issue.

• Ask if you could provide them any additional information.

• Thank the legislator for his/her time!

Follow up your visit or call with a thank you letter and briefly include your points again in the letter and ask them to support your position. Confirm any commitments given in previous meetings or phone calls. The final step is important: let your lobbyists know which legislators you contacted and what their positions are on the issue.

 Remember your long-term goal is to establish an ongoing relationship with your Senator and Representative. Sometimes they just like to meet you for coffee. Become a resource for them on issues affecting your profession. Legislators want to represent the needs of the district but they will not know what those needs and wishes are until you take the time to let them know!

 This next week will be an abbreviated week. Monday is the Martin Luther King holiday so the legislature will not convene until Tuesday. Your next newsletter will have bills of interest that have been introduced – until then, please make sure to identify and make plans to get in touch your Senator and Representative. That will be critical as we get into session and desire input on legislation. Have a good week!