

THE ILR BRIEF

Iowa Land Records Policy Brief



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Year in Review

by Census K Lo-liyong

As we reflect on the past year, Iowa Land Records takes great pride in our dedication to advancing services through technological upgrades, exemplified by the successful launch of Search 2.0, and in securing significant legislative victories.

Search 2.0 - A Leap Forward in Technology: Earlier this year, we proudly introduced the impressive overhaul of our search application, aptly named "Search 2.0". Following rigorous testing and research, this updated application boasts faster speeds, enhanced security, and an intuitive interface. Notably, Search 2.0 seamlessly integrates electronic recording and searching into one user-friendly portal, significantly improving system capabilities and enhancing the overall user experience. This milestone represents a substantial step forward in promoting electronic recording and access across the entire state.

Legislative Triumphs

Our policy team played a pivotal role in supporting the Iowa County Recorders Association, leading to the passage of Senate File 498. In 2012, legislation was enacted to revise Iowa Code 321G (Snowmobiles), 321I (ATVs), and 462A (Watercraft). The watercraft portion specified a writing fee of \$1.25 collected by the recorder, the bill proposed a consistent fee of two dollars (\$2) for all OTVS and ATVs DNR transactions, generating over \$115,000 for county general funds. Additionally, we successfully advocated against bills that would have unfairly held county recorders liable for errors in real estate service agreements or septic inspection reports. Thanks to all the recorders for lobbying legislators to amend these proposals, removing recorder liability.

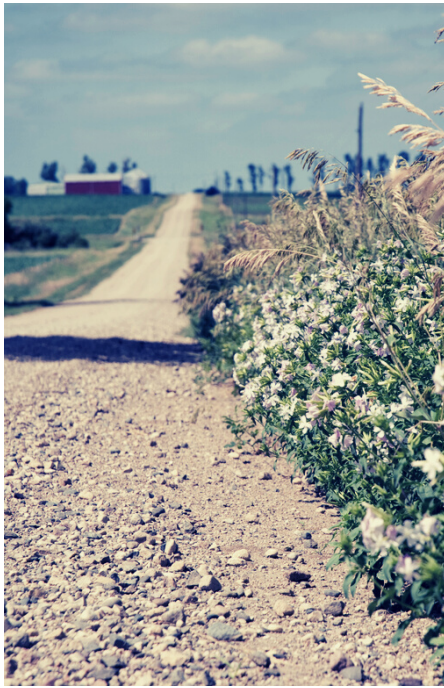
Beyond legislative victories, we cultivated meaningful relationships with new committee members and stakeholders, focusing on key recorder priorities. These connections will be invaluable as we approach the next legislative session.

Looking Ahead... Policies and Modernization

Entering 2024, our focus shifts to examining policies under the umbrella of "modernization and recording fees." While no legislation is planned for the year, Iowa Land Records will use the session to advocate and lobby for future legislation in 2025.



A draft informational FAQ on Trade Names is underway, and we're reviewing the Back the Blue statute and the redaction process to better serve law enforcement and information accessibility needs. Our policy objectives for 2024 – 2025 will particularly concentrate on updating recording fees, a policy unchanged since 1985.



Future Goals & Continuous Improvement

Moving forward, our objectives include building on the successes of the past year. Our top priorities involve soliciting support for a change in recording fees, amending formatting standards, and advocating for consistency across the 99 counties. To achieve these goals, we are developing recommendations and options for updating recording fees and considering changes to the recording process for the benefit of recorders, customers, and stakeholders.

The ESS Standards Subcommittee and Document Formatting Work Group will address changes to the recording process, engaging key stakeholders for input and recommendations. We extend our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and welcome your ideas as we collectively shape the future of the Iowa County Recorders Association.

MONTHLY ADVOCACY CHALLENGE

- SEPT - Post Information About Hunting Season
Share information about hunting season and licensing on your website, social media, and with your local media partners such as local newspapers. To get more details and other season dates, view the DNR website [HERE](#).
- OCT - Make A List
Compile a list of 10-20 key stakeholders that use your office services frequently. Refer to the OCTOBER newsletter for the complete list of suggestions.
- NOV - Send A Greeting Card
The Holiday Season is here, send a greeting card to 10-key stakeholders in your county (October's Challenge). Perhaps this is your first time reaching out and this could be a way to introduce yourself.
- DEC - Start a Advocacy Communications log, Celebrate Your Accomplishments, & Start Your Advocacy Outreach Plan