



POLICY BRIEF

IOWA COUNTY RECORDERS ASSOCIATION POLICY BRIEF



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YEAR IN REVIEW THEN, NOW & FUTURE GOALS

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As Iowa county recorders reflect on the past year, there is great pride in recent improvements to Iowa Land Records (ILR). Notably the land record search application was modernized in 2023 to provide easier access to more than 23 million public documents to the real estate industry and Iowa citizens.

Recorders have actively enhanced their involvement with stakeholders and legislators. In a strategic move, ESS collaborated with ICRA through a Memorandum of Understanding, aiming to broaden their legislative outreach. Notably, ICRA and ESS bolstered engagement by advocating with committee members to support favorable legislation and counteract potentially harmful measures.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

Your policy team played a pivotal role in supporting the Iowa County Recorders Association, leading to the passage of Senate File 718 (Division XII). The new legislation allows for a \$2.00 writing fee for each DNR privilege, which includes registrations of OHVs, boats, snowmobiles, including transfers, titles and liens. It is projected to generate over \$115,000 for county general funds. Additionally, the ICRA and ESS policy team 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 communicating with legislators to amend these proposals, recorders were removed from potential liabilities.

Beyond legislative success, the policy team 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.

MODERNIZATION OF RECORDING SERVICES & FEES

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



The recorders established a Fee Policy Working Group, comprised of two representatives from each district. The group held its inaugural meeting in December to formulate a proposal on 'modernization and recording fees.' To gather essential information for the proposal, a survey was distributed to all recorders. The Working Group anticipates full participation, aiming for 100% involvement in shaping this important initiative.



FUTURE GOALS DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS

Moving forward, our objective is to build on support for a change in recording fees, and to modernize recording services across the 99 counties. To achieve these goals we plan to develop recommendations and options for recording fees and consider changes to the recording process for the benefit of recorders, customers, and stakeholders.

Iowa county recorders plan to engage their local stakeholders and policy makers when developing their policy recommendations. We extend our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and welcome your ideas.

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 Iowa Land Records 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 - Celebrate Your Accomplishments, & Start Your Advocacy Outreach Plan, Start a Advocacy Communications log