

## MODERNIZATION PROPOSAL

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Recording fees help cover the costs of recording real estate transactions and the necessary technology and security. Iowa's recording fees haven't been updated since 1985, and inflation has increased local recording and Iowa Land Records (ILR) service costs. ILR was one of the first statewide land record systems in the country and continues to offer free access to over 23 million records, with the Iowa County Recorders Association (ICRA) playing a central role in its operation and success.

Policies would be modernized to reflect current and future industry practices. Proposed reforms, supported by ICRA, aim to ensure that modernization in recording services benefits the real estate industry, as described in the Benefits of Modernization section.

## SIMPLIFY FEES TO \$10/ PAGE

The proposal suggests increasing the recording fee to **\$10.00 per page** (up from the current \$5.00 per page plus fees), which is well **below the \$14.62 inflation-adjusted rate for 2024**. Additionally, several "add-on" recording fees would be eliminated. Recording fees for large documents would be capped.

## CONTACT

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## BENEFITS OF MODERNIZATION

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### TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING IN COUNTY OFFICES



### BETTER STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENT PREPARATION

- Standard 10 point font
- Updated formatting & indexing standards
- More data consistency



### IMPLEMENTING KEY PROJECTS FOR NEW & BETTER SERVICES

- Establishing a statewide property notification system
- Indexing more data (associated references)
- Accessing more property information in other online systems
- Filling gaps in property location information
- Improving search tools
- Increasing online access to historic surveys and plats

# FIRST FEE INCREASE IN 40 YEARS

IOWA COUNTY RECORDERS ASSOCIATION  
IOWA LAND RECORDS

## SIMPLIFY RECORDING FEES

Recording fees would be simplified to rounded numbers for recording services while reducing the overall net fee increase. Calculating recording fees would be more predictable and understandable. Document recording fees would be capped.

**REMOVE \$1 Records Management Fee. REMOVE \$1 Electronic Transaction Fee.**

- **REPEAL:** Additional Transaction Fee (\$7.00 per transaction) for multi-transaction documents with reasonable limits
- **REPEAL:** Non-Standard Recording Fee (\$10.00)

## PER DOCUMENT FUNDING ALLOCATION

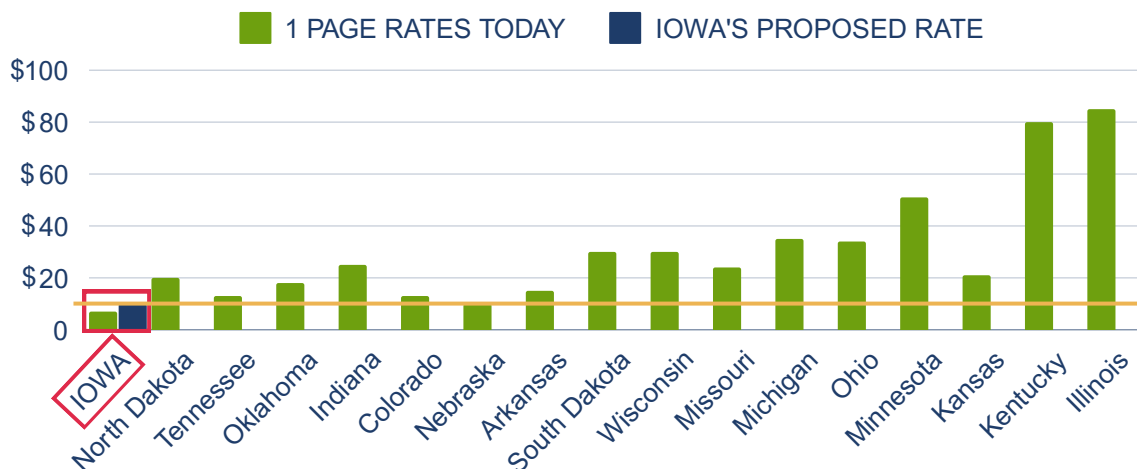
- **\$2** allocated to “Recording Technology Fund” for Recorder’s Office tech needs
- **\$3** allocated to ILR operations and projects
- Remaining recording fee income goes to the County General Fund

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	INFLATION
1 PAGE	\$7	\$10	\$20.46
4 PAGES	\$22	\$40	\$64.31

NOTE: Current rates are \$7 for the first page, then \$5 for each additional page. For this reason, page rates for a submission of 1 and 4 pages are shown.

NOTE: The example of 4 pages was selected for representation because it is roughly the average number of pages recorded per document in Iowa counties. The service fee of \$3.00 per document for E-Submission (e-filing) would remain unchanged and would not be increased. The proposal does not address fee policy relating to real estate transfer taxes or the auditor’s transfer fee. The inflation rate was calculated using an inflation calculator. This handout used the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis calculator at <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator>.

## IOWA RECORDING FEES COMPARED TO OTHER STATES



## SURVEY ASKED USERS ABOUT MODERNIZATION & FEE INCREASE

“Would you be willing to support a reasonable increase in the recording fee, if it is less than the inflation amount since 1985?”

**79%**  
**YES**