

# 2026 Legislative Session Preview

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The east side of the Iowa State Capitol. (Photo by The Capitol Group.)

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## ICA Legislative Breakfast Date Set

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The 2026 edition of the Annual Iowa Conservation Alliance Legislative Breakfast has been scheduled for the morning of February 12.

This always popular event starts at 7:15am and will take place in the Legislative Dining Room, which is Room 15 at the Statehouse.

Take a moment now to invite your State Representative and State Senator to attend the breakfast.

To find their email address visit the link below and type in your address to find your lawmakers:  
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

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## 2026 Legislative Starts on January 12

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The 2026 Session of the Iowa Legislature is set to begin on Monday, January 12.

Here are the key dates to note for the upcoming Legislative Session:

Jan 12 - First Day of the Session.

Feb 20 - Final day for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate

Committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees. Known as “The First Funnel.”

March 20 - Final day for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees. Known as “The Second Funnel.”

April 21 - 100th calendar day of the session and per diem payments end for lawmakers.

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# New Faces and New Assignments at the Capitol

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There will be three new lawmakers, one in the House and two in the Senate, at the start of the 2026 Legislative Session. There will also be some changes in chamber leadership and committee chair assignments.

Republican State Senator Rocky De Witt of Woodbury County passed away in June following a long battle with cancer. Democrat Catelin Drey of Woodbury County won the August special election to replace De Witt.

Democratic State Senator Clare Celsi of Polk County died in early October. She will be replaced by Democrat Renee Hardman, who won a special election held on December 30.

In the House, Republican Mike Sexton of Calhoun County resigned his seat in mid-September to serve as USDA Rural Development Director for the State. Republican Wendy Larson of Sac County won the special election to fill that vacated seat.

In the House, Representative Bobby Kaufmann of Cedar County is the new Majority Leader, taking over for Matt Windschitl who resigned from that post in August.

House Democrats have a new leader, Representative Brian Meyer of Polk County was elected to that post in mid-May after Representative Jennifer Konfrst stepped down from that position after the conclusion of the 2025 Legislative Session.

In the Senate, Mike Klemish of Clayton County, is the new Majority Leader taking over for Senator Jack Whitver who resigned from that position in September.

There are two committee leadership changes of interest, both in the House.

Representative Devon Wood of Taylor County will chair the Natural Resources Committee. She takes over for Representative Derek Wulf of Black Hawk County, who will chair that chamber's Agriculture Committee.

Representative Cindy Golding of Linn County is the Vice Chair of Natural Resources and Representative Elinor Levin of Johnson County will serve as the Ranking Member.