



IOWA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SESSION FOR 2022

After almost a month of overtime in 2022, Iowa legislators have been adjourned. Session officially came to a close early Wednesday morning, May 25th.

Iowa lawmakers passed a number of bills before session officially adjourned.

Reynolds' private school voucher system was not one of the bills that the Iowa Legislature sent to her desk. Although this was one of Reynolds' priorities for this session, the House did not have enough bipartisan votes to pass. Democrats were unanimous in opposing this bill.



What bills did the Iowa Legislature pass before session adjournment?

This last week was a busy one for Iowa House and Senate members. Here is a look at some of the final bills that were sent to Governor Reynolds' desk:

- New amendments were made to the existing [bottle bill](#) that will now allow retailers and grocery stores to stop taking back the containers they sell along with tripling the amount of money redemption centers will receive per container.
- The March 1st open enrollment deadline for Iowa schools has been eliminated, and students can enroll at any district in the state.
- A vaccine mandate that states Iowa children will **not** face a requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend college, school, or a child care center.
- Senate democrats defeated 4 of Gov. Reynolds' appointees to the Iowa Judicial Nominating Commission
- Lawmakers created separate funds for money coming to Iowa from legal settlements with pharmaceutical companies that manufactured and marketed highly addictive opioids.
- A new gambling regulation bill that puts a two-year moratorium on new casinos in the state.
- The exam that all new teachers in Iowa must take to qualify for a teaching license has been eliminated, voted on unanimously by the

To read more about some of the final bills passed this session, click below.

[READ MORE](#)

What final budget bills were approved this week?

The reason the Iowa Legislature has stayed in session weeks past their 100th day is because they could not reach a budget agreement with Reynolds' private school voucher system bill lingering around.

Since that bill has officially died, here are the new budgets that have been given final approval by the Iowa Legislature:

- **Agriculture and natural resources:** \$42 million
- **Education:** \$993 million
- **Health and human services:** \$2 billion
- **Transportation:** \$416 million
- **Justice systems:** \$632.3 million
- **Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Budget:** appropriates \$175 million from gambling revenue and funds to technology reinvestment

Democratic lawmakers believe that Iowa's education budget should have increased more. They feel that Iowa's public universities and the students who attend them are being cut out of many opportunities.

Click the button below to read more about the new budget bills.

[CLICK HERE](#)

GOV. REYNOLDS ANNOUNCES NEW CHILD CARE BUSINESS INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Governor Reynolds has recently announced a brand new child care investment for the state of Iowa. Last week, May 18th, she introduced the Child Care Business Incentive Grant Program. This program will provide \$25 million in order to support Iowa's child care projects.



Details about distribution of funds, projects, and grant deadlines

\$20 million of these funds will go towards supporting local infrastructure investments to build new child care facilities or expand the capacity of existing child care facilities. The remaining \$5 million will support arrangements between employers and child care facilities to expand and reserve child care

slots. Example projects eligible for this grant are:

- Creation/development of an on-site child care center
- Partnership with an existing child care center to create new child care slots reserved for employees of a local employer

Governor Reynolds believes this new program will not only address the child care shortage, but also the workforce issues our state has faced. This will allow for employers to find and retain more workers they are in need of.

Click the button below and see our website for more details, application procedures, or [FAQs](#) about the Child Care Business Incentive Grant Program. The application period for this grant will begin on **Friday, June 17th** and will end on **Monday, July 18th**.

MORE INFORMATION

EARLY VOTING NOW OPEN FOR JUNE'S PRIMARY ELECTIONS!



Early voting for the June 7, 2022 Primary Election has started! Early voting gives more opportunities for voters' voices to be heard if they are not able to vote in-person on Election Day.

Early voting by mail:

The deadline to request an absentee ballot has passed.

However, the Johnson County Auditor's Office is now accepting returned absentee ballots. Fill out your ballot and send them in to the Auditor's Office before the polls officially close at **8 p.m. on June 7th**. Your vote will not count if your ballot is received after this deadline.

In-person early voting:

In-person early voting began on Wednesday, May 18th. You can vote early at the Johnson County Auditor's Office (913 S Dubuque St.) and the Johnson County Health and Human Services Building Parking Ramp (855 S Dubuque St.) for drive-thru voting. See the schedule for these locations below:

- **Weekdays:** Wednesday, May 18 through Monday, June 6, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. (Closed Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day.)
- **Saturday, June 4:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- **Sunday, June 5:** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

There will also be four satellite locations throughout Johnson County for residents' convenience. These times and satellite locations are:

- **Saturday, June 4:** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St., Coralville.
- **Saturday, June 4:** 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at North Liberty Community Library, 520 W. Cherry St., North Liberty.
- **Sunday, June 5:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Dream City (formerly Kingdom Center), 611 Southgate Ave., Iowa City.
- **Sunday, June 5:** 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City.

Find your [polling place](#) for Tuesday, June 7th by clicking the button below. These polling places will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Happy voting!

POLLING PLACES

CORALVILLE CITY COUNCIL LOOKING TO FILL VACANT SEAT

The City of Coralville is now taking applications for an opening on its city council. This opening became available after the resignation of Jill Dodds last month.

The City of Coralville will not be holding a special election to fill this vacancy. This special election would have been held on August 16th at the earliest and was estimated by the County Auditor to cost about \$20,000-\$25,000.

The current council voted 3-1 to not hold a special election due to high election costs and projected low turnout.

Requirements of the applicant include being at least 18 years-old and residing in Coralville. Applications can be downloaded through the [city's website](#) or by clicking [here](#).

Click the button below for more news on the City of Coralville's city council vacancy.

READ MORE



The Business Partnership advocates for economic growth policies on the local, state and federal levels. We collaborate with the business community and other stakeholders and partners to develop our yearly policy agendas, to create a consistent voice for the region.

We are a non-partisan organization that does not endorse or donate to political candidates. We support First Amendment rights for all people and encourage

elected officials, candidates and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates on policy issues and political opinions. We are committed to leading by example.

If you have particular projects or issues that you would like addressed, contact **Jennifer Banta**, Vice President, Advocacy & Community Development.



IOWA CITY AREA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

