



2021 Iowa Legislative Session Recap

Guns, tax cuts, abortion,
elections, property rights,
personal liberties, free speech,
school choice & more



Top League Priorities WINS



Protect model redistricting process.

- So far....so good?
- August special session.



Protect natural resources & environment.

- No changes to bottle bill.
- REAP level funded (\$12 million) – but extended through FY 2026.



Rethink approach to criminal justice, equal treatment.

- Stopped death penalty, anti-LGBTQ+ legislation
- Bail forfeiture (additional 60 days – 150 total – to return defendant to court; gives court discretion to consider all facts in deciding to set aside a judgment).



Top League Priorities WINS



Build Iowa's workforce.

- Failed to pass new voucher program.
- Childcare made more affordable:
 - Adds a ladder at the childcare cliff (graduated eligibility).
 - Expands families eligible for childcare tax credit (\$45,000 → \$90,000)
 - Extra points for High Quality Jobs awards for onsite daycare.



Improve health & safety of Iowans.

- Mental health telehealth payment parity.
- State funding & performance-based contracts for MH/DS regional services.
- Investments in rural health care and direct care providers.
- Food bank tax exemption, housing trust funds (\$3 → \$7 million)
- Sexual assault forensic examiner program, sexual assault kit tracking
- Hotel worker training on human trafficking (\$50,000).
- EMS becomes essential purpose (with tax levy authority).



Top League Priorities **LOSSES**



Protect voting rights.

- Ballots received by poll closing
- Shorter early voting (29 → 20 days) & request period (120 → 70 days)
- Shorter pre-registration period (10 → 15 days before election)
- Restrictions on county auditors
- Criminalizes “illegal” handling, delivering, posting ballot
- Voter file purges (294,000 Iowans moved to inactive)



Rethink approach to criminal justice, equal treatment.

- Increasing rioting penalties (felony).
- Qualified immunity, fraudulent filings, harassment
- No felon voting restoration
- “Divisive topics” ban



Top League Priorities LOSSES



Improve health & safety of Iowans.

- Permit-less carrying of guns, honor system background checks.
- Restrictions on lawsuits against gun & ammunition manufacturers.
- Right to bear arms, strict scrutiny constitutional amendment.
- No right to abortion constitutional amendment.
- Failed to enact Governor's contraceptive coverage legislation.



Build Iowa's workforce.

- Charter schools.
- Continued loss of home rule, local discretion.

Looking Ahead at 2022

01

MH/DS Regions

Review efficiency of each region in meeting service requirements.

03

Human Services

Agency reorganization (merger),
Medicaid managed care,
Glenwood & Eldora issues

02

Bottle Bill

Newly formed group is trying to create alternative structure without legislation.

04

Workforce & Broadband

Shortages in workers & affordability (not just access) to broadband.



Looking Ahead at 2022

01

LWVIA Work Groups

Volunteer leaders,
members kept up the fight
at grassroots & Capitol level

03

Elections/New Districts

Get people prepared for
what they'll need to do!

02

Issues Briefing?

Virtual options to engage
individuals, with breakout rooms
on specific topics.

04

Accountability/Transparency

Better citizen access? what stays?
what goes? still missing pieces
(committee amendments)

