

Board of Supervisors

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2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Each year, Johnson County identifies key legislative priorities that reflect our community's values, support effective local governance, and promote the well-being of all residents. As one of lowa's most dynamic and diverse counties, we are committed to advancing policies that strengthen our public institutions, safeguard vulnerable populations, foster economic opportunity, and protect our natural resources. This agenda highlights areas where state legislative action can directly impact our ability to deliver essential services and plan for a sustainable, equitable future.

CORE VALUES

Johnson County's legislative priorities are grounded in core values that guide our decision-making and advocacy at the state level. These values provide a framework for legislative engagement that promotes effective governance and a higher quality of life in Johnson County and beyond.

LOCAL CONTROL

Local control ensures that communities can make decisions that best reflect the needs, diversity, and priorities of their residents; we support legislation that protects and strengthens the authority of local governments.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability drives our commitment to long-term environmental, economic, and social well-being, shaping policies that promote responsible resource management, climate resilience, and future-focused infrastructure.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights are foundational to a just society. We advocate for legislation that advances equity, protects individual freedoms, and ensures fair access to opportunity and services for all residents.

ADDITIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Support reinstatement of the language in Iowa Code prior to HF 516 that would allow county commissioners of elections the ability to mail absentee ballots after they are available but no more than five business days prior to in-person absentee voting.

1. Support appropriation of additional funding to bring state/county partnerships for juvenile detention to 50% on an annual basis. In FY 2021, the state paid only 8.7% leaving counties to pay 91.3% of the cost of this service.

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- 2. Support increased funding for an increased number of beds in state-funded institutions.
- 3. Support requests for the state to increase reimbursement rate for all Medicaid-covered services to at least cover the rate of inflation.
- 4. Support increased funding for evidence-based juvenile delinquency prevention services like youth mental health counseling, family mediation and support, and school/community re-engagement programs.

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