

Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of February 25, 2019

SENATE REPUBLICANS RELEASE BUDGET TARGETS

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Iowa Senate Republicans released their FY20 budget targets. Their plan spends \$7.619 billion (House Republicans' FY20 budget spends \$7.668 billion). The overall budget spends the same amount as was allocated in FY19 and is \$48 million less than the House Republicans and \$39 million less than Governor Reynolds' budget. The Senate budget targets include an additional \$38.8 million in additional tax relief in FY20.

IOWA LEGISLATURE DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2019 Legislature consists of legislators who are as young as 25 and as old as 78 years of age. There are only four minority members who are serving in the 2019 Legislature, and there are more women and more millennials serving than in any past legislative session. There are currently 29 freshmen legislators who have no experience in legislative service.

The Iowa House is made up of 54% representing the Republican Party and 46% representing the Democrat Party; there are 34% women and 66% men who serve in the House. In the Iowa Senate, 64% represent the Republican Party and 36% represent the Democrat Party; the Senate is 22% women and 78% men.

There are 45 women currently serving in the Legislature, which is a 36% increase from last year.

The average age in the Iowa Legislature is 55. There are three legislators serving in their 20's and nine legislators in their 70's.

The number one profession in the legislature is farming, with 32 farmers serving during this session. There are also 17 business owners, 14 lawyers, and 10 educators.

LEGISLATION FILED

The following bills of importance to community colleges were filed during the 7th week:

SF297 – *An Act relating to individual income tax that creates a tax credit for community college students pursuing a credential leading to a high-demand occupation. Filed by Senator Behn (R-Boone) and referred to the Senate Education subcommittee of Behn, Celsi and Zaun.*

SF400 – *An Act relating to disclosures of certain information (including reprisals) with respect to employees of a political subdivision of the state and providing information to employees concerning the office of ombudsman. Filed by Senator Schneider and referred to the Senate Local Government subcommittee of Guth, Greene and Hogg.*

SF433 – *An Act establishing requirements relating to the use an identification of open educational resources by postsecondary educational institutions and requiring exploration and action on opportunities to reduce educational resources costs. Filed by the Senate Committee on Education and placed on the Senate Regular Calendar for debate.*

HF276 – *An Act relating to speech and expression at public institutions of higher education. Passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on 2/28.*

For more information about the activity during the 2019 legislative session please contact:
Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs
Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu or
Cell: 641.485.4456
Office: 641.844.5602