



Capitol Dome to Home

Gary Carlson
State Representative

Statehouse: (515) 281-3221
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January 11th Newsletter

Capitol Update

The State Legislature convened January 8th and the 87th General Assembly is underway.

I want to again sincerely thank the voters of House District 91 for electing me to represent you in the State Legislature. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity.

Legislation

The first week of each session is highlighted by the Governor presenting their Condition of the State address. This particular session was historic as Governor Reynolds addressed the assembly as the first female Governor in Iowa's history. Governor Reynolds' presentation was concise, clear, and effective. Governor Reynolds is demonstrating the leadership Iowans expect from their Governor.

Supreme Court Justice Cady also made the annual judicial address. Part of his presentation addressed Iowa's judicial history of enforcing the rule of law and highlighted the Alexander Clark case, reminding the Legislative branch of Iowa's history of ensuring Iowa's education system was not segregated; 86 years before the U.S. Supreme Court made the same ruling. 2018 is the 150th anniversary of the Clark decision.

The Governor also provided the Legislature her fiscal year (FY) 2018 and FY 2019 budget recommendations. Although the FY 2018 budget was passed last year, the current Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) has reduced the revenue estimate and the Legislature will need to adjust the budget to maintain its balance. Fairly early in the session we will be reducing FY 2018 expenditures by approximately \$35 million dollars which is less than 1% of a \$7.2 billion general fund budget.

In addition to finalizing the FY 2019 budget, I anticipate significant policy legislation to address water quality, tax reform, and workforce development. Improvement in Medicaid and Mental Health delivery, capacity, and capability will also be addressed. Each of these subjects will be impacted by the total dollars we have available to still effectively manage the State and provide the services Iowans want. I will provide updates as the session progresses.



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Visitors



Governor Kim Reynolds delivering the annual Condition of the State address



(From Left to Right) Michael Gould, Senator Mark Lofgren, Director Debi Durham, Shawn Schrader (Monsanto), Representative Gary Carlson, Greg Jenkins, Dave Tierny (Monsanto)



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Forum Schedule

Muscatine Forum

9:00-10:30am, February 3rd, 2018

Muscatine Community College, 152 Colorado St, Muscatine, IA 52761

In the interim, if you would like to contact me regarding any matter, please email
gary.carlson@legis.iowa.gov

If you know of anyone who would like to receive my newsletters, please feel free to contact me and I will add them to the distribution list.