



2021 Iowa Legislative Session Recap

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

Top League Priorities in 2021



Protect model redistricting process.

- So far....so good?
- August special session.
- SCOIA will kick back to Legislature if past 9/1/2021.



Protect voting rights.

- Early voting 29 → 20 days
- Ballots received by poll closing
- Restrictions on county auditor options
- Allow rejection of petitions for satellite voting locations
- Handling, delivering, posting ballot → felony
- No-purge purging



Top League Priorities in 2021



Protect natural resources & environment.

- No changes to bottle bill.
- REAP level funded (\$12 million) – but extended through FY 2026.
- Did not pass soil health initiatives proposed early in session.
- No strategies on climate change (\$11 million renewable fuels infrastructure).
- Level funding for water quality, no other changes.
- No change to forestry tax credits, land donations.



Demand government accountability, transparency.

- Virtual created more opportunities
- Better citizen access – but will it be permanent?
- No amendments until bill on floor.
- Back room deals, last minute issues.

Top League Priorities in 2021



Rethink approach to criminal justice, equal treatment.

- Increasing rioting penalties (felony) & definitions.
- Qualified immunity, fraudulent filings, harassment & other “back the blue.”
- No felon voting restoration – and make ballot delivery a felony.
- No death penalty.
- No anti-LGBTQ+ legislation (barely).
- “Divisive topics” ban vs. campus free speech vs. Facebook/big tech.
- Housing voucher discrimination.
- Attempts to designate political views as protected class.
- RFRA, trans ban, bathrooms, Facebook punishment and “1619 curricula” discussed, but died.
- 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 in 2021



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.
- Failed to address high cost of insulin, improve prescription drug pricing transparency.
- Failed to fund specialty courts (glass pipe excise tax).
- Failed to pass legislation to treat vaping same as smoking.
- School masks, city/county mask mandates, anti-vaccine sentiment, COVID-19 passports
- Failure to pass assisted reproduction fraud & hysterectomy consent
- Mental health telehealth payment parity.
- State funding & performance-based contracts for MH/DS regional services.
- \$18 million HCBS/habilitation, \$1.03 million children's MH waiver, \$3.9 million for PMICs, \$2 million for home health care, \$19 million nursing homes, hospital rebasing, \$500K innovations in providing rural health services, \$300,000 for rural physicians/OBGYNs, \$1 million prescription drug donation program.
- Food bank tax exemption, housing trust funds (\$7 million), workforce housing tax credits (mixed)
- Sexual assault forensic examiner program & sexual assault kit tracking.
- \$50,000 hotel worker training on human trafficking.
- EMS added last night ...taxing authority,

Top League Priorities in 2021



Build Iowa's workforce.

- Charter schools yes, but vouchers no.
- Continued loss of home rule, local discretion.
- Some childcare but not all:
 - Adds a ladder at the childcare cliff (graduated eligibility).
 - Extra points for High Quality Jobs awards for onsite daycare.
 - Expands families eligible for childcare tax credit (\$45,000 → \$90,000)
- No immigrant, refugee assistance (Governor's comments).
- Regent's cuts, K-12 no extra assistance, special education director sharing.
- Mandatory pledge of allegiance grades 1-12 (but cannot compel compliance).
- School tuition tax credit increased from 65% to 75% (cap increased by \$5 million to \$20 million).
- "Flexible school support program"

Interim 2021....

01

MH/DS Regions

Review efficiency of each region in meeting service requirements.

03

Election Laws

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

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.



Bill Tracker

ialobby.com/billtracker/lwvia



TEAM	APPROACH	COMMONS	NEWS
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League of Women Voters of Iowa

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Bill#	Title	Status
HF196	DMU Health Care Professional Recruitment Program Summary Details	Signed
HF302	Child Care Assistance Summary Details	Sent to Governor
HF424	Bail Forfeiture Summary Details	Signed
HF426	Sexual Abuse Kit Tracking Summary Details	Signed
HF621	Firearm/Ammunition Lawsuits	Signed

