

# FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 18, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

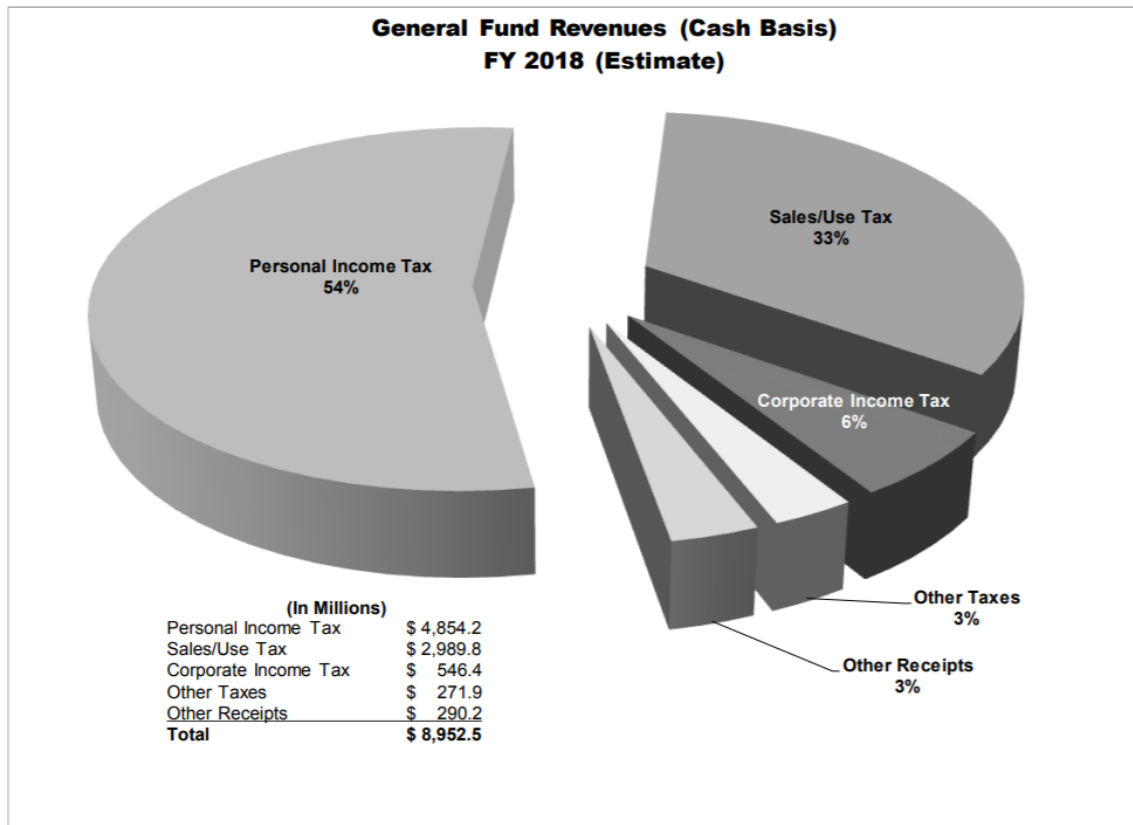
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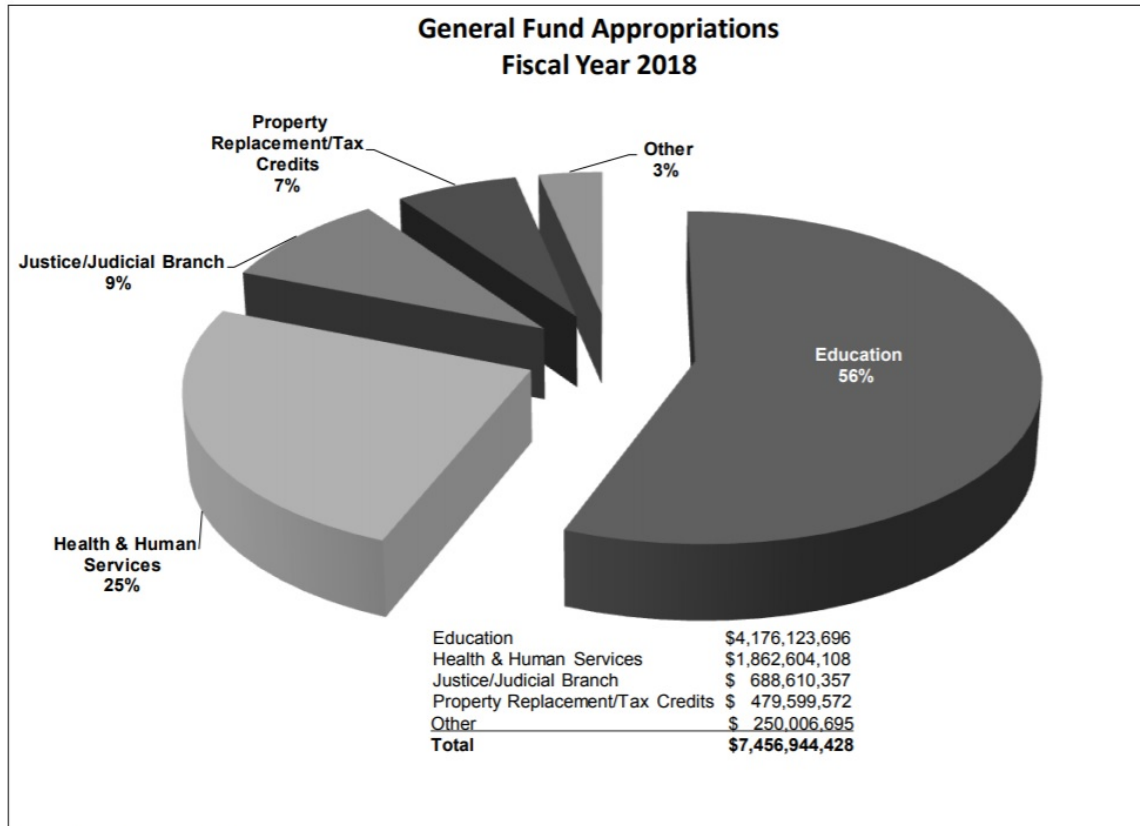
## NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING

**December Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission met on December 14, 2017, in Des Moines. The following items were discussed.

**Funding Concerns.** Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Chuck Gipp provided information on the funding of the State budget using the Department of Management's [FY 2018-2019 Budget in Brief](#) document. One handout from the document detailed General Fund revenues for FY 2018, while the other detailed General Fund appropriations for FY 2018. This data is represented in the following graphs:



Source: Iowa Department of Management



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**Iowa Forestry Meeting.** State Forester Jeff Goerndt explained to the Commission that two meetings were held at the Iowa Forest Nursery in Ames to meet with forestry stakeholders and discuss current forestry issues.

**Lake Icaria Project.** Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Bureau Chief Todd Bishop provided information to the Commission related to a proposed project at Lake Icaria Wildlife Management Area in Adams County. The Lake Icaria Wildlife Management Area consists of 1,945 acres under the management of the DNR. Through a management agreement, the DNR manages the northern portion for wildlife management and habitat development, and the Adams County Conservation Board manages the southern portion, which has boating, camping, and cabin rental. The Adams County Conservation Board would like to construct a resort building or conference center on five acres of the Lake Icaria Wildlife Management Area, which would require the DNR to transfer the ownership of the land to the Adams County Conservation Board. The transfer of the land will be decided at a future meeting.

**Chronic Wasting Disease.** The Commission approved a contract not to exceed \$340,000 with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories at Colorado State University to provide certified tissue testing for chronic wasting disease. Currently, the DNR has a contract through June 2021 with the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, under which they will serve as the primary vendor for testing chronic wasting disease.

**Polk County Conservation Board.** The Commission approved a contract not to exceed \$2.9 million with the Polk County Conservation Board for the dates of January 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. The contract is for the completion of the restoration projects at Easter Lake, located in Des Moines. Improvements include:

- Lake dredging, which will move 271,000 cubic yards of material and include disposal of 140,000 cubic yards. The remaining material will be used to shape and enhance the lake shoreline.
- Shaping the shoreline at Easter Lake to minimize erosion and improve water quality.

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- Installation of fish habitat, fish jetties, and improvements to the main boat ramp.
  - Installation of an in-lake silt dike on the western edge of Easter Lake to reduce sediment and improve water clarity.

**Land Acquisition.** The Commission approved the following land acquisitions:

- A 20-acre tract of land from the Dubuque County Conservation Society for \$70,000. The land is located northwest of Luxemburg. Federal funds will pay for the land, which will be used for hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- A 6.4-acre tract of land from a private seller in Wapello County for \$18,000. The land is forested and will be used for hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.
- A permanent easement on a 2.8-acre tract of land from a private seller in Mitchell County for \$7,000. Turtle Creek, a cold-water stream, is part of the land and can support trout fishing. The easement will allow public access for fishing. Funding is from fish restitution funds.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2018. This will include the annual meet and greet with legislators.

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