



# Iowa Board of Parole

## Joint Meeting of the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

**Board of Parole Budget Request**

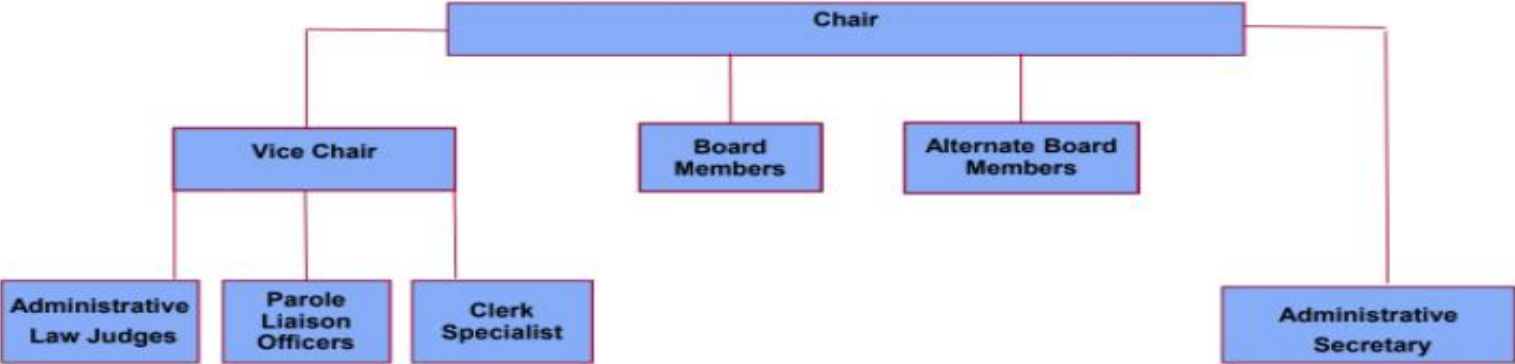
**Chair Andrew Boettger**

**February 2, 2022**

# Iowa Board of Parole Organizational Chart



November 2021



## IOWA BOARD OF PAROLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Iowa Board of Parole Mission

To enhance overall public safety by making evidence-based and informed parole decisions for the successful reentry of offenders into the community to become productive and responsible citizens.

- Utilize evidence-based practices in the decision making process
- Promote release at the appropriate time and type of release
- Foster a deliberation system that respects the interests of the public, victims, and offenders

## Wisdom

## Efficiency

- Be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Iowa
- Be vigilant in the acquisition of knowledge and process improvement

- Enhance a collaborative working relationship with stakeholders in the criminal justice system
- Be and become a nationally recognized leader among paroling

## Collaboration

# Wisdom

- ▶ Comprehensive and efficient consideration for parole and work release of offenders committed to the department of corrections.
- ▶ Expeditious Administrative Law Judge review and determination in the matter of paroles of persons who violate release conditions.
- ▶ Continue to increase the use of evidence-based practices.
- ▶ Appropriate consideration of victims' opinions concerning release decisions.
- ▶ Informed and candid advice to the Governor in matters relating to executive clemency.
- ▶ Timely research and analysis of issues critical to the performance of the Board of Parole.
- ▶ Perform objective risk assessments of incarcerated individuals.

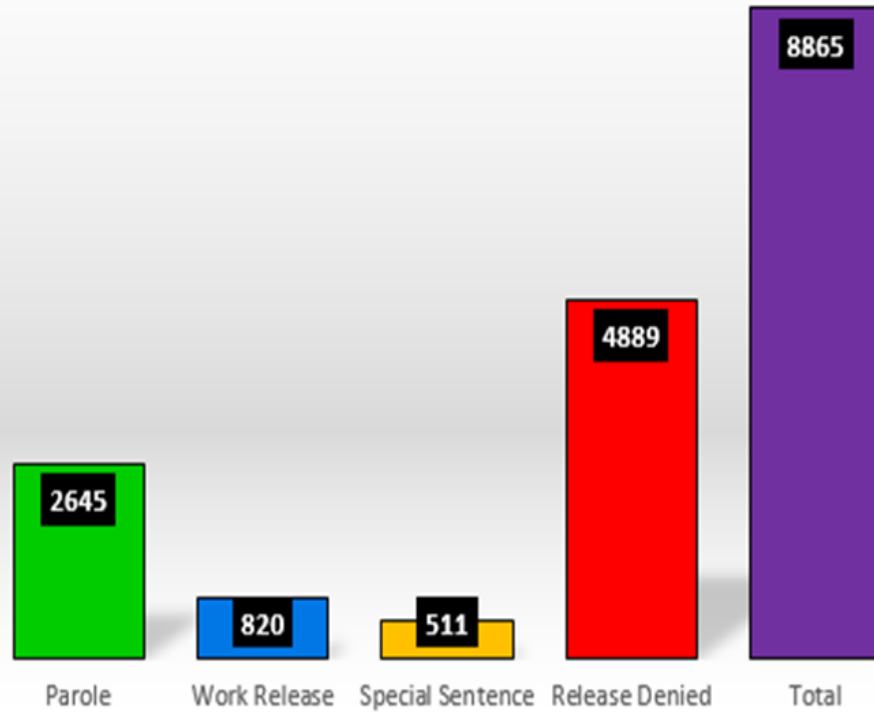
# Highlights

- ▶ Andrew Boettger was appointed Chair after serving as Vice–Chair.
- ▶ Meredith Lamberti was appointed Vice–Chair.
- ▶ Leadership ensured during a pandemic the Board and the staff were updated while continuing review and consideration of incarcerated individuals.
- ▶ Policy manuals were updated and technology changes were implemented for staff and Board members.
- ▶ Utilized Google Hangouts for reviews, interviews, commutations:
  - Promote greater access and transparency
  - Ensure victim participation
  - Time and cost efficiencies

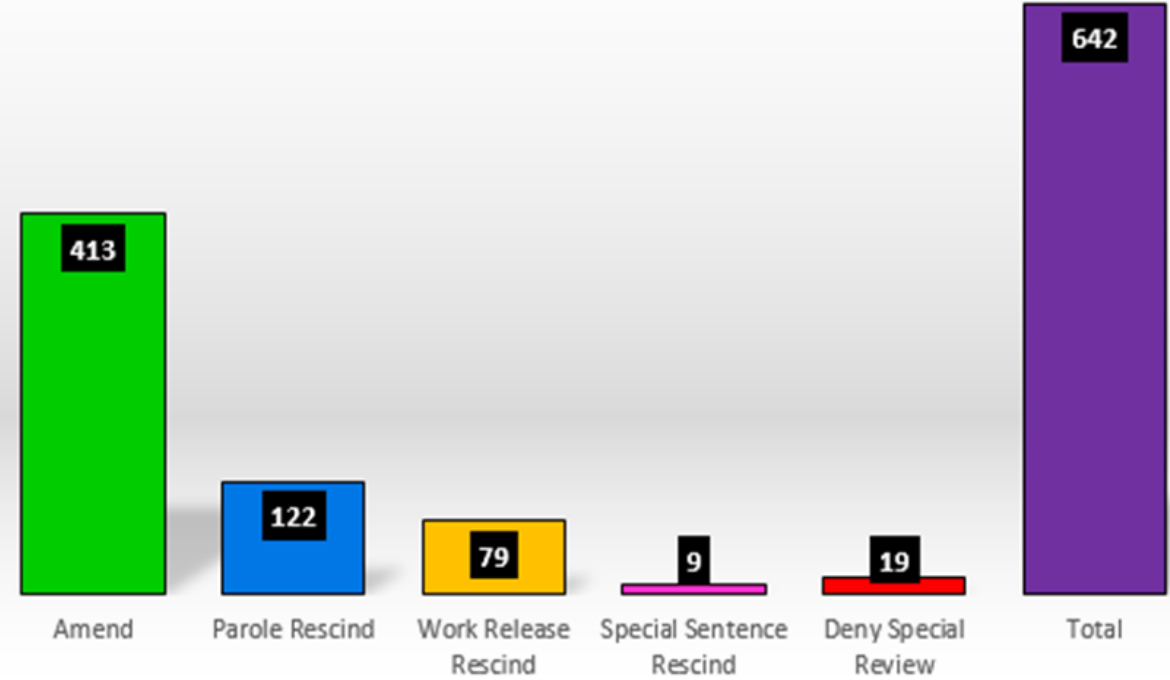
# Demand Drives Decision Numbers

Release Deliberations	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Case Reviews	11,828	12,134	12,921	13,992	11,371
Interviews	392	365	464	510	525
Total Deliberations	12,220	12,499	13,385	14,502	11,896
Release Decisions	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Paroles Granted	4,073	3,954	4,527	4,724	2,646
Work Releases Granted	1,872	1,772	1,986	1,462	824
Special Sentences Granted (903B)*	447	555	515	545	516
Deny Release	4,453	4,694	4,670	5,453	4,912

## Decision Totals FY 2021

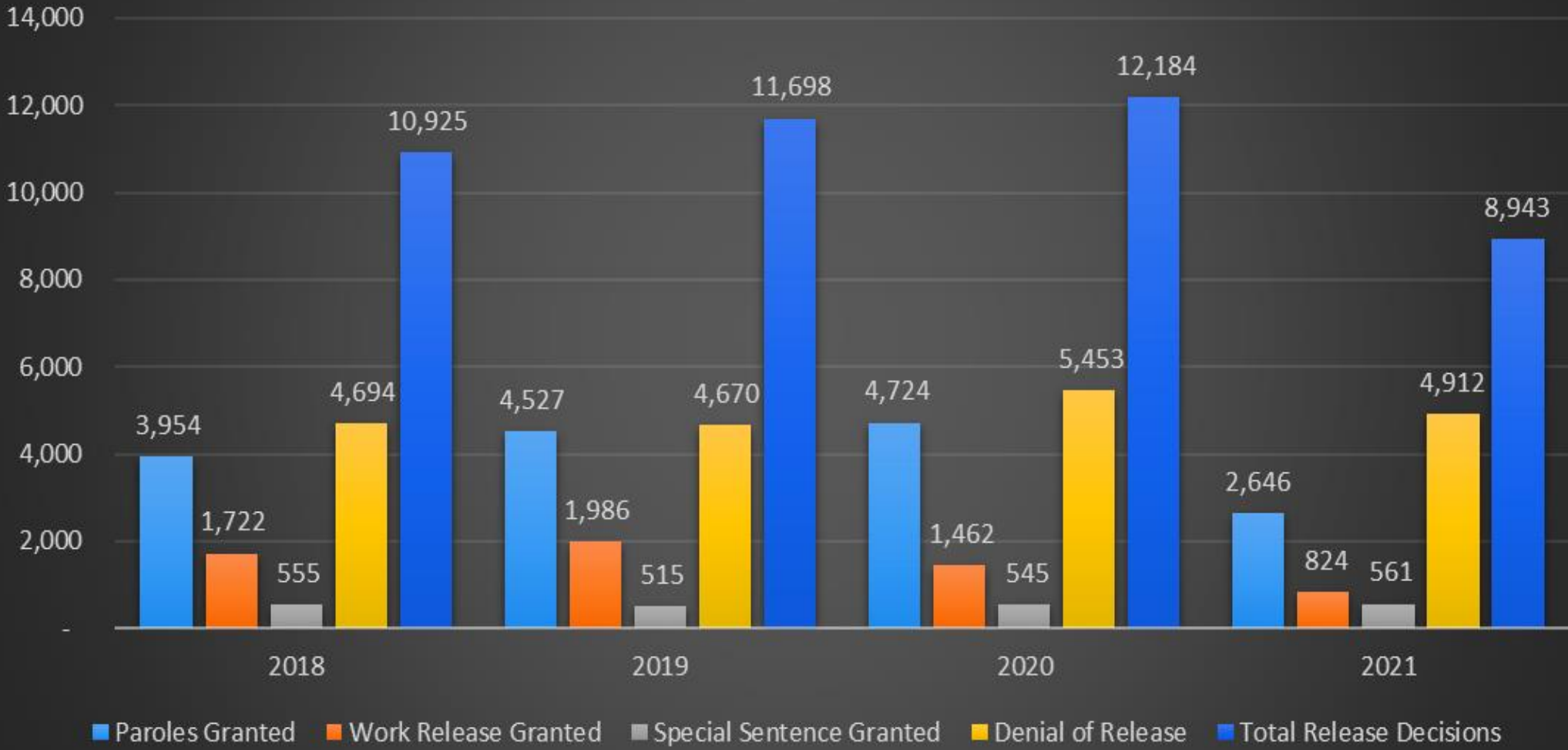


## Special Review Decisions FY2021





# Total Decisions per Fiscal Year



# Victim Services

The Board recognizes the special place that victims occupy as unwilling participants in our criminal justice system.

Recognizing the status held by victims within our criminal justice system and the unparalleled insight such individuals can provide, the Board established its first program for victim participation in 1986. As part of this program the position of Victim Coordinator was added to the Board's staff. Today, the Victim Coordinator's primary responsibility is to assist victims who want to exercise the following rights established by the Iowa Victim Rights Act, Iowa Code Chapter 915:

- Notify victims of violent crimes, not less than twenty days prior to the Board conducting a hearing at which the offender will be interviewed, and inform the victim that they may submit their opinion concerning the release of the offender in writing prior to the hearing or may appear personally or by counsel at the hearing to express an opinion concerning the offender's potential release.
- Notify the victim, whether or not the victim appears at the hearing or expresses an opinion, of the Board's decision regarding release of the offender.
- Assist victims in their understanding of the parole process.

# Victim Services

Victim Registration Statistics	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Registered Victims at Year End	5,823	6,067	6,337	6,573	6,648
Registration Letters	2,873	1,700	2,318	1,620	732
Interview Letters	598	538	772	781	636
Decision Letters	3,160	3,117	3,633	3,820	3,250

\* Iowa Code 915 and Administrative Rule 205-7.1 defines who constitutes a Board of Parole registered victim.

# Board of Parole Administrative Law Judges: Parole Revocations

A total of 1,599 paroles were revoked in FY2021. This number includes sex offenders who are subject to special sentence supervision pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 903B.

<b>Parole Revocation Statistics FY 2021</b>	
<b>Total Parole Revocation Hearings</b>	<b>3,104</b>
<b>Total Paroles Revoked</b>	<b>1,599</b>
Discretionary Revocations	1,058
Automatic Revocations	322

# Collaboration

Fostering collaborative working relationships with the Department of Corrections and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system

- Open communication increases efficiency at all stages of the release decision making process
- Elimination of redundant processes results in greater fiscal responsibility
- Collaboration across disciplines results in enhanced offender reentry planning and more comprehensive and informed reviews

# Collaboration

- ▶ Robina Project
  - Aligning Supervision Conditions with Risk and Needs: reviewing use of standard and special conditions.
- ▶ Training at Board's monthly Board meetings.
- ▶ Administrative Law Judges working with Council of State Government– Justice Reinvestment Institute.
- ▶ Visits to all nine institutions as well as community based corrections offices.
- ▶ Attending statewide and national conferences to improve, learn, and network with parole leadership in other states.
- ▶ Participate on panels and present to stakeholders the role and operations of the Board of Parole.

# Budget Request

	FY 2020 Actuals	FY 2021 Actuals	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Department Request
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>\$1,240,265</b>	<b>\$1,240,135</b>	<b>\$1,285,739</b>	<b>\$1,285,739</b>
FTEs	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Technology Reinvestment Fund			<i>Continue to use \$50,000</i>	