

# Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission

Administration & Regulation  
Appropriations Subcommittee •  
March 12, 2026



# IRGC Overview

## Created in 1983

(1983 Iowa Acts, ch. 187, section 5)

## Membership

- 5 Commissioners
- Appointed by Governor
- Confirmed by Senate
- Serve 3-year terms (May 1 – April 30)
- No specific qualifications required

## Restrictions

- No more than 3 Commissioners from same political party
- No financial interest in a licensee
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- No wagering in Iowa

# Commissioners

## Amy Burkhart – Chair

- Independent
- Current Term Ends: 04/30/2027

## Daryl Olsen – Vice Chair

- Republican
- Current Term Ends: 04/30/2026

## Alan Ostergren

- Republican
- Current Term Ends: 04/30/2026

## Michael Boal

- Republican
- Current Term Ends: 04/30/2028

## Kirk Nielsen

- Independent
- Current Term Ends: 04/30/2027
- Recently appointed to complete the term of a previous commissioner

# Agency Staff

## Administrator

- Appointed by Commission for a 4-year term
- Subject to Senate confirmation
- Administrator may hire “other assistants and employees as necessary”

## Other Staff

- 12 other staff in Des Moines office
- Personnel stationed at every facility in the state
- Stewards hired to serve as racing officials in season
- Contract for Commission vets and lab

# Areas of Regulatory Oversight

## 1983 Original

- Racing only
- Horse racing and greyhound racing authorized; handful of tracks around the state
- Live greyhound racing ceased in 2022

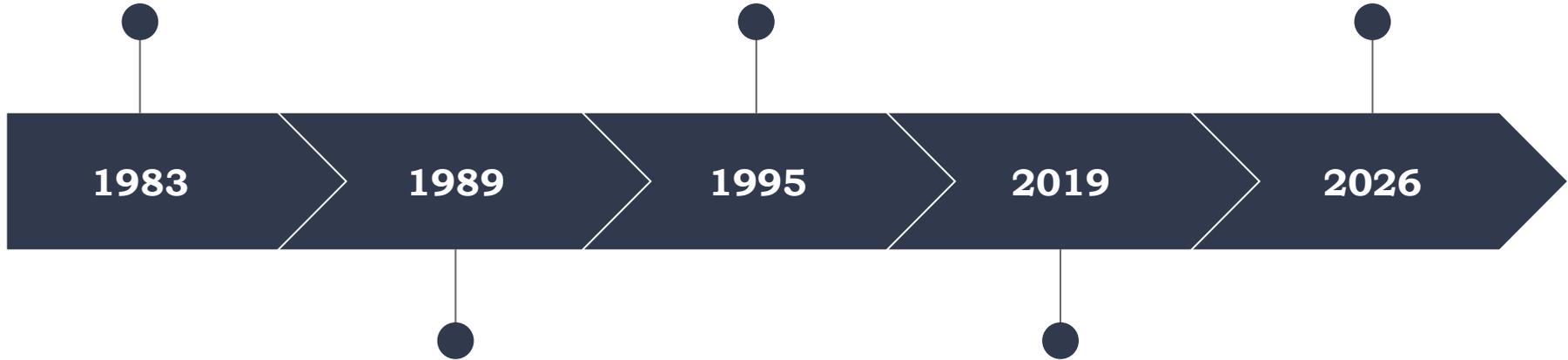
## Additions since 1989

- Riverboat casinos/QSOs
- Removal of wagering limits
- Standalone casinos (riverboats or “gambling structures”)
- Slot machines and table games at racetracks
- Fantasy sports contests
- Sports betting (retail and online)

Pari-Mutuel Wagering Act passed; Iowa Racing Commission created

Slots and table games authorized at racetracks

Commission oversees 1 racetrack, 19 (soon to be 20) casinos, and numerous online operators



Gaming added to the Commission as riverboat gambling was authorized

Sports betting and fantasy sports contests authorized

The mission of the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission is to administer the laws and rules for gambling and wagering in Iowa in order to ensure the integrity of licensees and their operations, maintain public confidence in regulated gambling and wagering activities in Iowa, and promote economic development for the citizens of Iowa.

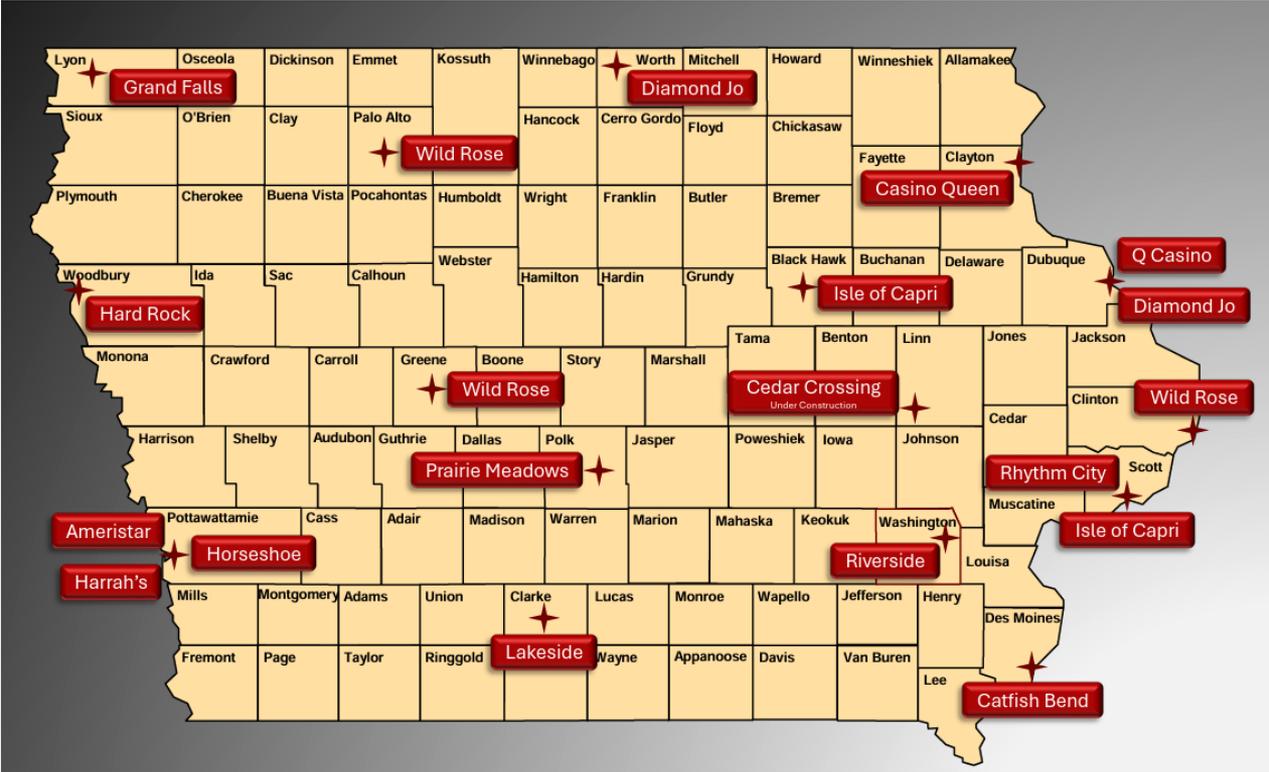
The Commission carries out this mission by enforcing laws and rules for the wagering public and industry, as well as ensuring industry participants are adhering to responsible gaming practices, promoting the highest quality of sustainable operations, promoting public safety, providing quality entertainment, investing into Iowa goods and resources, encouraging the hiring of Iowans, and requiring reinvestment in facilities and amenities located in Iowa.

# Mission Statement

# WHO IRGC Regulates



# Commercial Casinos



# Online Sports Wagering (February 27, 2026)

## Bet365

- Casino Queen

## Bally Bet

- Grand Falls

## BetMGM

- Diamond Jo Worth

## BetRivers

- Wild Rose Clinton
- Wild Rose Jefferson

## Caesars Sportsbook

- Harrah's
- Horseshoe
- Isle Bettendorf
- Isle Waterloo
- Prairie Meadows

## Circa Sports

- Wild Rose Jefferson

## DraftKings

- Wild Rose Clinton
- Wild Rose Emmetsburg
- Wild Rose Jefferson

## The Score

- Ameristar

## FanDuel

- Diamond Jo Dubuque

## Fanatics Sportsbook

- Catfish Bend/Great River

## Sporttrade

- Wild Rose Clinton

# Live Racing in Iowa (2026 Season)

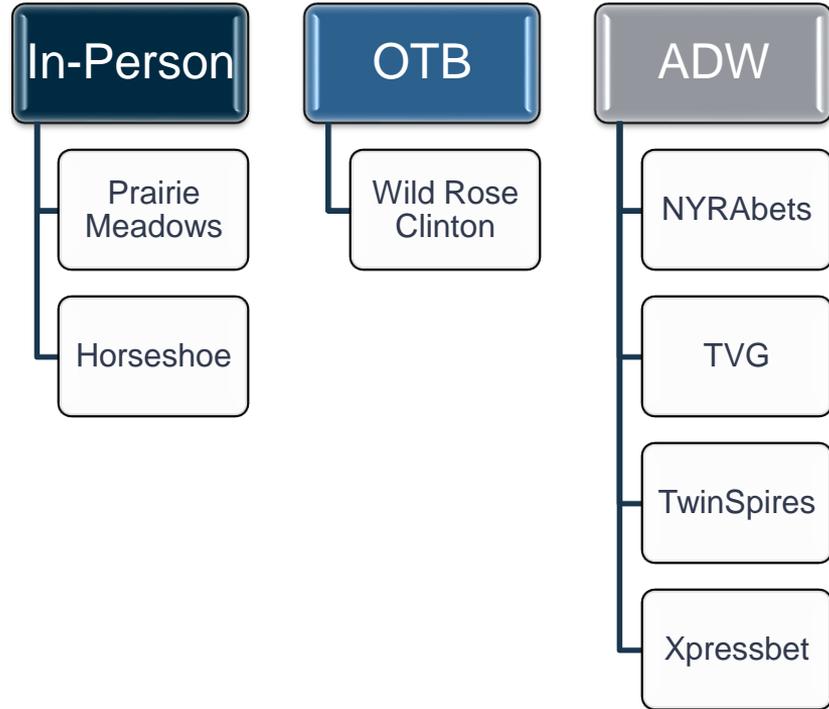
Thoroughbreds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prairie Meadows</li><li>• May 02 – September 26</li></ul>
Quarter Horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prairie Meadows</li><li>• June 8 – September 26</li></ul>
Standardbred (Harness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Various county fairs (mid spring – early fall)</li><li>• Pari-mutuel wagering no longer offered in Iowa for Standardbred (2011 legislation).</li></ul>

# Simulcast Racing

Simulcast Racing allows a person to place a wager for a race that takes place at a different location.

There are three simulcast options in Iowa:

- In-Person: Placing a wager at one of Iowa's licensed racetracks.
- Off-Track Betting (OTB): Placing a wager at one of Iowa's licensed casinos.
- Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW): Placing a wager online



# IRGC Does Not Oversee:

## In Person

- Arcades like Chuck E. Cheese or Dave & Busters (99B)
- Amusement devices or amusement concessions at bars or convenience stores (99B)
- Bingo and raffles (99B)
- Tribal Casinos
- Lottery (99G)

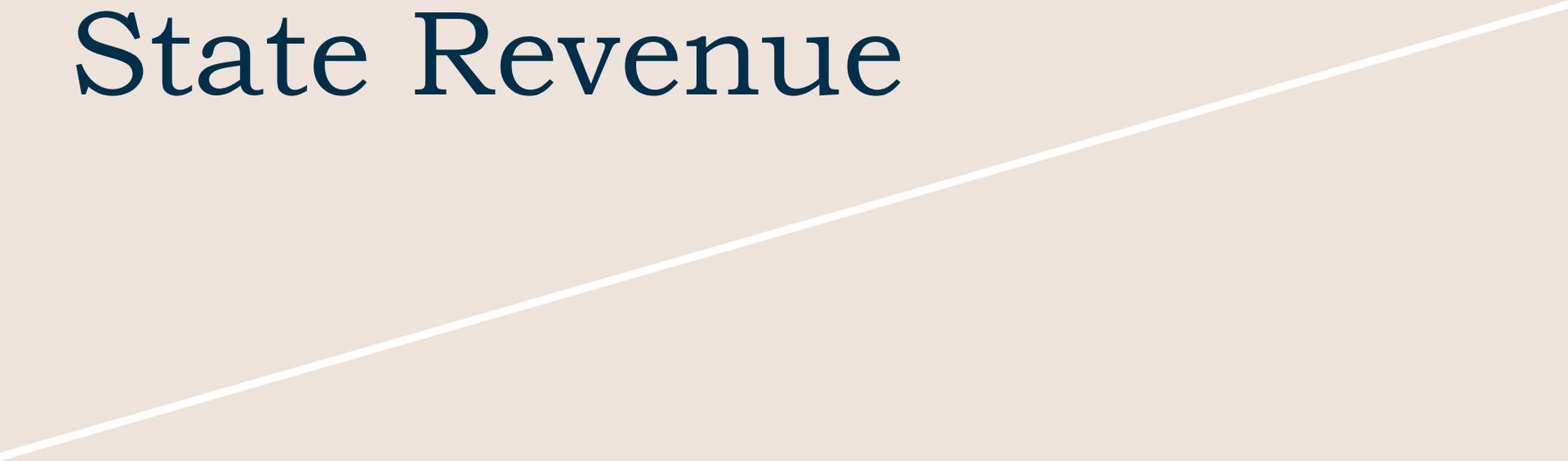
## Internet / Mobile

- Unlicensed operators
- Scam or spoof websites impersonating a legitimate licensee
- Crypto casinos
- Online Sweepstakes casinos

# Notable Events from 2025

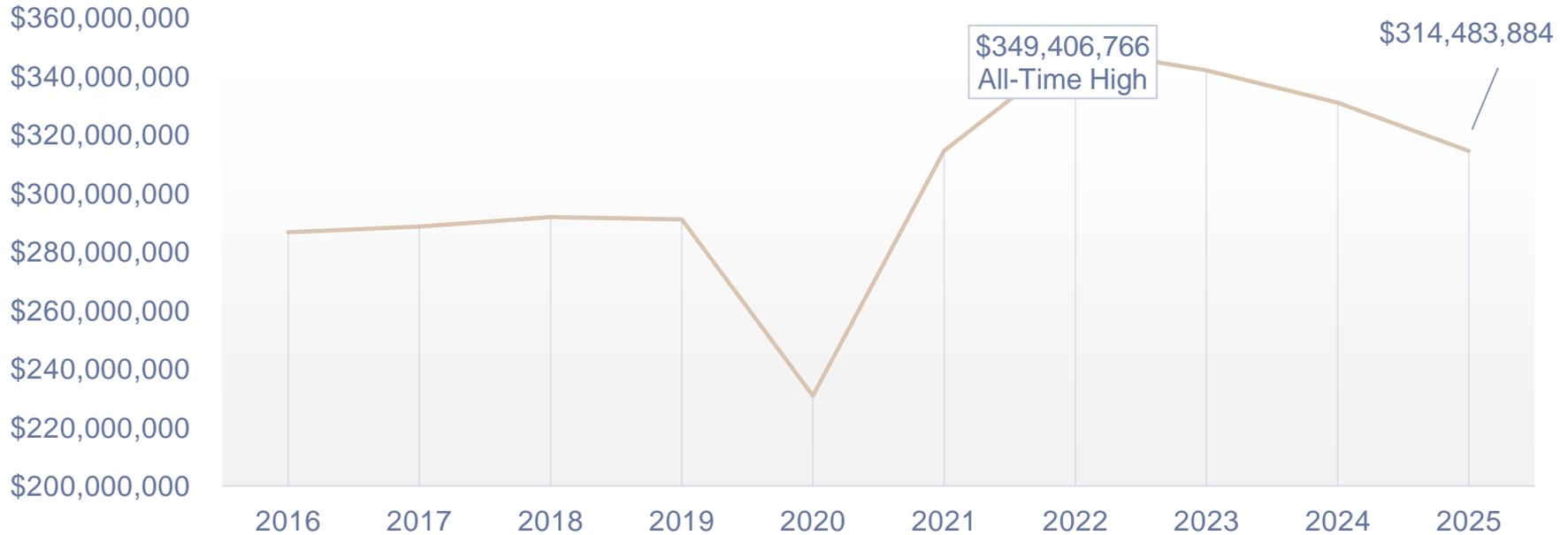
- Completed review of new license application for Linn County and granted license to Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC and Linn County Gaming Association, Inc.
- Successfully defended lawsuit challenging Commission's authority to consider and decision to grant the Linn County license application
- Approved plan for conversion and rebrand in Council Bluffs (from Ameristar excursion boat to Hollywood Casino landside gambling structure)
- Approved acquisition of Casino Queen in Marquette by Bally's and worked with facility on rebranding plan and conversion of riverboat into a landside facility
- Issued \$600,000 in Commission-level fines against licensees and an additional \$126,500 in fines at the Gaming Board level
- Issued over 3,700 occupational licenses
- Tested over 1,200 new slot machine installs and completed full audits of software installed in over 2,900 slot machines
- Performed pre-race exams on all entered horses and collected over 2,000 horse blood/urine/hair samples for drug testing

# Gaming Tax & State Revenue



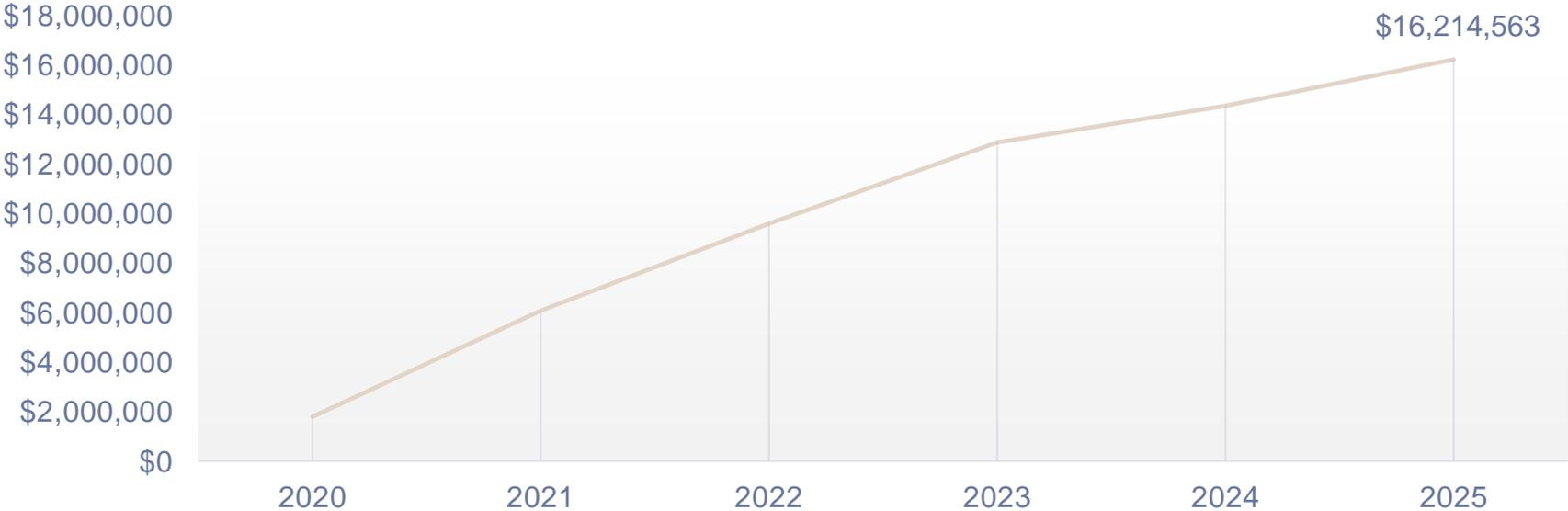
# 10 Year Gaming Tax Comparison - Fiscal Year

Gaming Tax

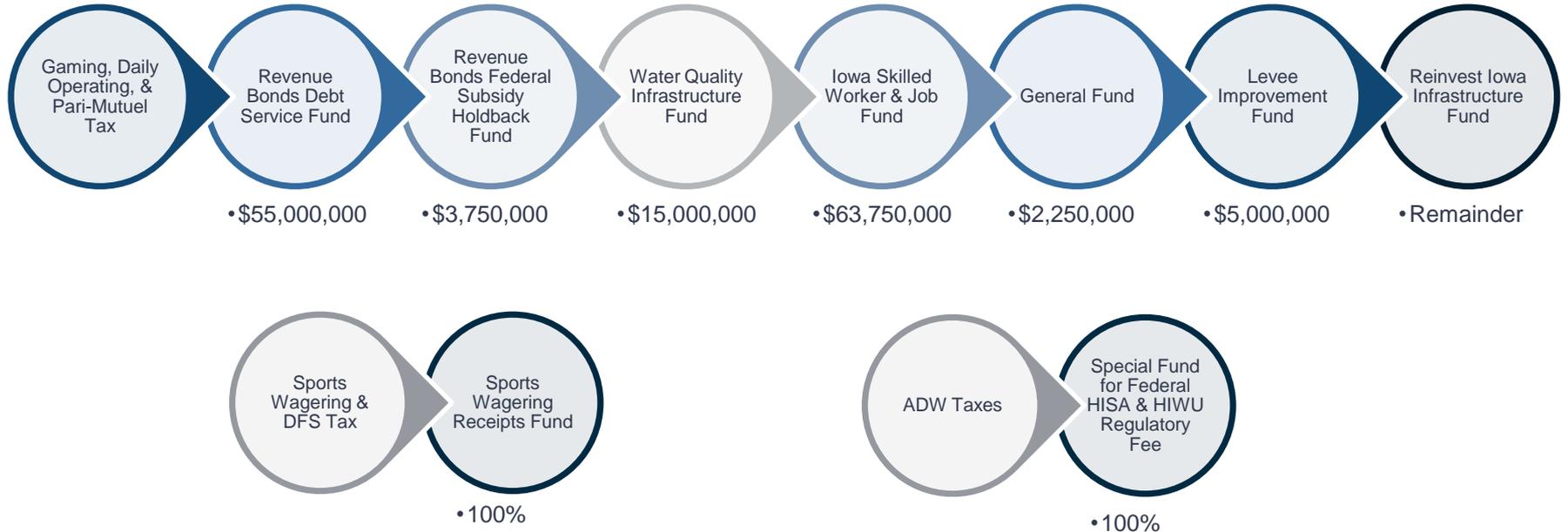


# 6 Year **Sports Wagering** Comparison – Fiscal Year

Sports Wagering Tax



# Tax Distribution



# IRGC Funding

- Legislature sets appropriations for the IRGC per Iowa Code 99F.20
- 100% of budget is funded through the Gaming Regulatory Revolving Fund
- IRGC determines the “per licensee” cost as set forth in 99F.10
- Casino licensees assessed weekly regulatory fees based on number of IRGC employees at their facility (typically 1-2; except racing facilities) and pro rata share of central office staff and administration
- Renewal fees and fines go to General Fund not agency budget
- Unexpended moneys are reverted back to licensees each year as required by 99F.10

# Budget Overview

FY26 - Requested				
Budget	Salary Adjustment	Additional Request	Total	FTE
\$7,626,499		\$0		53.70

FY27 - Requested				
Budget	Salary Adjustment	Additional Request	Total	FTE
\$8,054,499		\$428,000		57.70

# IRGC Budget & Staffing

- Increased budget & staffing with addition of sports wagering in FY2020 but have otherwise largely maintained a status quo budget
- Budget and staffing have not kept pace with the increase in the number of licensees & programs IRGC regulates
- Agency staffing is below comparable jurisdictions
- New casino in Cedar Rapids will require additional IRGC staff
- New casino and existing facility improvements will require additional staff resources
- Specialized training for Commissioners and staff not readily available in state

# What Makes Iowa Gaming Different?

- Only state that requires casino operators to have a non-profit qualified sponsoring organization (QSO) as a partner.
- Casino operator and QSO EACH have a license
- By statute, casino required to distribute a minimum of 3% of their adjusted gross receipts (AGR) to their QSO partner
- By statute, each QSO receives a minimum of 0.75% of sports wagering net receipts.
- QSO partner, by statute, required to distribute at least 3% of AGR and, if applicable, 0.75% of sports wagering net receipts
- Iowa first initiatives

# Questions or Comments?

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