


[Help](#) [Old Website](#) [Home](#)
[Home](#) > [Web Applications](#) > [Question Listing](#) > [Response Listing](#)
[Web Applications](#)
[Login](#)
[Reset Password](#)

Response Listing

Improving State Government

What are your suggestions for improving state government?

01/22/2012 02:28 PM

To help break the cycle of poverty and crime in Iowa:

- Have the Dept of Education work with DHS to test all at risk children 3 - 4 years old for kindergarten readiness.
- Put all of these children that are not ready for kindergarten in pre schools. Do not wait for them to volunteer.
- These pre schools must be capable of preparing these children for kindergarten and responsible for success in this preparation.

Today, in Iowa, many of the kids who start in our schools behind will still be behind when they leave. Many go on to lead lives in poverty and/or crime.

This should be a great payback.

01/21/2012 02:43 PM

1. Freeze all state salaries at current levels or, better yet, reduce them by 10% to get them more in line with the private sector.
2. Increase the employee contribution to both health care and retirement programs. Everybody needs to have some skin in the health care game.
3. Disallow any accumulation of "sick days" and vacation days. Any of these days are on a "use or lose it" basis. And certainly do not allow this accumulated time off to count towards final years pay and pensions!!!
4. Raise the gas tax and use the money for repairing highways.
5. Shrink the number of state workers by 5-10 percent.

01/21/2012 11:09 AM

Stay away from rehashing the "gay marriage issue", the abortion and family planning issue. Do get on with education issues...keep educating preschoolers in this state...the benefits are obvious....Do get on with solving the economic issues in a spirit of cooperation. Do look seriously at assisting the court system of Iowa with budget issues...that backlog problem is only going to get worse and that is not taking care of the citizens of Iowa. Do look at whether it makes sense that Iowa legislators/executive branches etc should contribute to their health care and retirement benefits...like the rest of the world. BMB

01/19/2012 06:43 PM

PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO TO KEEP RED LIGHT CAMERAS I WOULD NOT WANT ANY OF MY FAMILY TO BE HURT OR KILLED BY SOMEONE GOING THRU A RED LIGHT ,TO THOSE WHO THINK THEY VIOLATE THERE RIGHTS ,THEY VIOLATE MY RIGHT TO EXPECT TO BE SAFE FROM THEM WHO HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE TRAFFIC LAWS
THANK YOU

01/19/2012 04:28 PM

Reduce the number of counties from 99 to 25! Thanks! Gary :)

01/19/2012 09:51 AM

Do away with the need for License plates to be displayed on Official "Marked" State, County and City vehicles in the State. Unmarked type vehicles would still need to have plates assigned but could have standard plates instead of having different styles. This is much like the Postal Service being exempt from License plates except theirs is on a National Level.

I would suggest the State look towards the Federal Government to determine feasibility of dredging portions of the rivers that are flooding frequently. As an example the Des Moines river South of Saylorville all the way through Des Moines has silted in tremendously and if there are not flood conditions you pretty much see sand bars everywhere. To bring this down to a quick analogy; if you filled a tub with 6 inches of sand on the bottom it would not hold the same amount of water if there were no sand in the bottom. So when you put the same amount of water in the tub the only place left to go would be over the sides.

01/19/2012 08:12 AM

State government could be improved by more effectively utilizing the available financial resources to conduct the business of the state rather than administrative burdens associated with employment. Outsourcing the administrative tasks associated with being an employer would increase efficiencies for the state while reducing the portion of the state's budget associated with employment administration. By way of example, the State of Florida entered into an HR outsourcing arrangement in 2002, which they renewed in 2009 through 2016, whereby the state anticipates a total savings of over \$45 million over the life of the contract.

Professional employer organizations (PEOs) enable their clients to cost-effectively outsource the management of human resources, employee benefits, payroll, payroll tax administration, and workers' compensation. PEO clients focus on their core competencies using financial and labor resources more effectively, while allowing the PEO to more efficiently administer the lifecycle of employment.

A PEO provides integrated services to effectively manage critical human resource responsibilities and employer risks for their clients. A PEO delivers these services by establishing and maintaining an employer relationship with the employees at their client's worksite and by contractually assuming certain employer rights and responsibilities.

Businesses and municipalities across America have discovered the incredible value of PEOs because they provide:

- * Relief from the burden of employment administration.
- * A wide range of personnel management solutions through a team of professionals.
- * Improved employment practices, compliance and risk management to reduce liabilities.

- * Access to a comprehensive employee benefits package, allowing clients to be competitive in the labor market.
- * Assistance to improve productivity and profitability.

01/18/2012 08:07 AM

All government printers and computers should be set to a default of duplex printing (printing on both sides of the paper) to save ink, paper (and thus trees) and wear & tear (maintenance & replacement costs). Individuals can select non-duplex printing on a print job basis when needed.

01/18/2012 08:02 AM

The pension plan for all government employees, including elected officials, should immediately be converted to cash balance 401k plans to avoid future bankruptcy due to unfulfillable obligations. In lieu of this conversion, the retirement age should be raised to a minimum of 62 years old to collect state, county or city retirement benefits with absolutely no double dipping allowed, with 40 years of service to collect a full pension. Also, government employees should not be allowed to unionize, there is no "employee" vs. "employer" relationship that makes unions necessary, there is no "employer" bargaining on the taxpayers' behalf.

01/18/2012 07:42 AM

Some thoughts:

Just because a budget is approved does not mean that it has to be spent. I have heard that we have a process that if you don't spend the money, it gets taken away for the next fiscal year. Zero based budgeting and reward those who make sound management decisions toward their budgets.

Figure out how to do more on line versus going to offices (such as license renewal). If you have a clear MVR since your last issuance of your license, allow us to do it on line. We submit a current photo and the license is created off of that. There has to be a way to do more on line than what we do today.

Maybe not a budget item, but in regards to education. We have to get to a point where we have the PARENTS take more responsibility for their kids and TEACHERS who follow the curriculum. I can speak personally about where the same class is taught by different teachers. One class has labs, tests and finals. The same exact class taught by another teacher all they did was a final. I can say that the kids in the second class were short changed big time. They will fall behind when it comes to the next level. Parents need to take a vested interest in their children learning. We cannot just say it is a Educational System fault. We as parents need to work with our children to ensure homework is being done, if struggling getting help (teachers in WDM do offer opportunities for help!). Too many times the finger points in only one direction and we as parents need to be engaged in our child's education.

01/18/2012 07:31 AM

Provide vouchers for families that wish to educate their children at accredited private schools or through accredited home school programs.

01/18/2012 07:28 AM

Reduce or eliminate tax payer funding of some services that are associated with license and user fees. Compensate by increasing user and license fees or reducing services. Reduce license and user fees to the point where they don't fund other programs. Fishing licenses should pay for a portion of the DNR wildlife agents, the state fish hatcheries, fish stocking, etc... Camping fees at a State Park should cover all of the costs associated with camping.

01/18/2012 07:12 AM

Eliminate all funding of Planned Parenthood.

01/18/2012 07:10 AM

Consolidate the mental health facilities. We don't need redundant services around the state and we don't need to maintain and heat large old empty buildings. At least one facility should be closed.

01/17/2012 07:39 PM

Please implement mental health system redesign and adequately fund it. We are over-utilizing the extremely expensive criminal justice system and instead, need to provide people with treatment (which is less expensive and has better outcomes), not punishment.

01/17/2012 05:00 PM

I don't think the Iowa taxpayers should be paying for legislator's health insurance. Being a legislator is not a full time job. It is especially outrageous that health care for their families is also being provided. You legislators are certainly riding the gravy train. Saving money does not apparently, apply to you.

01/17/2012 10:23 AM

To allow widows or widowers to retain married status for state taxes after spouse has died. Just previous married, not divorced. Really a blow to file taxes after being married for 50 years and see the single status now applies after the death of your loved one.

Please do not print my name.

01/17/2012 09:58 AM

Ref: Health Insurance - State Workers

Pay for only one state workers medical insurance per family.

Need a family plan to cover spouse and children even tho spouse or (?) is a state worker. Would save a lot of \$\$\$

Thanks,

Please do not use my name.

01/16/2012 10:03 PM

I would suggest that the state could save a great deal of money by first not providing ANY type of financial benefits to any illegal/documented immigrants. No public education, general health care, food stamps, anything. While I would prefer that if we find these people, they be deported, but from the experiences of some states who have put this into practice if we cut off the welfare in all forms they will leave on their own. This alone should save the state many millions of dollars, cut down some of the load on our law enforcement system and certainly help the school systems too. Another suggestion is to absolutely reject all aspects of the health care reform (Obama Care) to make sure that we don't fall further into socialized medicine. We do need a lot of help in the health care arena, but this law is absolutely not the way to do it. Tort reform and limiting nuisance lawsuits would certainly be a great place to start.

01/16/2012 02:26 PM

Why are people who are already getting most of their rent paid for through rent subsidies and only pay out of pocket \$40.00 to less than \$100.00 a month rent, double dipping by receiving rent reimbursements at the end of the year.

01/13/2012 05:45 PM

Protect current same-sex marriage status and its financial benefits to the state.
Protect Iowa Workforce offices from closing in the midst of this time where Iowans need it the most.

01/12/2012 01:33 PM

Spend the next one or two sessions delegislating.
By committee go through all the legislation and get rid of that which is unnecessary, redundant, hinderance to business, etc.

01/12/2012 09:01 AM

Does acquiring the latest high tech equipment (laptops, software, and printers) on a leased basis, make more sense? These current high tech gadgets also include large screen monitors, wireless internet connections, and fast video downloads(Netflix).
As time goes by, all new gadgets shall become outdated. Can a new partnership with a financial institution, help finance the state to acquire the latest items on a leased basis? These banks would purchase the latest gadgets; then lease them back to the state. This will free up some cash for our state.
Then when newer high tech gadgets become available; these financial organizations will take possession of these older gadgets. They would then resale these older items on the world's market. In the meantime, the newest generation of high tech gadgets, could be acquired by leasing them from these financial institutions. This would keep our state on the cutting edge.
Perhaps, disabled Veterans and others, could be trained to uninstall older Equipment. They would also be trained to install and run the latest high tech gadgets, like computer software and wireless internet connections...
Do acquiring the latest high tech equipment on a leased basis, make more sense than outright purchasing them?

01/10/2012 07:59 PM

The easiest way to improve education and save money is to KEEP THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM. Teachers are asked to spend way to much time documenting and doing paper work handed down from the DPI and area agencies. In my 33 years of teaching we did the same type of "paperwork" 3 or 4 times. With mounds of paper that no one will even have the time to read is just put on a shelf for someone to justify their job. To my knowledge students have never benefited from all this wasted time. Calculate the money spent for weekly or biweekly "inservice" time and then the time during class to complete the paperwork for someone and you will see the enormous figure with no results. THIS MUST BE INVESTIGATED!!! You don't need more money for education, just use the money you have effectively.

01/10/2012 04:20 PM

93% of Iowa's State Budget is spent in these three systems:
- Education 57%
- Human Services 25%
- Judicial 11%
Keep in mind that about 150% of State Judicial spending is spent locally bringing judicial costs to Iowa taxpayers to about \$1.5 billion per year.
Any significant increase in one of these three systems will:
- Come at the expense of one or both of the other two systems
- Force us to raise taxes
- Or both of the above
Efficiency in our \$6 billion State Government is much more of a management function than it is a legislative function.
The biggest controllable cost drivers to Human Services and Judicial System are:
- Education; Graduation and grade level proficiency rates
- Substance abuse 90% of inmates in Iowa
- Mental illness 40% of Iowa inmates
- Recidivism 38% of Iowa inmates
Example of a managed approach:
Judicial System – Recidivism reduction:
1. The Judicial Committees in the House and Senate form a sub-committee including a person from the Governor's Office.
2. Inform the Head of Corrections that he will be called in to meet with this Committee to set an aggressive recidivism reduction goal. He should bring any pertinent staff with him such as Iowa Prison Industries Head, Prison Education Head, Mental Health Administrator and substance abuse staff leader.
3. They should be prepared to tell the committee what they need to meet the goal and set goals for each of their areas.
4. All should agree on how progress on these goals is to be reported and how often it is reported. Progress should be reported to Governor's Office and Judicial committees
5. All goals must include time frames
6. All goals must include who is accountable.
7. If goals and time frames are not met the accountable person should report to the committee:
A. What went wrong.
B. What was done to fix it.
C. What is being done to insure it will not happen again.
8. Ultimate responsibility rests with Head of Corrections and the Committee.
Please contact me for a full power point presentation of a managed approach for other areas.

01/10/2012 12:51 PM

Do not fund preschool through the state.
Stop subsidizing Ethanol sales at the Convenience Store level.
Stop giving wind subsidies via manufacturing companies, all they do is close up shop and take taxpayer money.
Close the Iowa Tourism board, leave that to the Chambers of commerce.
Reduce benefits for State workers.
Prevailing wage/union preference for State contracts needs to go.

01/10/2012 12:13 PM

Codify the Iowa Administrative Code and the Iowa Court Rules into the Iowa Code and enumerate the policies, procedures, job descriptions, and duties of all agency personell into the Iowa Code and abolish the powers of state

agencies and courts to issue policies, procedures, rules, and regulations. Also, abolish the court rules of all 8 judicial districts.

01/10/2012 12:07 PM

It's very simple. Just lease the naming rights for the state. That would be good for the economy. Maps would have to be reprinted. The new state name would have to be mentioned on any newscast, or in any news story.

Coke wouldn't want the state to be named Pepsi. Bidding would go sky-high. This would show the world that Iowans can think "out of the box."

"Terry E. Branstad, Governor of Coke" has a ring to it.

--WKV

01/10/2012 10:32 AM

Hard asset values will be the few things that will hold up over time. The price of land and commodities in general have soared over the last decade during a decline of paper assets. Iowa could vastly improve its position in the global economy by committing to a commodity-based economy.

-Follow Utah's example and recognize gold and silver coins minted by the federal government as legal tender.

-Allow IPERS participants to invest in physical gold

-Encourage Iowa's financial independence- AVOID U.S. Gov. agency securities and instruments

01/10/2012 06:48 AM

Can new high tech mobile classrooms and medical large RV's be created?

These buses would serve everyone from preschool students to health patients; depending on which online courses are downloaded onto the high tech equipment on these buses. However, these high tech equipment should not be purchased, outright.

As time goes by, the latest high tech gadgets will become outdated. Can new businesses be created and run, to manage these high tech equipment on a leased basis? Perhaps, disabled veterans and others, could be taught how to create and run these businesses. They would also be train to know how to take back outdated high tech gadgets; then resale them on the world's market. This would make room for when the next generation of high tech gadgets become available.

A new partnership, with a financial institution should be established; so these new gadgets can be leased. Instead of outright purchasing them; which would tie up much more funds.

These high tech buses, both classrooms and medical, would travel the state. To bring these services to where people live. The mobile classrooms would visit preschools, unemployment offices, and mental health centers, depending on the materials downloaded for that day. This way, these buses would not have the chance to sit idle; thus waist the state money. The medical RV's would connect people remotely to online doctors. These doctors would include everyone from psychiatrists to family physicians.

Can creating new high tech mobile classrooms and medical RVs make sense? Especially, if the state acquires these high tech equipment on a leased basis. Also, does it make sense these new buses serve many walks of life, so these buses are not sitting idle at any time. Thus waist the state money.

Lawmakers, will you please at least consider, acquiring new mobile high tech classrooms and medical buses, for services mentioned above.

Does this concept make any sense or am I missing something with this logic? Any thoughts?

01/06/2012 09:46 AM

I would like this letter to go to all the legislators. You need to do something about property tax for the older retired people, we plan and save for a good retirement .only to find our property tax almost doubled in ten years . The taxes will be the reason we will be priced out of our homes.there is no way we can keep up. i'm talking lower middle class here. you should exempt incomes up to 50k or so .or the first 100k in home value. after the age of 65. My husband and I gained about 14 dollars a month on our last S.S.raise . It should have been a good raise ,but our supplement insurance raised our rates to wipe out any gains we might have had .happens every time .so we never do gain any extra income PLEASE TRY TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP US THANK YOU ,, Eunice westlake

12/17/2011 10:15 AM

Ms. Gaskill:

I am a Special Education teacher for Davis Schools. I live in Ottuma, IA.

My concerns are: Gender Bias and the Gov. Brandstead's new salary for teachers.

Gender bias is pretty easy. We need more women in government. No longer can men bully women. The " good ole boys club" needs to stopped.

Not only in government, but in the IA school system. A blatant example of gender bias continues. Boys sports vs. girls sports is appropriate In the Davis County High School we are called Lady mustangs and boys. The appropriate gender neutral would be either all mustangs, or boys and girls mustangs.

Governor Branstead is propping a new way to pay teachers. Although it has taken awhile to figure out why he wants to do this major upheaval. I believe is it may be a back door way to break our very strong ISEA and ultimately the NEA. We are not a Union. T belong to an Association. With Brandsteads proposal I see a motive to stop any collective bargaining. The best thing for a teacher is to her dues and become an NEA and ISEA member. What do you think ? I know are a woman of honor and integrity.

Thank you for your time.

Please keep my name out of this commentary. Do contact me at my email

12/14/2011 01:45 AM

Universal Healthcare.

12/06/2011 07:21 PM

I am a retired Driver License Examiner. One easy thing to make Iowa roads much safer. Driver License tests in English only. If a driver cannot read english how can they read the highway warning signs? Yes they can recognize stop sign shapes, but they cannot read bridge out turn on Jones road than turn at Smith road. And all the other signs. Ask the highway workers how many warning signs cannot be understood if the driver cannot read English. I wait for your reply.

12/06/2011 07:21 PM

I am a retired Driver License Examiner. One easy thing to make Iowa roads much safer. Driver License tests in English only. If a driver cannot read english how can they read the highway warning signs? Yes they can recognize stop sign shapes, but they cannot read bridge out turn on Jones road than turn at Smith road. And all the other signs. Ask the highway workers how many warning signs cannot be understood if the driver cannot read English. I wait for your reply.

12/06/2011 04:49 PM

Eliminate the teachers' union.

Congress meet every two years.

Require welfare recipients to pass a drug test and to do some sort of work such as keeping public areas free of debris.

12/06/2011 03:07 AM

I would like to see big business pay their fair share of taxes and close all of the loop holes. Make the highest earning Iowans pay their fair share of income taxes. Tell the governor that double dipping isn't allowed. As far as public employee unions we could use fairshare to get all to pay for services rendered. I for one don't have a problem paying my fair share but when people making five times what I make as a public employee pay less in taxes as I it gets a little harder each and every time. It's time for our elected leaders to stop with the special interest and get down to the brass tax and wake up to what's real.

12/05/2011 11:20 AM

Cutting commercial property may seem like a great idea but don't expect local governments to pick up the tab. Cutting these taxes truly are a double edge sword - local governments will see reduced budgets and local programs will be sacrificed. Use some logic.

It does make sense that state government employees pay for a portion of their insurance package. Perhaps the state could lead by example and set up a fee based system where those less healthy pay a larger portion of their benefit costs - now that's a Blue Zone idea that would benefit the state.

12/02/2011 07:02 PM

Get rid of the republicans!!!!

12/02/2011 04:42 PM

I don't know if the State has anything to do with the creation/consolidation of county governments, but in my opinion Iowa has way too many counties. I believe we should review the necessity of so many county governments. Consolidating at least half of them would save significant tax payer dollars.

I lived in Arizona which is similar to Iowa in that most of it is rural with only 2 densely populated areas (Phoenix and Tuscon), and they have only 15 counties, whereas Iowa has 99 counties. Why is there such a difference in the number of counties necessary to provide/administer services to our residents? That just seems absurd to me.

So many people complain about government costing too much....well here's one major factor as to why that is true. Imagine the savings we could realize if at least half of the county administrations and costs were eliminated? I would really like to talk to someone about this.

12/02/2011 04:17 PM

In 2006 I retired after working for 35 years in various agencies in Information Technology. We budgeted under an artificial "Full-Time Equivalency" staffing cap. A separate budget controlled the number of staff in each agency. At the same time work loads increased. To fulfill our mandates for creation and maintenance of the systems that provided the necessary data for state employees to operate, contractors were hired to work along side state employees. They were paid out of the other side of the budget, not salaries. They were paid by their companies at about the same rate as state employees, however, their companies charged the state double if not triple the equivalent state employee costs including benefits.

My suggestion is to review IT contracted positions to see if hiring a state employee for the same position and work would save the state money. I can guarantee it would.

If you need to know more about this, contact me. I would be glad to meet with you and other representatives to discuss this.

Merry Christmas

I am very glad your operation went well and am praying for your speedy recovery. You represent us very well.

12/02/2011 02:05 PM

The astronomical and ever-rising cost of sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition in Iowa could be reduced if the State asked residents to earn their health care with healthy behaviors. There are many costly programs, departments, and initiatives aimed at providing healthcare to indigent and uninsured or underinsured residents, few of which focus on prevention, and even fewer that ask residents to actually do anything more than fill out a form or divulge personal information to receive these costly benefits. Using Walk the Talk, every step counts, residents of the State of Iowa could earn benefits or the cost of insurance by engaging in healthy behaviors. All it takes is a team effort. The State of Iowa creates a team. Residents join the team to earn their benefits. Different teams could be formed for people of differing physical and mental capabilities. I believe most people, given the opportunity, would exercise and eat healthy for a concrete monetary reward, in this case, the cost of their healthcare and/or health insurance. They'd be inspired to engage in healthy behaviors above and beyond what they would normally do because of the tangible financial reward. Walk the Talk, every step counts is a private small business created in Iowa. Using Walk the Talk, every step counts would reduce the cost of health care for the State, improve the health of many individuals, and support local business, a win-win-win for the people of Iowa.

12/02/2011 12:17 PM

I recently purchased a trailer less than 3,000 lbs from Wisconsin and they did not have a registration there.

can we eliminate the trailer registration in Iowa for such trailers. I would think the cost of registration is greater than the fee and there is no safety issue involved. would appear to be a lot of busy work with no real benefit. In fact, i received a lot of hassle at the county registration office because of this.

12/02/2011 11:33 AM

At the end of each fiscal year it's normal for government agencies/offices to spend the remaining money leftover in their budget in order to have justification for the same budget allocation for the following fiscal years so that the government won't lower their budget. This makes wasteful spending inevitable.

Instead of encouraging wasteful spending because of fear of being "punished" with a smaller budget, the government should allocate budgets to those agencies/offices according to their yearly request and justification.

With that being said, the government agencies/offices could give the remaining money leftover in their budget back to the government, at the end of each fiscal year, without the fear of having their future budgets reduced.

This will decrease wasteful spending every year while increasing the government surplus.

12/02/2011 10:55 AM

Eliminate preschool for 4 yr. olds.

12/02/2011 10:55 AM

Eliminate Davis-Bacon or use a more accurate estimate of wages.

12/02/2011 10:53 AM

Eliminate public employee unions!

12/02/2011 01:20 AM

Why do we have so much trouble in our registration when You are suppose to be representing us? I just bread what a senator is worth and what a representative is worth when they retire. It's pretty rotten how you sram us and say how your for us. You can't even make a bill that is for the people that get you in office that can really help the people of this country. I just wish that one of you would really stick to your commitments u say before getting in office instead of falling into don't make waves this is how we do it now. what a joke. we all suffer because both party's can't get it together for betterment of the people instead blaming each other for our predicament of Our economy. I just wish you would get it together and be a fighter for the people of this country, Please for our sake. I'm a vietnam veteran and ashamed to say how both part's act no wonder we never accomplish any thing when we have leaders that don't lead us. I'm very ashamed of our country because all both party's seem to do is point fingers at each other instead of working together like they should. If you were in a combat zone I'm sure you would decide real quick if was amatter of life or death to decide. Please just think of it like this, period.

12/01/2011 02:39 PM

First of all don't tell me you can't repond to my suggestion due to existing law. Please change the rules. With regard to tthe cost of education, please implement a chage for using school buses. I suggest that \$50 per student, per semester be charged. Cap it at three students per family an overlook those in financial trouble. This will leave more in the budgets for teachers and facility improvements. I am sure I will receive a short e-mail explaining why this cannot happen. From Des Moines to Washinton I do not believe any of you are listening.

12/01/2011 01:27 PM

Am wondering why the state legislature meets every year. Don't some states meet every two years? This could be a cost savings to taxpayers.

Another question I have, is why do we have to have 99 county seats. Couldn't the state save considerable dollars by not having to maintain, just the court houses, not to mention duplication of services,with other counties?

I am sure that I will be submitting more when I have more time.

Thanks for considering these for now.

Gregg Liddle

12/01/2011 08:20 AM

There has been a suggestion on the political talk shows that because this is an election year, there will be a shorter legislative session. That means there will likely be issues important to many Iowans that will not get addressed. Legislators are elected to serve their constituents, not shorten their job responsibilities to run for re-election. Get the work done that needs to be done, then worry about re-election.

The budget is the largest, and arguably the most important job of the legislature. Yet, it is the last thing to get done. It is almost always completed after local government entities that rely on state funds are required to have their budgets certified. Do the budget first, then take care of the social issues of the state. Having been on a local school board and worked for a municipality, experience tells me that waiting until the last minute to do the budget is a handicap to local entities. A March 1st deadline for certifying a state budget would be a reasonable solution.

11/28/2011 11:09 PM

Mr. Danielson,

I am glad you are looking at making government more efficient. This is one of the most important issues we face. Wasting our tax dollars!!

It is obvious that govt. at the state and federal levels are far more concerned about spending MORE and MORE money on MORE and MORE programs and spend little time eliminating old programs that are inefficient, duplicated and outdated.

It is also obvious that there is more concern about spending on new programs and NOT being concerned about oversite of those programs to make sure they are efficient. The film tax credit program is a great example of politicians spending our hard earned dollars and not overseeing the way the money is spent.

State employees salaries and pensions are an excellent place to start. I just counted and found there are over 20 salaries in the Waterloo school district that are well over \$100,000. A similar number in the CF district. None of them are teachers. The bloated administrations pay themselves big \$\$ and add new administrators to make their own jobs easier - then cut teachers and aides and books and supplies. My wife and I have donated crayons, glue and other supplies to schools that say they have no budget money for it - then we see some "Mentor Program Coordinator" get paid over \$100,000 for a job that could have someone paid half that. Assistant Athletic directors paid over \$100,000. Many principals and assist principals in one school all paid over \$100,000.

Start with your own staffs and benefits and with the ever bloated number of state employees and salaries and benefits. Then look at the programs you start and see how every program you spend on is money you are taking from some person like me and my wife, who are trying to put 4 kids through college.

11/28/2011 09:28 PM

I would like to see the legislators meet every other year. It would save a lot of our money heading off what is mostly unwanted and unnecessary legislation. Whenever there is a problem, it can almost always be attributed to some new or old government intervention.
Thank-you

11/28/2011 04:36 PM

I think with internet and web pages that the requirement for publishing minutes and other legal items probably reaches fewer citizens than we would have with putting them on the web page.

Comments?webmaster@legis.iowa.gov
(Please remember that the webmaster does not vote on bills.
Direct all comments concerning legislation to State Legislators.)

[Intranet](#) | [Applications](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [ADA Policy](#) | [Online Privacy Policy](#) | [Disclaimer](#)