



Public Money in Public Hands for the Public Good An Idea We Can Live With!

Iowa has long been defined by its rivers and rich soil, great educational system, and cutting edge research. Today as much of Iowa's water, air, and soil is imperiled, Iowa's rights to public health and quality education are under assault, Iowa's future well-being is clouded—made even worse by a changing climate. In the face of this uncertain future, it's time to take stock, with candidates and elected leaders before developing Iowa's next budget.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY

Our common wealth is the foundation of the Iowa economy. The quality and care of our resources ripples throughout our state. Rather than tying Iowa's budget to the misguided idea that supporting business interests supports Iowa's needs, it's time to tie our budget to protecting Iowa's rich resources, the things we share and from which we all benefit, the source of our common wealth:

- AIR, WATER & SOIL
- WILDLIFE & PARKS
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
- PUBLIC HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH & MEDICAID
- ROADS & BRIDGES
- FUTURE GENERATIONS

BUT, DID YOU KNOW?

Budgets affirm our values. The 2018 Iowa Budget is \$7.4 billion dollars. After reducing Iowa's public funds with tax cuts for the wealthy and tax incentives for major corporations we have a budget shortfall for environmental concerns like cleaning our water, managing our fish and wildlife, responding to disasters and flooding events, and social matters like mental health, public health and home health care. Much of 2018 tax credits (\$55 million) went to big corporations like Rockwell, Deere, and Pioneer DuPont. Almost every environmental concern in Iowa has been worsened by the lack of state funding or by misdirected funding.

SOME CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish environment and public health as key state budget goals, prioritizing clean water;
- Appoint an Iowa legal guardian for future generations to review regulations and budget impacts on our common assets;
- Have state agencies evaluate the assets they manage, set measurable goals for their protection and restoration, then determine costs for this care as a first step in setting the budget;
- Establish a corporate tax rate to fund key peoples' budget goals;
- Increase research funding to the public universities, by reducing corporate research tax credits;
- Create an Iowa Works program to repair and restore Iowa's Prairie, woodland, and river ecosystems;
- Restore and increase funding to essential public services like Medicaid and public health, education, and the judiciary and electoral systems all of which have been reduced in recent years;
- Establish an Iowa State Bank allowing Iowa's money to support Iowa's needs, not wealthy bank shareholders.

Let's elect a government rooted in recognition of Iowa's history and values, a government that makes a commitment to support our water, air, soil, educational and public health resources. Ensure that private interests pay their fair share for the benefits they receive from our public resources.

What do you think? Share Your Thoughts for an Ethical Peoples' Budget for Iowa. Write to info@psriowa.edu

