

PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY

Focus on Correctional Needs with Programs for Community Based Corrections and Prisons

▶ Lower recidivism by providing education, job training, substance abuse, mental health and sex offender treatment while inmates are in prison and during re-entry. These programs help change offender behavior which results in safer communities and fewer parole revocations.

▶ Expand community-based corrections with an emphasis on eliminating the waiting lists at facilities in order to break the “log-jam” of inmates waiting in prison for community placement.

▶ Create and ensure statewide access to alternative sanctions, such as Drug Court, to divert, when appropriate, offenders from entering prison.

▶ Increase probation and parole supervision services to reduce revocation rates and prison population.

▶ Increase support for drug treatment as an effective way to fight illegal drug use and other crime.

ICAA

**The Iowa County
Attorneys Association
is a bi-partisan
organization comprised
of the 99 locally-
elected county
attorneys and their
assistants.**

**The Association’s
purpose is to promote
the uniform and
efficient administration
of criminal justice in
Iowa.**

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**Iowa County
Attorneys
Association**

*Legislative
Priorities
for the
2008 Session*



~ Priorities 2008 ~

Provide Fair Compensation for Iowa Prosecutors

County Attorneys are solely responsible for criminal charging decisions and for the prosecution of all **state** criminal offenses. They are the chief law enforcement officer in each county. The quality of justice and the safety of our citizens depend upon attracting and retaining qualified and experienced prosecutors.

Prosecutor salaries have fallen far behind those of comparable positions in the federal, state, and private sectors.

▶ **Raise compensation to levels that are fair.**

Prosecutors are the only criminal justice system participants who do NOT have enhanced retirement benefits, as do peace officers and judges.

▶ **Enact enhanced retirement benefits similar to the protected occupations.**

Protect Children from Sex Offenders with More Effective Measures

Residence restrictions for sex offenders do not protect children but do waste law enforcement resources. Such laws give the perception of safety but fail at providing real protection. Wise measures will improve child safety.

▶ **Replace residency restrictions with “child safe zones.”**

▶ **Require admission at trial of defendant’s prior acts of sexual abuse.**

▶ **A sex act perpetrated by deception should be a crime.**

▶ **Make it illegal to sexually exploit a person “reasonably believed to be a minor.”**

▶ **Make it a crime for an adult to cause children to engage in a sex act.**

▶ **Target the use of electronic monitoring of sex offenders.**

▶ **Protect children from the large majority of sex offenses perpetrated by acquaintances and family members.**

▶ **Educate children and caretakers to those dangers.**

▶ **Improve sex offender treatment in and outside of prison.**

▶ **Recognize that child safety from sex offenses is not amenable to simple solutions.**

▶ **Use the Sex Offender Treatment and Supervision Task Force to identify effective strategies to reduce child sex offenses.**

Create Willful Injury Murder First Degree

The Iowa Supreme Court in State v. Heemstra eliminated the use of willful injury as an underlying felony for the charge of felony murder in a case where a willful injury resulted in death.

▶ **Make the commission of a class “C” felony willful injury, which results in death, a class “A” felony.**