

Iowa House of Representatives



Mary Ann Hanusa spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 11. She was elected to the Iowa House in 2010 and has served since 2011. She has a BS in education and an American History degree. She is on the Board of Directors for the Union Pacific museum and is co-owner of Hanusa Hardware.

The Legislative session starts on January 13. Mary Ann represents district 16. In Iowa, every other year the congressional session lasts 110 days. This year it is 100 days.

When she was elected, the state of Iowa had a \$1 billion deficit. Now it has almost a \$1 billion surplus to help build up the reserves. The legislative priorities are:

1. Don't spend more than you take in
2. Don't underfund budget items
3. Don't use one-time funds for normal expenses

The legislature has refilled all special funds (rainy day funds). Major legislation passed last year included:

1. Property tax reform - they have talked about this for 40 years
2. Health care reform – called Iowa Health
3. Education reform

This will be a cautious year because of future commitments and adjusting the major legislation from last year as needed.

The Iowa legislature has a Republican controlled house of 100 members and a Democratic controlled Senate of 50 members. They don't have gridlock like the Federal Government; everyone works together.

Iowa Health is for people outside of Medicaid in Iowa. It adds preventive tests to reduce co-pays. It also adds personal responsibility.