



State Sen. Reynolds discusses issues at Legislative Luncheon

By [O.Kay Henderson](#)

Much has been discussed about rebuilding Iowa after last summer's flooding and natural disasters wreaked havoc across the state. The first Osceola resident elected to the Iowa Statehouse since the late 1990s, state Sen. Kim Reynolds, has a front-row seat in the discussions.

Reynolds, a Republican, began her first term earlier this month in the Iowa Senate. She serves on the Senate's Rebuild Iowa committee.

"We are hitting the ground running," said Reynolds, who added Friday at her first legislative luncheon in Osceola that this funding is a priority of Gov. Chet Culver and the legislature.

The former Clarke County treasurer is also quick to the punch to introduce her first bill. She is the co-sponsor of a bill that calls for transparency in state government spending.

"This program would allow individuals to find out where your tax money is going," she said. "I am excited to be a part of that."

Reynolds also serves as the ranking Republican on the local government committee, and also was issued assignments on the economic growth, environment and energy independence and transportation committees.

"I want to tell you how honored I am to represent you up there," Reynolds told the Osceola crowd. "It was really special to have my family there (when she took her oath of office)."

Reynolds' daughter Jennifer is spending the legislative session as her clerk.

"It is fun to have her there and be a part of this," she said.

Gov. Culver is announcing his budget this week, and that could include up to 6 percent cuts for nearly 250 state programs. Since taking her oath, Reynolds is preparing to look at the governor's budget as well as learning her way around the Statehouse.

Rep. Reasoner, who is an assistant House majority leader, said he is hopeful President Barack Obama and Congress get states the plans for the new administration's economic stimulus plan.

"We need to know what Congress is going to do," Reasoner said.

With potential cuts looming on the horizon for state lawmakers, Reasoner said he thinks there is only a small chance the legislature will approve a hike in the gas tax in order to address looming road infrastructure needs.

Senate President Jack Kibbie, D-Emmetsburg, and several other key Democrats have stressed the state review in raising the gas tax.

"To raise the gas tax could be much more difficult (than last year's legislature approving a raise in pick-up registrations)," Reasoner said. "The odds are very small."