

Sign up for our email newsletter

Switch to our mobile site

Search

HOME | ISSUES | AGRICULTURE | IOWA CAUCUS | SPECIAL TOPICS | CONTACT US

TOP STORIES

Branstad: Scott Walker and I aren't anti-worker



By Andrew Duffelmeyer | 10.27.11
Gov. Terry Branstad says statements from the Iowa Democratic Party that he and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are "anti-worker" aren't fair, claiming they both inherited difficult fiscal situations when they were sworn in this past

January and are trying to get their states back on track.

Paul supporters energized, promise organization



By Lynda Waddington | 10.24.11
IOWA CITY — Observers of Ron Paul's presidential aspirations are seeing excitement similar to 2008, but they and supporters are also seeing a new understanding of the grassroots organization it takes to win the Iowa

caucuses.

NOM, Family Leader hope to influence Iowa special election



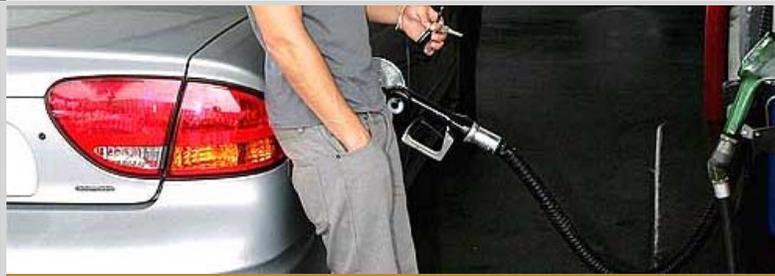
By Lynda Waddington | 10.20.11
The candidates and their respective state parties might be focused on jobs and the economy, but national and state religious conservative organizations aren't content with the current messaging in Iowa Senate

District 18.

Occupy DSM demonstrators ask for jury trial



By Andrew Duffelmeyer | 10.19.11
Two dozen Occupy Des Moines protesters are seeking a jury trial for charges of trespassing at the State Capitol grounds on Oct. 10, their lawyer says, while five have pleaded guilty.



Iowa Farm Bureau gives nod to gas tax hike

By Lynda Waddington | 10.28.11 | 1:14 pm

1 Comment and 3 Reactions | Tweet 5 | Share | +1 0

Print

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation has endorsed the recommendation of a state commission to raise the tax on gasoline by up to 10 cents per gallon.

In the endorsement statement, IFFB President Craig Lang (also recently elevated as an Iowa Regent at the request of Gov. Terry Branstad) said that an increase "is the fairest way to fund" road repairs "because it charges people who actually use the roads whether they live in Iowa or are from out-of-state."

Here's the statement:

With rural roads making up nearly 90,000 miles of the state's 114,000-mile road system, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFFB) applauds the Governor's Transportation 2020 Citizen Advisory Commission recommendation for an additional 8 to 10 cents per gallon fuel tax.



Craig Lang

"Our roads and bridges have been severely impacted over the years by flooding and neglect, negatively impacting all of Iowa, but especially our rural communities, businesses and farms. Our members believe it's imperative to repair the roads and bridges to help rural Iowa thrive," said Craig Lang, IFFB president. "We believe that an increase in the fuel tax is the fairest way to fund those repairs because it charges people who actually use the roads whether they live in Iowa or are from out of state."

Lang notes that IFFB delegates in 2008 passed policy calling for the fuel tax increase to repair the state's roads and bridges.

The tax increase recommendation was made to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) this week after several listening sessions around the state. The recommendations will be submitted to the Iowa Legislature by the IDOT by the end of the year. The IDOT reports that Iowa needs an additional \$215 million per year to meet critical roadway needs and the recommended increase will generate \$184 million to \$230 million per year.

The Advisory Commission was established by Branstad last spring and held a series of seven public input meetings during August and September. Iowa Code requires a complete review by the Iowa Department of Transportation of the current revenue levels of Iowa's road use tax fund and to determine if the revenues will meet the construction and maintenance needs of Iowa's roads every five years. The appointed commission members were to provide input into final recommendation and to collaborate on public education.

While the 12-member Commission notes the hike may be troublesome for Iowa

Check out and contribute to the latest information on Iowa politics: **FACTBOOK**

TRENDING NOW

- ▶ Young Democrats launch education campaign against Paul, GOP field
- ▶ Paul delivers strong anti-war message in Des Moines
- ▶ Young Democrats launch education campaign against Paul, GOP field
- ▶ Paul supporters energized, promise organization
- ▶ Ron Paul easily wins Des Moines straw poll

POLITWEEPS

IN ACTION



SpeakerBoehner Via @HouseAgNews: Chair Lucas on Senate Dems' failure to take action on H.R. 872 #4jobs <http://t.co/e9IXpuTJ> #forgotten15 about 1 minute ago · reply · retweet · favorite



SenatorReid Since the recession began, 2M+ construction workers have lost #jobs. #RebuildAmerica will put ppl back 2 work, building roads & bridges 5 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



OneIowa Latest Senate District 18 Mailer from NOM, Family Leader--check it out here, protect equality in Iowa! <http://t.co/VRtGW7q> #SD18 5 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



fredkarger My alma mater @uofdenver will host first Presidential debate for general election. Wonder if I will be in it? <http://t.co/eaLJh4u> 6 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



dscc @OrrinHatch was a BIG fan of No Child Left Behind – until he was running for re-election <http://t.co/QuKLyqYh> 8 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



dscc @SenGillibrand's message of women's empowerment is getting noticed <http://t.co/ioMugkr6>



Join the conversation

PRESS RELEASES

PR: Northey comments on Iowa crops and weather report

By [Press Release Reprints](#) | 10.24.11
BILL NORTHEY RELEASE — Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today commented on the Iowa Crops and Weather report released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service. The report is released weekly from April through October.

PR: Iowa Chairman Strawn responds to Nevada GOP's caucus move to Feb. 4

By [Press Release Reprints](#) | 10.22.11
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF IOWA RELEASE — Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn today made the following statement after the Nevada GOP approved a date of February 4, 2012 for the Nevada Caucuses.

PR: A decade later — remember, reflect, reaffirm, renew

By [Press Release Reprints](#) | 09.11.11
TOM LATHAM RELEASE — It was a beautiful clear Tuesday morning. I awoke that day already in a somber mood — long before I had heard the first news reports of that fateful day. A memorial service was to be held that morning for the former Chaplain of the House of Representatives, and my good friend, Reverend James Ford. Pastor Ford served faithfully for many years as a trusted spiritual guide to Members of Congress while they were away from home serving their constituents in Washington.

PR: Statement on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11

By [Press Release Reprints](#) | 09.11.11
DAVE LOEBSACK RELEASE — On that early fall morning ten years ago, our nation experienced a horrific attack on our own soil. In response, instead of being divided, we were brought together as a nation.

families already mired in an economic downturn, they believe the estimated \$280 million could be put to good use for Iowa roads and bridges.

The gas tax in Iowa has been stagnant since 1989 at 22 cents per gallon. One cent of the tax goes to underground storage tank clean up and the remainder is used for road work.

The Commission is also recommending an increase in new vehicle registration fees from 5 to 6 percent of the purchase price.

Follow Lynda Waddington on Twitter

1 Comment and 3 Reactions

Print

Comments

Categories & Tags: [Agriculture](#) | [Economy/Finance](#) | [Environment/Energy](#) | [Politics](#) | [Craig Lane](#) | [Fuel](#) | [Gas Tax](#) | [infrastructure](#) | [Iowa Farm Bureau Federation](#) | [tax increases](#) | [Terry Branstad](#) |

MULTIMEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- Huntsman video hits Romney as 'flipper'
- Video: Veteran injured in Oakland demonstration was Wisconsin native
- Photos and video: Demonstrators greet Wisconsin Gov. Walker

AINN AFFILIATES

The American Independent News Network:

American Independent

- Statesman: UT invested \$10 million without disclosing ties to Perry allies, ex-chancellor
- Rep. John Kline calls Obama student loan plan a 'mistake'

Colorado Independent

- The Wizards of Oil: How the Koch brothers influence environmental politics
- Alabama immigration law is strictest in the world

Florida Independent

- Bank of America rethinking debit card fees
- Occupy Miami weathers another tough weekend

Michigan Messenger

- Michigan Senate race named top ten in 2012
- Another Keystone XL lawsuit coming

Minnesota Independent

- ▶ [USDA to pay out lawsuit for discrimination against black farmers](#)
- ▶ [Ron Paul dominates Des Moines straw poll](#)

New Mexico Independent

- ▶ [Gary Johnson files for New Hampshire primary hours before deadline](#)
- ▶ [Commercial space flights on Virgin ships delayed again](#)

Texas Independent

- ▶ [NARAL: Texas' Alternatives to Abortion program is bad policy](#)
- ▶ [Revolving door leads Shapiro to Academic Partnerships' rising star in Texas higher ed](#)



[Switch to our mobile site](#)