



Miller-Meeks: Tax law is 'spurring' economic growth

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IOWA CITY Press-Citizen

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Iowa City halts electric bus service

Ryan Hansen

Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa City's electric transit buses are temporarily sidelined.

The city's four Proterra ZX5 battery electric buses are out of service because the company that manufactured the buses, Proterra, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2023. Iowa City has been waitlisted for replacement parts and other repairs

for at least two years.

Proterra was bought out by another California-based electric vehicle company, PhoenixEV, after it filed for bankruptcy. The city is working with PhoenixEV to get the necessary parts and repair support that it needs, Iowa City Transportation Director Darian Nagle-Gamm told the Press-Citizen.

However, PhoenixEV has not provided

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An Iowa City Transit Proterra ZX5 electric bus drives along its route on E. Washington Street past a planter with tulips in full bloom on May 4, 2022.

JOSEPHCRESS/IOWA CITY
PRESS-CITIZEN



In a social media post, the Iowa City Community School District shared that 90 new teachers will join the district this school year. PROVIDED BY THE IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

What to know about the new school year in Iowa City

Jessica Rish

Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

School is back in session in Iowa City. More than 14,000 Iowa City Community School District students return to class on Monday, Aug. 25, marked by projects, new administrators and new policy.

Here are some things you need to know:

Iowa City's cell phone policy remains compliant with state law

The Iowa City Community school board has banned cell phone use during class time. The cell phone ban was first implemented in Jan. 2025 and is compliant with House File 782, which went into effect July 1, 2025.

The district's policy will remain the same in the new school year.

Iowa City Education Association (ICEA) President Brady Shutt and Executive Director of Secondary Schools Lucas Ptacek noted improvements in "stu-

dent engagement" and decreased infractions during a board meeting in April.

In the first week of implementation, secondary schools had 434 infractions, and by week nine, that number had been reduced to 168 infractions.

Most students who received an infraction were notified only once. A total of 1,088 students were dinged with an infraction, while 439 received two or more, according to ICCSD data.

New projects underway in the Iowa City Community School District

The district's \$104.6 million plan to upgrade several facilities in the next five years is underway.

Several construction projects will begin this year while others will be completed.

At City High, construction will start on the auditorium upgrades, which is expected to finish next winter. The ongoing construction of the baseball and softball fields will be complete by sum-

mer 2026.

Construction on the west end re-grade at Iowa City West will get underway and is anticipated to be complete by spring 2027.

Renovations to improve the Liberty High soccer field lights will begin in the spring and finished by fall 2026.

Technology updates will begin district wide, while construction on playgrounds and outdoor classrooms will also see progress.

The most significant project expected to finish this year is the Center for Innovation, which will house Junior Achievement's Dream Accelerator.

Center for Innovation will welcome new education opportunities

The ICCSD's Center for Innovation stationed in the former ACT building at 301 ACT Dr., will expand programming with the Junior Achievement Dream Accelerator. The Dream Accelerator is

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Local rally fights closure of Historical Society

Jessica Rish

Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

The push to save Iowa's one-of-a-kind history is the goal of Iowa City's latest rally.

The "Reverse the Decision" rally is set for 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Iowa City Public Library protesting the state's plan to close the State Historical Society of Iowa's (SHSI) Iowa City Research Center, also known as the Centennial Building.

The rally is in response to Gov. Kim Reynolds' announcement in June to close the Centennial Building after nearly 70 years of housing some of Iowa's most treasured historical documents and collections. The facility will shutter for good on June 30, 2026, citing "ongoing financial considerations" and "duplicative in function."

The Save Iowa History Coalition will host speakers, live music, and a funeral procession on Saturday to symbolize the "reckless removal of one-of-a-kind historical records and artifacts from the State Historical Society's Iowa City Research Center," according to a news release.

The State Historical Society of Iowa, founded in 1857, "reserves and provides access to Iowa's historical resources."

Since July, the research center has been accessible only by appointment, Wednesday through Friday, an arrangement that will be in place through Dec. 31.

What rally organizers say is at stake at the Iowa City Research Center

The historical society plans to move all of Iowa City's records, books, and artifacts to Des Moines. Rally organizers claim the state is moving ahead with the building closure "without a good plan to preserve and maintain access to the enormous, irreplaceable collections" that currently live at the Iowa City location.

The building at 402 Iowa Ave., near the University of Iowa's Stuit Hall, has been a longtime home for Iowa's past. A 2019 video from the state historical society states that the Iowa City and Des Moines facilities house more than

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