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IOWA CITY

Press-Citizen

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | PRESS-CITIZEN.COM | HAWKCENTRAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Johnson County Supervisor Mandi Remington speaks during a rally for health care access on Dec. 11 near UI Health Care's main campus in Iowa City. PHOTOS BY JULIA HANSEN/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

‘People are hurting right now’

Iowa City rallies for health care access ahead of ACA Senate vote

**Jessica Rish** Iowa City Press-Citizen | USA TODAY NETWORK

Community members gathered near UI Health Care's main campus in Iowa City Thursday, Dec. 11 to rally against cuts to the Affordable Care Act.

The rally, hosted by SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, and Johnson County Supervisor Mandi Remington, shared the sentiment that Iowans deserve continued access to affordable health care.

"We're here today to demand that Congress extend health care subsidies for working Americans," said Katie Biechler, political organizing director for Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund. "We want them, we need them to extend health care with a clean three-year extension. People are hurting right now, there's an affordability crisis on our hands."

The rally was held just hours before the U.S. Senate rejected a bill to extend ACA subsidies.

See RALLY, Page 3A



Del Holland holds a sign near the intersection of Melrose Avenue and Hawkins Drive during the rally for health care access on Dec. 11.

BURLINGTON STREET  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Pedestrians centered in new concept

Priorities guide project's conceptual design plan

**Ryan Hansen**  
Iowa City Press-Citizen  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa City moved forward with a proposed design for the Burlington Street Bridge project that would re-vamp a century-old roadway that sees tens of thousands of drivers a week and reshape the long-held dam.

Construction for the Burlington Street Bridge Replacement Project is not expected to begin for several more years, but the Iowa City City Council approved a design concept for the project on Tuesday, Dec. 9. A 2021 study found that the bridge was in "poor" condition and was "structurally deficient."

The project will center around updates to the bridge and dam, but includes several broader changes that will transform Grand Avenue and portions of the University of Iowa's west campus. The Iowa Department of Transportation intends to take ownership of the bridge at this point in negotiations, staff said.

The location includes a combination of different interested parties. The southern, eastbound bridge is owned by the city and was first opened in 1915. The northern, westbound bridge was opened in 1969 and is owned by the

See BRIDGE, Page 3A



A 3-D rendering for the Burlington Street Bridge Replacement Project was presented to the Iowa City City Council on Dec. 9. Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2029. PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF IOWA CITY

Iowa may spend \$1 billion more than it takes in

Republican officials say shortfall part of a plan

**Stephen Gruber-Miller**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa is expected to collect more money next year than this year, but state revenue will still fall nearly a billion dollars short of what the state is spending this year.

Republican officials say that's just the way they planned it.

A forecast from Iowa's three-member Revenue Estimating Conference on

Thursday, Dec. 11, predicts Iowa will take in \$8.5 billion in fiscal year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026.

Gov. Kim Reynolds must use Thursday's estimate when she submits her proposed budget to the Iowa Legislature in January.

By law, Iowa cannot spend more than 99% of available revenue. For fiscal year 2027, that includes the \$8.5 billion the state is anticipated to collect as well as Iowa's ending balance — the money expected to be left over when the current fiscal year concludes — which sits at \$1.9 billion.

See SPENDING, Page 4A



**Sen. Janet Petersen** speaks to her Senate colleagues on May 14 at the Iowa State Capitol. CODY SCANLAN/THE DES MOINES REGISTER

