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SPORTS, 1B

Ames Tribune

Friday, January 23, 2026 | amestrib.com

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Story County rejects proposal

Asking for 'more compact' districts

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

An initial plan to split Story County into state-mandated supervisor voting districts has been rejected, underscoring a need for more "compact districts."

The Iowa Legislature passed a bill in April requiring Iowa counties that house public universities to begin electing supervisors by district rather than an at-large system.

The legislation, Senate File 75, applies to Story,

Johnson, and Black Hawk counties, which are home to Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Northern Iowa. Voters in these three counties can now only vote for the supervisor who lives in their district.

Story County elects three county supervisors.

On Jan. 6, the Story County Board of Supervisors rejected a map split into three districts that was submitted at the end of 2025. The board requested a second map from the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) that has "more compact districts," according to county documents.

The board will consider a second map with three new districts from LSA on Jan. 27.

Iowa's other 96 counties have the option of electing their supervisors by district at large, where all county residents vote for every supervisor seat; or at large, where supervisors are still required to live in different districts.

What does the second Story County district map look like?

Story County has a population of 98,937. The newest map includes a population of 32,793-32,940 in each voting district.

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President Donald Trump takes the stage during the American 250 kickoff event on July 3, 2025, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

Ames leaders to gather for annual community forum

Ronna Faaborg
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ames residents will hear from the city's major public institutions at the annual State of the Ames Community forum, a long-running event organizers say is one of the few times local leaders publicly sit together for discussion.

The program will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at CityChurch, 2400 Oakwood Road. Doors open at 11 a.m. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

The forum is a collaboration with KHOI Community Radio, the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County, the NAACP Ames Branch and United Way of Story County.

League president Carolyn Klaus said the event consistently draws a strong crowd because attendees

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How Republicans' 3 property tax cut plans stack up

Stephen Gruber-Miller and Marissa Payne
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa Republicans have released three different plans to cut property taxes.

Now they must figure out which approach offers the best way forward.

It's only the second week of the 2026 legislative session, but already Senate Republicans, Gov. Kim Reynolds and House Republicans have unveiled separate bills cutting property taxes they say have over-taxed Iowans.

"I think the positive sign is we're all serious about starting it early," House Speaker Pat Grassley, R-New

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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Trump will return to Iowa for speech on economy

Brianne Pfannenstiel Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump is returning to Iowa to deliver a speech focused on energy and the economy, kicking off an election year that will see competitive races up and down the state's ballot.

White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles told reporters traveling with Trump to Davos, Switzerland for the World Economic Forum Wednesday, Jan. 21, that Trump would return to Iowa Jan. 27.

Trump was last in Iowa on July 3, 2025, for an America 250 kickoff, where he took a victory lap over the passage of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" that same day.

Further details have not been released.

Wiles said Trump would travel weekly within the country ahead of the midterm elections, and members of his Cabinet will also increase their domestic travel.

Iowa will see a slew of competitive elections this year with an open governor's office, an open Senate seat and two of the top targeted U.S. House races in the country.

Republican Party of Iowa Chair Jeff Kaufmann previously told the Des Moines Register the key to Republicans' victory will be getting Trump supporters to turn out and vote, even when he isn't on the ballot.

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Volume 137 | No. 56
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