

## You need to know

- **The backfill phase out is being negotiated and your outreach is critical.** Your voice is needed immediately to help protect the backfill. Contact your House Representative and tell them to oppose phasing out the backfill and vote no on any proposal which does so.
- **The U.S. Treasury released guidance** on the resources available to cities through the American Rescue Plan. Join the League for a presentation with the National League of Cities on the guidance on Monday, May 17 at 2 p.m. [Registration is required.](#)
- **Legislative Per Diem ended on April 30**, but session continues. The House, Senate, and Governor will need to agree on a few key issues, such as the backfill, before adjournment Sine Die.
- **Register for a webinar with Congresswoman Axne** happening Wednesday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m., where we'll discuss what's happening in D.C., the American Rescue Plan, and possible future legislation. [Registration is required.](#)

## [SF 619](#) | **Governor/Senate Tax Omnibus Phases Out Backfill**

- This legislation contains language that would defund the local government property tax relief, known as the backfill, that was implemented in 2013.
- The Iowa Senate has been inflexible in their desire to remove the 2013 property tax relief known as the backfill. The Iowa House has demonstrated a willingness to maintain this property tax relief by introducing and moving [HF 893](#).
- Please reach out to your House representative and request them to maintain the property tax relief funding known as the backfill. Please email the League at [LegislativeStaff@IowaLeague.org](mailto:LegislativeStaff@IowaLeague.org) if you have questions or get an update on their stance on the backfill.

[Contact Your Legislator](#)

## [HF 893](#) | **House Tax Omnibus**

- Contains many provisions such as an increase to the Housing Trust Fund, Workforce Housing Tax Credits, Brownfield and Grayfield development incentives, Rural Economic Development Tax Credits and the Emergency Volunteer Tax Credit.
- Scheduled to pass through the House Appropriation Committee on Monday, May 17.
- Currently, the League is registered in support of this proposal because it maintains the backfill. However, we have concerns that through negotiations, the backfill will be phased out. Please contact your legislator and either thank them for their support of the backfill or urge them to vote no on a proposal which phases out the backfill.

## [HF 797](#) & [SF 342](#) | **Public Safety Benefit Increase**

- These two bills seek to increase support and benefits to public safety officers through various measures which include increasing MFPRSI benefits, requiring an officer's accrued sick leave to be paid to the officer upon retirement, codifying qualified immunity and many others.
- While no progress on these proposals have been made in the last few weeks, it is possible they are brought up and passed in the final days of session.
- You are encouraged to read these bills and contact your Senator with any concerns or questions you may have.

Communication with your legislators is crucial to impacting policy in the statehouse. Take advantage of the local legislative forums listed below. Additionally, you can contact your legislator directly.

[Contact Your Legislator](#)

## Legislative Forums

May 21

- [Ames Legislative Forum Session Wrap Up-virtual](#)



## Updates on the American Rescue Plan

Join the League and Irma Esparza Diggs from the National League of Cities as we discuss the latest guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury on the relief funds on May 17 at 2 p.m.

*Irma Esparza Diggs, Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy at the National League of Cities, is a seasoned public affairs professional with experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Irma's incomparable work ethic and strategic political sense have earned her key positions in federal and municipal government, as well as managerial roles in a diverse array of political campaigns across the country.*

[Register](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Updated Guidance from U.S. Department of Treasury

- [Interim Final Rule of COVID-19 Relief Funds](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide on COVID-19 Relief Funds](#)
- [Interim Final Rule Fact Sheet](#)
- [Treasury's webpage on COVID-19 Relief Funds](#)

