

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2019
TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager
FROM: Laura Sarcone, Public Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Government Outreach Update

The 88th General Assembly gavelled in on Monday, January 14, 2019. The first week is made up of formalities and ceremonies, with limited floor action. Of the four majority leadership positions within the House and Senate, three are metro-area legislators, including House Majority Leader Chris Hagenow (R-Urbandale), Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) and Senate President Charles Schneider (R-West Des Moines). With 22 new members in the House and 9 new members in the Senate, a traditional schedule takes hold in 2019. The first funnel deadline is March 8, and final funnel is April 5. The 110th legislative day is May 3, when legislators per diem expire.

The majority leadership and Governor Reynolds announced their priority items for the 2019 session and water quality was not included. Priorities listed include children's mental health, tax reform (with possibility of I-WILL a part of overall tax reform), addressing workforce and housing issues, voting and election laws, and changing the way judges are appointed.

We are working closely with our contract lobbyist team, Advocacy Strategies, to monitor and react to various pieces of proposed legislation. In addition, our lobbyists are working with other utility, trade, and environmental organizations to introduce pieces of legislation/amendments to bills that would benefit to DMWW and others. Each Monday of session, Advocacy Strategies prepares a bill tracking document and summary of interested items/legislation pertaining to DMWW. I will forward these updates to the Board and senior staff each week.

As a reminder, Des Moines Water Works will be hosting a legislative breakfast on Thursday, February 28, at 7:00 am, in Room 116 at the Capitol. We will be inviting legislators from our service territory for a social breakfast (no formal program). We are working with Advocacy Strategies and Concordia for messages we want to convey; however, it will likely have a theme of the 100 year anniversary as an independent utility serving the metro community.

Invitations for a meeting and water treatment plant tour remain extended to Representative Cindy Axne and Representative Abby Finkenauer.