



Friday, January 13, 2012

Session Week 1

## **2012 Legislative Session Begins**

This week the 2012 Legislative Session of the 84<sup>th</sup> General Assembly began. The session started on Monday with Senate and House leaders stating their top priorities. Commercial property tax reform, education reform and job creation were all listed as main concerns from leaders in both the House and Senate. Senate and House leaders also found common ground in hopes for a short productive session.

Governor Branstad outlined his top priorities as job creation and education reform in his condition of the state address to the legislature and the public. Governor Branstad also laid out his plan for commercial property tax reform which would reduce commercial property taxes by 40% over eight years.

House Republicans laid out their version of commercial property tax reform as well with House Study Bill 500. This bill would reduce commercial property taxes by 40% over 14 years. Watch for more information about both the House and the Governor's plans in future issues of the *Watchdog*.

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## **Governor's Budget Recommendations**

The Governor's fiscal year 2013 budget recommendations were published this week. His budget recommendation suggests \$6,243.9 million be spent in General Fund appropriations in FY 2013. His recommendation is under the \$6,475.3 million expenditure limitation, but it is also a **\$230 million increase** in spending from FY 2012.

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## Meet the ITR Lobbying Team



**Rob Solt**

*President*

Rob has been with ITR for 20 years in various staff and volunteer roles. He will be at the capitol on Wednesdays during the legislative session.



**Lindsay McQuarry**

*Policy Director*

Lindsay started with ITR in May of 2011. She will be lobbying daily for ITR during the legislative session.



**Ernie Adkison**

*Political Director*

Ernie started with ITR in July of 2011. He will be at the capitol at least one day each week during the legislative session.