



# *Focusing on the Issues*

2026 PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE



GREATER BURLINGTON  
**PARTNERSHIP**

GreaterBurlington.com



## 2026 Public Policy Agenda

### *Featured Southeast Iowa Priorities*

The Greater Burlington Partnership is committed to advancing initiatives that support economic growth and community development in Southeast Iowa. As a proud member of the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI), the Iowa Association of Business & Industry, and the Iowa Chamber Alliance, the Partnership has adopted many of their State Legislative Priorities and Policy Issues for 2026, so that we align with statewide efforts to drive progress.

*Based on the 2025 Government Relations Committee survey, we will focus on these top three priorities:*

- *Workforce Retention & Attraction*
- *Housing & Quality of Life*
- *Infrastructure*

### WORKFORCE RETENTION & ATTRACTION

The Greater Burlington Partnership advocates for sustainable solutions and targeted incentives to address workforce challenges, and attract and retain talent through various strategies, including:

- Retain more Iowans from our educational institutions by expanding access and providing support for high-demand fields. Iowa currently has loan repayment incentives for Teachers, Police Officers and Healthcare Professionals. Opportunities exist for our state to retain individuals in the technology and engineering fields to support implementation of artificial intelligence and automation in the workplace.
- Support efforts to expand the number of medical residencies and fellowships in Iowa and continue to strengthen student loan repayment incentives to retain these professionals.
- Continue to support statewide workforce marketing campaigns, such as Destination Iowa, highlighting the benefits of living and working in Iowa.
- Support employer-education partnerships and lifelong learning to align training with in-demand jobs and fund programs including early childhood education, adult upskilling, apprenticeships, and earn-and-learn models.

## HOUSING & QUALITY OF LIFE

The Greater Burlington Partnership is committed to addressing workforce housing shortages and enhancing quality of life to drive Southeast Iowa's economic growth and talent attraction. Priorities include:

- Advocate for a permanent increase in the Workforce Housing Tax Credit cap from \$35 million to \$50 million to address the growing demand for affordable housing, with an emphasis on owner-occupied homes and revitalizing aging housing stock to support community development and workforce retention.
- Southeast Iowa supports the creation of Land Redevelopment Trusts (LRT) to address blighted, abandoned or tax-delinquent properties. LRTs would allow municipalities to pool resources to acquire and redevelop these properties, transforming them into usable assets for housing, business or community use.
- Support increased funding for housing incentive programs such the Homes for Iowa initiative and other innovative housing initiatives to address housing shortages across Iowa.
- Support continued investment in affordable and accessible child care by building on recent progress through child care assistance, stabilization efforts, and employer-supported and rural child care solutions that strengthen quality of life.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

The Greater Burlington Partnership supports strategic investments in infrastructure to enhance Southeast Iowa's global competitiveness, quality of life, and resilience. Priorities include:

- Create energy development incentives to address the natural gas shortage which has created barriers to business growth and economic development.
- Continue to support the Road Use Tax Fund to sustain continued improvements to the Highway 61 Corridor. The Roosevelt corridor of Highway 61 is in serious need of structural improvements to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.
- Support continued investments in water quality, water infrastructure, and outdoor recreation to improve access to natural resources.
- Continue state support to assist cities in funding federal mandates for wastewater systems, as aging infrastructure and required improvements risk increasing water and wastewater service rates.



**RiverPark Place**  
319-752-6365  
610 N 4th St, Ste 200  
info@greaterburlington.com  
Burlington, IA 52601  
GreaterBurlington.com