



Society of Land Surveyors of Iowa

1080 Jordan Creek Parkway, #106C, West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-284-7055 FAX 515-284-7301
E-mail: info@slsi.org

Membership:

SLSI currently has 457 Active Members = 10 Associate Members, 105 Life Members, 8 Honorary Members, 2 Sustaining Members, 229 Regular Members, 34 Land Surveyor Interns, 66 Land Surveyor Techs and 3 Students.

January Workshop & Annual Conference:

The SLSI annual January Workshop was held on January 9, 2026, in at the Gateway Hotel in Ames, IA. There were 153 attendees. This was the first year offering two tracks for attendees to choose from. *Track 1 A/B: Errors and The Datums are a Changin' presented by Jerry Mahun, PLS.*

Track 2: When the Rules DON'T Work - Kristopher Kline, PLS, GSI, President - 2Point, Inc.

The SLSI Annual Conference was held at the Gateway Hotel in Ames, IA March 4-6, 2026 offering 13.5 PDHs. In attendance were 257 registrants and 10 vendors. Topics included:

- NATRF2022
- IOWA TREE LAW-A UNIQUE BRANCH OF LAW
- WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAD 83 (2011) AND NATRF2022 IN IOWA?
WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAVD 88 AND NAPGD2022 IN IOWA?
- PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GOOD LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS
- RELATIVE POSITIONAL PRECISION EXPLAINED IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE

As part of the annual conference, with funds raised via auction proceeds and donations, SLSI awarded 7 scholarships totaling \$15,000.

Legislative Report 2026

Property Tax

The Senate, the House and the Governor each dropped their own version of property tax reform legislation. Little action has occurred since then, but discussions are just beginning now. The use of Tax Increment Financing appears to be sticking point among the three bills.

The Future of Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

The two bills offer different approaches for TIF

The Governor's bill proposes restrictions on TIF for any projects. TIF revenue could only be used for very limited activities, such as the installation of utilities or streets. The bill also places limits on existing TIF districts, preventing them from taking on new debt and requiring them to

expire once their current debts are paid. Any new TIF districts would be limited to a 20-year duration.

The Senate bill proposes no such sweeping changes. Its main provision related to TIF is a narrow adjustment impacting only qualified data centers, leaving the broader TIF framework for cities and counties largely untouched.

Additionally, the bill would allow local option sales tax to be increased to 1.5%.

Indexing the Gas Tax to the CPI

Included in the senate version of the property tax bill is a provision requiring the DOT to adjust fees and taxes to account for increases in the consumer price index. The fees could go up 3% but no more than 0.1 cent per gallon. If the CPI would rise three consecutive years, the fees would not be increased in the fourth year. The legislature, by joint resolution, signed by the Governor, could nullify any increase in a given year.

This provision is NOT included in the Governor's tax proposal.

Legislation Kicks Engineers off SUDAS Board

Statewide Urban Design and Specifications board is currently comprised of professional engineers from cities and counties and private practice charged with developing engineering design standards. Under the provisions of SF2394 and HF 2667. The SUDAS board would be comprised of representatives from various construction organizations, developers, as well as the League and ISAC. The legislation does not require a professional engineer to be on the SUDAS board. This legislation was vetoed by the Governor.

Change in Notification Requirements on Public Improvements

HF 2189 would require a public owner within 14 days after the acceptance of the improvement to send a written notification of the public of final acceptance to the principal contractor, the surety bond and any claimant for labor or materials. The legislation failed to advance.

Report Cards for Contractor and Design Professionals

HF 2400 would require DAS to create a "performance assessment system" website where contractors, engineers, architects, and others would be subject to a rating system where public owners could use the "grade" to determine if a "bidder" is responsible. The legislation failed to advance.

Bonds for Contractors and Subcontractors

Under SF2376 these contractors would be required to maintain an annual performance bond or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$50,000 payable to the state.

Prohibition on Counties or Cities Requiring Bonds for Land Surveyors

SF 2133 would prohibit a city or county from requiring a land surveyor to obtain a local permit or post a bond to practice land surveying in that jurisdiction. The bill was aimed at a county in Iowa which has passed an ordinance requiring these types of measures on land surveyors. The ordinance is targeted at stopping the use of eminent domain for a carbon capture pipeline.

Unfortunately, the legislation was introduced just 48 hours before the legislation funnel and failed to advance before the legislative deadline.

Restrictions on Construction Management at Risk

HF 564 would have allowed public owners to reject the lowest responsible bidder or the lowest CMR based on a number of new provisions. The legislation failed to advance.

2026 – 2027 SLSI Board Meeting and Conference Schedule:

June 11, 2026

September 17, 2026

November 12, 2026

January 8, 2027 – January Workshop

January 14, 2027

March 3-5, 2027 – Annual Conference

SLSI Officers and Directors 2026-2027:

President – Dan Messerich (At-Large Director)

Vice President – Isaiah Reicks (At-Large Director)

District 5 Rep. – J. Brian Morrissey

District 6 Rep. – Leo Bonifazi

District 2 Rep. – Brad Geater

District 4 Rep. – Jacob Irlmeier

District 3 Rep. – Brad Beck

District 1 Rep. – Chad Daniels

At-Large Director – Todde Folkerts

At-Large Director – Terry Coady

At-Large Director – Jeff Gaddis

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