

State of Iowa

175 Years • Iowa Statehood
100 Years • State of Iowa Flag



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

**Cover: Dixie Cornell Gebhardt with the State of Iowa Flag
Cira 1917**

Handwritten note by Dixie Cornell Gebhardt, "One picture is worth a thousand words. Original photo was taken by Hostetter Des Moines, upon request of Iowa's Governor. Flag used in above [front cover photo] is the Iowa flag presented by Iowa D.A.R. to Historical Society after World War I and never been replaced".

Dixie Cornell Gebhardt Scrapbooks, Volume I, inside cover, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. Cira 1917.

Symbolism of Iowa's State Flag

The State of Iowa was almost 75 years old when the General Assembly adopted an official state flag. On March 29, 1921 the Iowa Legislature accepted the design, made by Mrs. Dixie Cornell Gebhardt of Knoxville, Iowa, as the official Iowa State Flag.

Mrs. Gebhardt was asked to explain the significance of its symbols. She responded that she felt the flag should reflect the teachings of the Stars and Stripes, and, at the same time embrace the history of Iowaland from the Indian Era, its discovery by the French, its purchase from Napoleon by President Jefferson, its admission to the union and its present grandeur.

It should be so simple that every school child could recognize its symbolism and know that it meant "IOWA".

Blue, white and red are the colors. Those were the hues of France's Tricolor, the insignia of Iowaland until the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. And in reverse, of course, they are the colors of America's flag.

In Iowa's flag, a vertical blue panel is at the left and a red panel is at the right. For the sake of symmetry and clarity, the white panel at the center is twice as wide as the red and blue stripes and forms the background for the central design.

Inspired By Seal

For this design, Mrs. Gebhardt obtained inspiration from the Great Seal of Iowa. From that seal she selected the soaring eagle, our national bird, bearing in its beak blue streamers with Iowa's state motto - "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain". Beneath in large crimson capitals, the name "IOWA", so christened by the Indians, meaning "Beautiful land".

"Thus", Mrs., Gebhardt explains, "we have a state flag of blue, white and red, with perhaps if we so desire, a touch of gold. As in our national emblem the red is for courage, zeal and fervency; the white for purity, clean living and rectitude of conduct; and the blue for loyalty, devotion, friendship, justice and truth".





**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE
FINANCIAL REPORT**

For the Fiscal Year
Ended June 30, 2021

GOVERNOR:
Kim Reynolds

PREPARED BY:
Iowa Department of Administrative Services – State Accounting Enterprise

STATE OF IOWA

**Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
Table of Contents**

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Letter of Transmittal	6-10
GFOA Certificate of Achievement	11
State of Iowa Organizational Chart	12
Principal Officials	13

FINANCIAL SECTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	16-18
-------------------------------------	-------

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	19-33
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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-wide Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position	36-37
Statement of Activities	39

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Balance Sheet	42
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	43
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	44
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	45

Proprietary Fund Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position	48-49
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position	50
Statement of Cash Flows	51-52

Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	54
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	55

Component Unit Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position	58-59
Statement of Activities	60-61

<i>Notes to the Financial Statements</i>	63-143
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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund	146-147
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget to GAAP Reconciliation - General Fund	148
Notes to Required Supplementary Information - Budgetary Reporting	149-151
Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	152
Schedules of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios	153-154
Schedules of Contributions	155-157
Notes to Required Supplementary Information - Schedules of Contributions	158-161
Schedules of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios	162-163
Notes to Required Supplementary Information - Schedules of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios	164-166

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

Combining Balance Sheet - By Fund Type	168
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - By Fund Type	169

Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds

Combining Balance Sheet	172
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	173
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual - Budgetary Basis	175-177

Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds

Combining Balance Sheet	180
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	181

Nonmajor Permanent Funds

Combining Balance Sheet	184
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	185

Proprietary Funds

Nonmajor Enterprise Funds

Combining Statement of Net Position	188
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position	189
Combining Statement of Cash Flows	190

Internal Service Funds

Combining Statement of Net Position	192
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position	193
Combining Statement of Cash Flows	194

Fiduciary Funds

Pension and Other Employee Benefit Funds

Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	196
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	197

Private Purpose Trust Funds

Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	200
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	201

Custodial Funds

Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	204
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	205

STATISTICAL SECTION

Schedule

Schedule of Net Position by Component	1	209
Schedule of Changes in Net Position	2	210-211
Schedule of Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	3	212
Schedule of Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds	4	213
Schedule of Tax Revenue by Source - Governmental Funds	5	214
Schedule of Individual Income Tax Returns Filed and Tax Rates	6	215
Schedule of Retail Sales by Business Classification	7	216
Schedule of Ratios of Outstanding Debt by Type	8	217
Schedule of Revenue Bond Coverage	9	218-223
Schedule of Demographic and Economic Statistics	10	224
Schedule of Principal Non-governmental Employers	11	225
Schedule of Significant Classes of Capital Assets by Function	12	226-227
Schedule of Operating Indicators by Function	13	228
Schedule of Number of Employees - Primary Government	14	229
Schedule of Current Expenditures - General Fund	15	230

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS