



### April 2026 - All-Staff Post

With both Nebraska and Iowa Legislatures starting in January, and with Immanuel working on a bill in the Nebraska Unicameral, the first few months of 2026 have been busy.

Laws passed by the federal and state governments impact Immanuel's work in many ways. At the end of the Nebraska and Iowa sessions, we'll provide a summary of the laws passed.

### Election Reminders- Please Vote!



As a non-profit tax exemption organization, Immanuel can't ever tell you who to vote for, but we can certainly support you and encourage you to vote. Primary elections are coming up, followed by the fall general elections in November. As a reminder, primary elections determine which candidates will run in the upcoming general election.

Have you ever voted? You don't have to study the whole ballot. Pick one race to focus on. Maybe it's someone for Congress, your state senator, or maybe it's your neighbor who is running for school board. **Your one vote can make all the difference.**

Iowa and Nebraska have very specific rules for registering to vote and for early or absentee voting. It also helps to Google your local county election or auditor's office, or go there in person, especially if this is your first time registering to vote. We're here to help you through all the details.

### Iowa – Primary Election Tuesday, June 2, 2026

- Register to vote online or by mail (postmarked) by **May 18, 2026**
- Register in person up to and including **June 2, 2026**, at your local county auditor office
- Once you're registered, request an **"absentee ballot"** by Tuesday, 6 p.m. **May 18, 2026**, and turn it in by close of the polls on election day.
- Election information including [candidates](#), [calendar dates](#), and more, please visit [this site](#).
- [Iowa voter registration portal](#)

## Nebraska - Primary Election: May 12, 2026

- Register to vote online or by mail (postmarked) by **April 27, 2026**
- **“Early voting”** begins on April 13, 2026.
- Register in person by Friday, **May 1, 2026**, at your local county election office
- Once you’re registered, request an **“early voting”** ballot by Friday, 6 p.m. **May 1, 2026**, and turn it in by close of the polls on election day.
- For more information regarding [candidates](#), [calendar dates](#), and more, please visit [this site](#).
- [Nebraska voter registration portal](#)

## Federal Government

The headlines can be difficult to read and it’s hard to stay up to date. Our advocacy team stays tuned in on the pieces that impact Immanuel the most.

The U.S. Senate passed the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Road to Housing Act**. Both the House and the Senate have passed separate bills and are now working together to resolve the differences before it can go to the President for his signature and become law.

Nebraska Congressman Flood was a co-sponsor. The bill confronts a housing crisis that impacts families and communities nationwide by expanding community housing supply, modernizing key housing and community development programs, and reducing artificial costs to construction.

Both versions had support for key Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs serving older adults, including Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, with an increase. Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, including an increase for You can find out more here, in a [Bipartisan Policy Center explainer, “What’s in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ROAD to Housing Act?”](#)

## Nebraska Legislature

### PACE® – Programs for All Inclusive Care

We try to stay out of the deep weeds in these newsletters, but sometimes, it’s just how it works. Our PACE® program is an excellent example. Senator Spivey introduced a bill, [LB750](#), in the 2026 legislative session to improve reimbursement rates. Like many bills on first introduction, it will not pass this session. However, Senator Spivey, whose district includes our Immanuel Pathways in Omaha, and Senator Dorn from the Lincoln area introduced [LR435](#), an interim study to the Appropriations Committee. This study will document why we need to increase Medicaid eligibility and reimbursement rates. Interim studies serve as useful guides for future legislation. We are hopeful that this will also increase the likelihood of expanding PACE® services to other providers and participants throughout Nebraska. For those of you not familiar with the PACE® model, we put together a [2026 Legislative Report](#) on our Immanuel website, under Who We Are and advocacy

page. This report helps us educate Nebraska Senators on how the PACE® model saves the money in the State budget.

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### **Retroactive Medicaid Eligibility**

See [our recent action alert](#) for more information and to take action if you feel inclined. The bill is being heard this week, and must pass two levels of debate by April 9. Thank you to everyone who received the Mission Teams Post last week and connected with your state senators to support LB958. This bill mandates that the department maintain the maximum retroactive coverage period allowable under federal law. Hopes are that this will force the department to withdraw its recent 1115 Waiver application to reduce the retractive period to zero.

Background: The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (the department) has proposed eliminating Medicaid retroactive eligibility entirely. Currently, federal law allows a 90-day retroactive period for traditional Medicaid populations. This means that once a person is approved for Medicaid, their healthcare may be covered for up to 90 days before approval.

Removing this retroactive period will significantly affect healthcare coverage for seniors and Immanuel's nursing communities. This option could leave families with medical debts they cannot pay. It could cost hospitals and healthcare providers, including Immanuel, thousands of dollars in uncompensated care each year. Any reduction in revenue will hurt the margins of any nursing community, which are already razor-thin.

### **LB304 Child Care Subsidies**

We've been following this bill for a while as part of Advocacy and Human Resources. Child care is an important issue for our workforce. [LB304](#) makes current income eligibility levels for child care assistance permanent. With this bill, the Unicameral is choosing long-term stability for our families, our kids, and our state's economy. We continue to ask lawmakers to pass this important bill this session.

Background from [First Five](#): In 2021, state lawmakers passed legislation that temporarily expanded childcare subsidy access for families from 130% to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For a family of four in 2025, that amounts to the difference between \$42,000 (130% FPL) and \$59,000 (185% FPL). But on October 1, that eligibility level will return to 130% FPL, plummeting Nebraska to nearly the lowest state in the nation for access to childcare assistance—unless legislators make the current threshold permanent. Language in the budget removes the expiration and makes expanded subsidy access permanent, keeping childcare within the reach of more Nebraska families.

## Iowa Legislature

The last day of the Iowa session is scheduled for April 21. Like Nebraska, the session focuses mostly on the State Budget. Unlike Nebraska, there are two houses in Iowa that have to approve that budget and any other law that's proposed.

This year, one focus is on property taxes. There are three main proposals and one was initially drafted to include increases for those in independent living. Lawmakers have assured advocacy groups there was no intention to include independent living so we look forward to amendments that will fix that. We are watching closely and will update everyone if an action alert will be helpful.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments.

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### ***Immanuel Advocacy Philosophy***

*We aim to highlight and advocate for seniors across Nebraska and Iowa, and when necessary, in the U.S. Congress. As a faith-based, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, we do not and cannot subscribe to the beliefs of one political party over another. When issues are critical to Immanuel, the people we serve, and our staff, we will advocate for what will benefit, not detriment.*

*Our goal with this monthly newsletter is to present the information objectively and unbiasedly. Some issues we focus on may fall further down one side of the traditional political spectrum than the other. In these times, many issues seem to become political that they never were before, such as access to food and housing.*

*Any call to action is completely voluntary and should not be viewed as an expectation relating to your role with Immanuel. All calls or efforts made should be done outside of your work hours, unless approved by your supervisor. As such, calls and efforts made outside of your working hours will not be compensated by Immanuel.*

*The Advocacy and Government Relations Coordinator is a member of the Legal and Compliance Team.*