

Iowa Land Records

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2018

Annual Report



Letter From Our Leadership



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In 2003, a few words in a large omnibus bill led to the creation of the County Land Record Information System - now known as the Electronic Services System and the Iowa Land Records website. The bill allowed for a coordinated land record system to be designed. After much collaboration and work, the Iowa Land Records website went live in January of 2005.

The Electronic Services System is a government entity under Iowa law, operating under a 28E governance structure established by Iowa County Supervisors and the Iowa County Records Association. The governing boards for ESS - the ICRA Executive Board and the ESS Coordinating Committee are representative bodies made up of members from districts around the state of Iowa. These governing bodies have directed the Iowa Land Records system since the inception of the project and continue to do so today.

As the real estate industry has evolved, so have the methods for recording documents. In a world where productivity and efficiency are more valuable than ever, electronically processing documents has become an essential function. The Iowa County Records Association was ahead of the curve when they developed the Iowa Land Records system in 2003. At that time, no other state was developing an electronic recording system. Today, Iowa Land Records is still the only statewide electronic recording system managed by County Records.

Not only was the Iowa County Records Association a leader in E-Submission of documents, but Iowa was also the first state to create a statewide portal for free online public access to real estate documents. Counties in other states and many private systems provide access to recorded documents, but that access usually comes with a price tag. Online access to recorded documents at no cost and on one single web site is a true resource to citizens and everyone working in the real estate industry. There are now more than 19 million documents available on Iowa Land Records.

Throughout the years it has been essential that the Iowa County Records Association be poised to keep up with the latest technology, trends and best practices. From work with local, state and national organizations, it is a priority for Iowa County Records to offer a superior service and experience to customers.

More improvements are on the horizon. The Iowa Land Records development team is working on a new, streamlined interface for County Records and customers. The website will also be refreshed in the next two years. We are excited for the future and look forward to continuing along the path of progressive service for many years to come.

Sincerely,

The Iowa Land Records Team

By The Numbers

Total Recording Income

Electronic Recording Fees: \$5.8 million
Real Estate Transfer Taxes: \$10.5 million
Auditor Transfer Fees: \$235,000.00

Total ILR Project Income

\$1.00 Recording Fee: \$578,097.00
\$3.00 E-Submission Service Fee: \$801,343.00
County Support: \$162,289.00
TOTAL INCOME: \$1,541,729.00

Total ILR Project Expenses

TOTAL CY 2018 ILR BUDGETED EXPENSES: \$1,552,375.00

Redaction Expenses

TOTAL REDACTION EXPENSE: \$110,329.00
Budgeted: \$73,235.00 | Reserve Funds: \$37,094.00

2018 Recording Trends

Documents Processed: 659,623
PII Redactions Applied: 574

Stakeholder Focus

Iowa County Recorders and the Iowa Land Records team view everyone in the real estate industry and Iowa citizens as important stakeholders. We especially strive to serve the needs of our registered users, including professionals working in financial institutions, mortgage companies, land title companies, law firms, surveying firms, zoning departments, real estate companies and more. Some of our important stakeholder organizations have nominated professionals who serve as voting members of the ESS Coordinating Committee – a key governing board for Iowa Land Records.

Iowa Land Records is also active with two of the primary industry and standards setting organizations for the real estate industry: Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) and Mortgage Industry Standards Maintenance Organization (MISMO). Our Iowa Land Records project manager serves as a co-chair of a PRIA work group that is developing best practices for preventing the rejection of documents in the recording process.



Then, Now & Beyond

- 2000** - UETA (Uniform Electronic Transactions Act) passed by legislature
- 2003** - Public Strategies Group and state government reorganization
- 2005** - Iowa Land Records website goes live
- 2006** - More than 1 million records posted online
- 2007** - 12,549 documents recorded via E-Submission
 - More than 1.8% of all recorded documents e-filed
- 2009** - Comprehensive redaction process started
- 2010** - First ILR software technical lead hired
 - More than 400,000 documents redacted
 - System equipment upgrade occurs
- 2012** - 131,278 documents recorded via E-Submission
 - More than 16% of all recorded documents e-filed
- 2015** - All 99 Iowa Counties participate
- 2016** - More than 1 million recorded documents e-filed
- 2017** - 224,073 documents recorded via E-Submission
 - Submission of surveys and plats enabled
- 2018** - New recording stamp increases transparency for customers
 - More than 41% of all recorded documents e-filed
- 2020** **Taking a look ahead...**
 - Projected more than 2 million recorded documents e-filed
 - Projected more than 20 million records posted online
 - Updated website
 - New E-Submission interface
 - Goal: 50% of all recorded documents e-filed