



Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) finalized its legislative agenda during Mock Congress in October 2020. This year, Iowa Youth Congress is focusing on the following four priority areas: Education, Election, Environment, and Human Rights.

IYC 2020-2021 Legislative Agenda

Education



Diversity Education – change and implement curriculum for grades 3-8 to introduce more cultural diversity and avoid repeated Eurocentric content

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Sex Education – enforce LGBTQ+ sex education to be inclusive of all orientations and gender identities in order to promote equality in sex education

Elections



Congressional Districting – adopt a congressional district system in order to delegate electoral votes more proportionally and to ensure lowans are better represented

Environment



Plastic Bag Tax – implement and enforce a five-cent tax on single-use plastic bags in an attempt to stymie environmental degradation

Human Rights



Gay Panic Defense – ban the legal strategy known as the “gay panic defense” in order to uphold Iowa hate crime law 729A.2 and to bring equality – and ensure safety – to all lowans

IYC was created by the Department of Human Rights (DHR) to enhance opportunity and broader representation of all lowans in the government process. IYC provides youth of all backgrounds the opportunity to gain hands-on education in the subject areas of state government, democracy, advocacy, and civic engagement. Iowa Youth Congress provides students the knowledge, abilities, and direction to advocate and enact change in their communities and at the state level for issues affecting youth.