

Vote Yes!

In order for the Hotel/Motel tax to be approved, it must first be passed by voters during an election. Stay informed about when upcoming elections will take place.

Encourage fellow Washington residents to learn more about the tax and how it would benefit the community directly.

For more information, please contact the Washington Chamber of Commerce by phone (319)-653-3272 or by email at info@washingtioniowa.org



This is **YOUR** city.
Vote to make it better!

How would a Hotel/Motel tax work?

- A 5-7% hotel/motel tax per room would be charged to **visitors** lodging in Washington hotels and motels.
- The revenue would go directly to benefit the community of Washington.



How would it benefit residents of the Washington community?

Those who would benefit most from the tax are those who live in Washington.

Revenue from the tax could fund community parks and events, such as:

- *Recreation facilities*
- *Nature trails*
- *Concerts*
- *Events on Main Street*
- *AND MUCH MORE!*

Those who live in Washington **would not** be paying the tax, just visitors who choose to lodge in Washington.

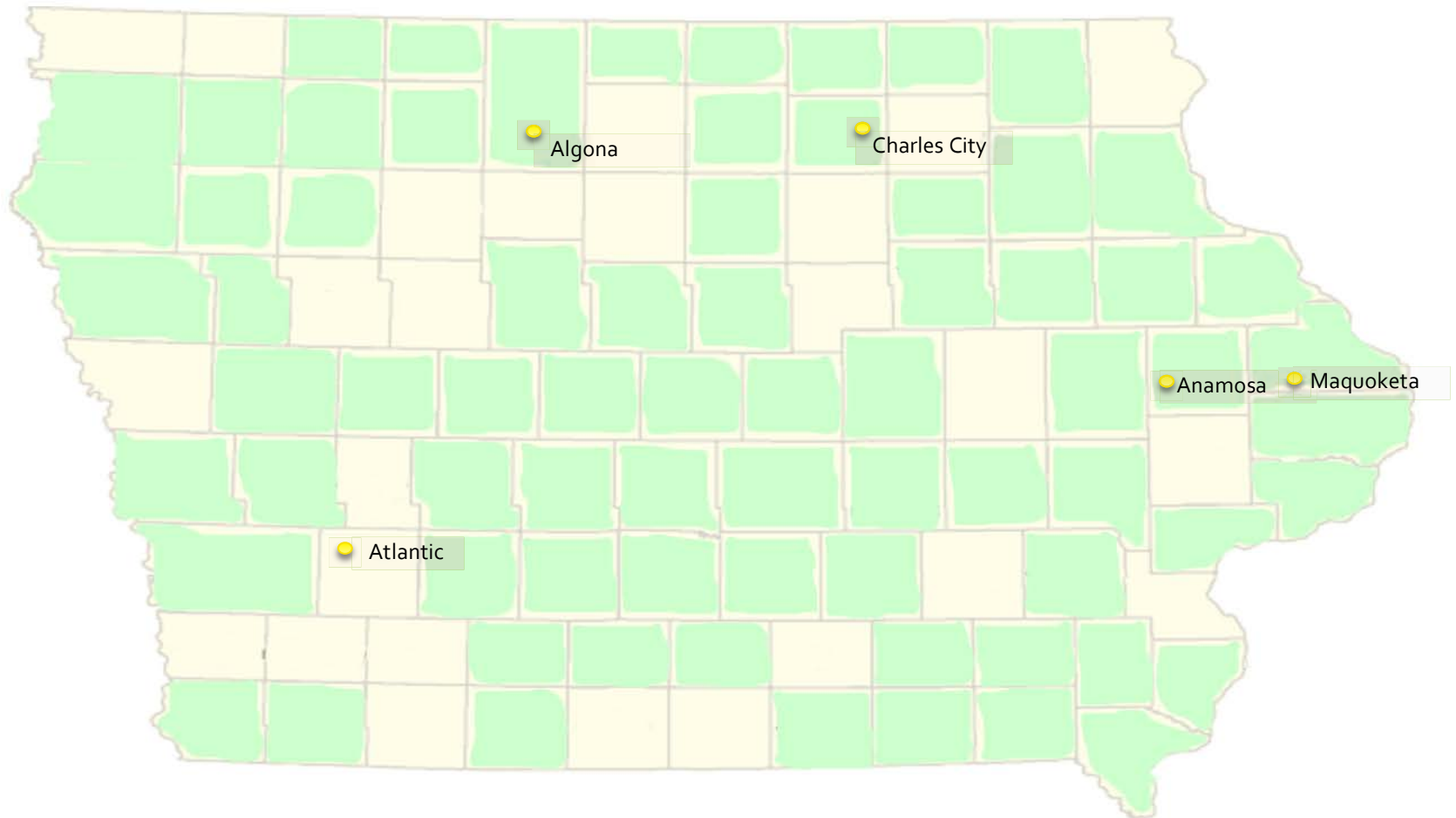
Vote to Improve Your Community!

Vote YES to the Hotel/Motel Tax



Communities similar to Washington that have adopted the hotel/motel tax:

Name of City	Revenue from Hotel/Motel tax in FY13
<i>Algona</i>	\$68,534.05
<i>Anamosa</i>	\$70,881.93
<i>Atlantic</i>	\$58,361.00
<i>Charles City</i>	\$123,479.87
<i>Maquoketa</i>	\$66,701.32



Hotel/Motel Tax: What are the Facts?

What is the Hotel/Motel Tax?

- The Hotel/Motel Tax creates revenue for community improvements by taxing hotel guests who stay in Washington's hotels or motels.
 - Community improvements can include leisure activities such as parks, trails, and facilities.
- The Hotel/Motel tax rate is between 5-7%
 - Only hotel guests will be paying this tax.
- The majority of counties in Iowa have already adopted the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Revenue of the Hotel/Motel Tax

- In 2009, \$39 million in revenue was generated due to the Hotel/Motel Tax in 150 cities and 16 unincorporated counties in Iowa.
- Washington can collect an estimated \$20,000 per year from the Hotel/Motel Tax.
- Code of Iowa 423A states: "at least 50% of revenue needs to be used for recreation, convention, cultural, or entertainment facilities."
- The Hotel/Motel tax will fund various community projects.
 - Revenue from the tax could be used to acquire land for recreational purposes, build at least one new basketball court, two more baseball diamonds or a bowl for the skate park.

Similar Communities to Washington

- All three communities, Washington, Hampton, and Atlantic, lack a specific tourist attraction.
 - A 3% tax was implemented in Atlantic, IA (Population: 7,112), in 2011
 - Can increase the tax each year by 1%, but cannot exceed 7%
- 5% tax was implemented in Hampton, IA (Population: 4,461), in 2002.
 - Hampton's distribution: 60% to Chamber of Tourism and 40% to City of Hampton parks

It's YOUR community. Vote to make it better.

Vote YES to Washington Hotel/Motel Tax!