Can Iowa be a Policy Innovator?

Over the last century, Iowa ranks 34th out of 50 states in policy innovativeness.

Iowa’s score is 30% lower than the leader, California.

In general, larger, more diverse states tend to be the leaders.

Iowa’s innovativeness peaked in the 1970s and 1980s.

While some states have consistently been innovative, leadership has shifted from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West.

Since 1980, Iowa has been a leader in Economic and Civil Rights policies.

It has trailed in Education, Environment, and Transportation policies.