

# Iowa Politics



- Iowa Politics Insider
- Latest stories
- Kathie Obradovich
- Iowa Legislature links
- Featured bloggers
- National politics

## Des Moines airport no longer qualifies for motor fuel tax refund

1:37 PM, Dec 28, 2012 | by Jason Clayworth | Comments

Categories: Iowa Politics Insider

[f Recommend](#)
[Tweet 0](#)
[✉](#)
[🖨](#)
[📧](#)
[A A +](#)



Register file photo.

A Des Moines airport reorganization in 2011 means that it no longer qualifies for a motor fuel tax refund, the Iowa Department of Revenue said in a letter publicly released this week.

The airport was reorganized in November of 2011 as an independent aviation authority, which separated its management and

financial operations from the city of Des Moines.

That move means it no longer qualifies for the Iowa Motor Fuel Tax refund, the revenue department said in a [Dec. 19 e-mail to airport officials](#).

The refund is given to state government agencies and its "political subdivisions"

One of the qualifications for political subdivisions to qualify for the tax break is to have elected officials. The authority's board is appointed by the Des Moines City Council, which makes it ineligible, the revenue department said in an email publicly released this week.

Kay Arvidson, a spokeswoman for the revenue department, declined to provide information about how much the refund saves the airport, citing confidential taxpayer information rules.

Don Smithey, the executive director of the authority, said the refund amounts to around \$6,500 a year in savings. It applies primarily to service vehicles and not fuel for aircrafts,

### Jason Clayworth



Jason Clayworth covers state government and politics for the Des Moines Register. Jason Clayworth can be reached at [jclayworth@dmreg.com](mailto:jclayworth@dmreg.com) or on Twitter via

<http://www.twitter.com/JasonClayworth>

ADVERTISEMENT

**ELECTION** 2012  
Go to our Election guide

Do you care about this?

he said.

The airport's reorganization was done for efficiency purposes, to allow aviation officials to more quickly enact changes. Since the restructure, the airport administration has between 15 and 20 fewer employees. It now has around 70, Smithey said.

The refund was not considered prior to the airports reorganization. Airport officials won't appeal the state's decision, Smithey said.

"In the scheme of things that's not a lot of money for us," Smithey said. "If we have to pay it, we owe it."

#### YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

[Suspect named in apparent murder of West Des Moines grad](#) (Des Moines Register)

[UPDATE: Some Dahl's, Fareway stores closed; Hy-Vee reports few problems](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Blizzard warning issued for 6 p.m.](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Truck driver stranded at Urbandale gas station nearly 12 hours](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Traffic at a standstill in both directions on portion of I-80](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Winter storm could drop two inches of snow per hour tonight](#) (Des Moines Register)

#### SPONSORED LINKS

[Wells Fargo CEO: Why Americans are saving so much](#) (Fortune Management)

[Heidi Klum and Seal's Unusual Marriage, Revealed](#) (StyleBistro)

[Why Women Love One-Night Stands](#) (MyDailyMoment)

[First Look at the Amazing Cabins in This New Cruise Ship](#) (Vacation Cruises Info)

[FBI Warns about World's Most Dangerous Places to Use Wi-Fi](#) (LAPTOP Magazine)

[Michael J. Fox and Tracy Pollan's Manhattan Home](#) (Architectural Digest)

#### Tell your politician about it!

Enter your zip code   Powered by RAISE YOUR VOICE

### Latest Iowa Politics Insider posts

[Romney's Iowa strategist says GOP has 'a lot of lessons to learn'](#) December 30, 2012

[Patty Judge says she won't run a second time with Chet Culver](#) December 30, 2012

[Des Moines airport no longer qualifies for motor fuel tax refund](#) December 28, 2012

[Terry Branstad announces changes to application for restoring felons' voting rights](#) December 28, 2012

[11 Iowans named as top political influencers](#) December 28, 2012

[Mary Sellers appointed to Iowa Communications Network governing board](#) December 28, 2012

[Progressive group asks Grassley to end Bush era tax cuts](#) December 27, 2012

[Iowa DOT won't issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants granted deferred action](#) December 27, 2012

[Iowa group in Washington to host party on inauguration weekend](#) December 26, 2012

[Former Gov. Chet Culver considering another gubernatorial run](#) December 26, 2012

### Subscribe to Iowa Politics Insider

Enter your e-mail address to subscribe:

• [Subscribe to the Iowa Politics Insider blog via RSS](#)

[?]

Post to Facebook  Posting as Rick Murray (Change)



**Marv Stanwick** · ★ Top Commenter

"In the scheme of things that's not a lot of money for us".

Spoken like someone who's accustomed to throwing away money and looking down his nose at people. Just remember folks, this "aviation authority" scheme was supported by your elected city officials.

Reply · 1 · Like · Follow Post · Friday at 7:24pm

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

# DesMoinesRegister.com

Site Map | Back to Top ^

## NEWS

Politics  
 Crime & Courts  
 Education  
 Kyle Munson  
 Nation & World  
 Weather  
 Archive  
 Investigations & Watchdog Reports  
 Reader's Watchdog  
 Famous Iowans

## LIFE

Mike Kilen  
 Juice  
 Young Professionals  
 Health  
 Dating  
 Milestones

## SPORTS

HawkCentral  
 Cyclone Insider  
 High School Insider  
 Bryce Miller  
 UNI Panthers  
 Drake Bulldogs  
 National Sports  
 History & Databases  
 Photos

## OPINION

Editorials  
 Rekha Basu  
 Kathie Obradovich  
 Guest Essays  
 Letters to the Editor  
 Your 2 Cents' Worth  
 Blogs  
 A Better Iowa

## BUSINESS

Agriculture  
 Central Iowa Networking  
 Green Fields  
 Biz Buzz  
 Finance & Insurance  
 New in the Neighborhood  
 Iowa's Top Workplaces  
 Iowa Innovation

## COMMUNITIES

Altoona  
 Ankeny  
 Clive  
 Des Moines  
 Indianola  
 Johnston  
 Norwalk  
 Urbandale  
 Waukee  
 West Des Moines

## ENTERTAINMENT

Metromix  
 Restaurant Guide  
 Datebook  
 Events  
 Dining  
 Music  
 Theater  
 Movies  
 TV Listings  
 Comics






## OBITUARIES

Submit an obituary  
 Submit a memorial

## HELP

Subscriber Solutions  
 Advertising Solutions  
 Reader Solutions  
 About Des Moines Register Media  
 Contact us  
 Media Kit

## FOLLOW US

 Twitter  
 Facebook  
 Mobile  
 RSS  
 E-mail Alerts

News | Jobs | Cars for Sale | Homes for Sale | Apartments for Rent | Real Estate | Shopping



# GANNETT

Copyright © 2012 www.desmoinesregister.com. All rights reserved.  
 Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)