



NEWS FROM THE FRONT - ELECTION EDITION
11/04/2020

Many election day contests in Illinois remain undecided as of Wednesday afternoon. With record-setting vote-by-mail ballots requested this year, the Illinois State Board of Elections is advising that the unofficial vote totals reported on election night may change, perhaps significantly, in the next two weeks. Approximately 587,000 vote-by-mail ballots were still outstanding as of November 2. The results in many close races may not be known until November 17, after all vote-by-mail and provisional ballots are counted. Final results will be certified by the State Board of Elections on December 4. We will continue to update you as results in individual races are finalized.

Graduated Income Tax Fails

The statewide ballot initiative to amend the Illinois Constitution to allow for a graduated income tax failed by a vote of 45% of those voting on the question in favor to 55% opposed. CBAI appreciates the strong partnership we have had with the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Retail Merchants and Illinois Manufacturers' who have banded together over the last year and a half to educate lawmakers and voters about the negative impact a progressive income tax would have on main street employers. CBAI also contributed to and participated in the Coalition to Stop the Proposed Tax Increase which effectively rebuffed efforts to amend the constitution.

Governor JB Pritzker supported and strongly advocated for the constitutional amendment to change the Illinois income tax system from a "flat" tax to a "progressive income" tax targeting wealthier Illinoisans. The failure of this amendment in Tuesday's election creates a \$1.3 billion hole in the remaining 6 months of the FY21 budget, which was predicated upon its passage. This will be in addition to the \$6.2 billion hole blown into the budget by the pandemic, which has severely impacted other sources of state revenue, while increasing state expenditures. Tough tax and budget decisions will have to be made in the Lamé Duck and Spring Sessions, especially if hoped-for federal bail-out money is not quickly forthcoming. Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton warned that state taxpayers should anticipate a 20% increase in the flat tax rate should the constitutional amendment fail.

Federal Races

On the morning after Election Day, there are several races yet to be called that will ultimately determine who wins the election for the President/Vice President of the United States and which party controls the United States Senate. Tight races which will determine who occupies the White House are in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The close races which will determine which party controls the U.S. Senate are North Carolina, Maine, and Georgia. In Illinois, while there was little doubt about the reelection of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. House races provided several surprises and there are two races, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood v. candidate Jim Oberweis and Congresswoman Cheri Bustos v. candidate Esther Joy King, which are still too-close-to-call.

President and Vice President

As expected, the election of the President and Vice President has yet to be decided. A combination of unprecedented numbers of in-person early voting and mailing-in/drop-box balloting together with disruptions caused by the pandemic have all made calling this election using traditional methods more problematic than it was even four years ago. President Trump currently trails former Vice President Biden in the all-important Electoral College voting by 213 to 238 with 87 votes yet to be decided.

United States Senate

Similar to the election for President and Vice President, control of the Senate has yet to be decided. The Republicans had a three vote majority going into the election but were vulnerable in several states. Currently, Republicans and Democrats are tied for control of this chamber of Congress at 47 seats each - with six contests as not yet decided. In Illinois, Senator Richard Durbin stood for reelection for his 5th term. He was opposed by Mark Curran, but was widely expected to be reelected. Senator Durbin has been declared the winner and leads Mark Curran 52.3% to 40.9% with 80% of the expected vote counted.

United States House of Representatives

The House of Representatives went into the election with a sizable Democrat majority which it was widely expected to retain and likely improved upon. In Illinois, many of the incumbents were in comfortable positions going into the election with only several exceptions.

Congressman Rodney Davis was in a rematch for the 13th District with Betsy Dirksen Londrigan. In the 2018 mid-term elections, Davis won by a narrow majority and this rematch had been widely expected and closely watched since then. Rodney Davis is the likely winner and leads Londrigan by 54.6% to 45.4% with 99.5% of the precincts reporting.

An unexpectedly tight race developed in the 17th district where incumbent Congresswoman Cheri Bustos squared-off against Esther Joy King. Cheri Bustos currently leads King 51.7% to 48.3% with 99.9% of the precincts reporting.

In the 15th District, long-serving Congressman John Shimkus' retirement left an open seat which was contested by Republican Mary Miller and Democrat Erika Weaver. Southern Illinois is a Republican stronghold and after winning the primary Miller was viewed as the likely successor to Shimkus. Mary Miller leads Weaver by 73% to 27% and had been declared the winner with 91% of the precincts reporting.

In the 3rd District, long-serving Congressman Dan Lipinski was defeated in a primary rematch against Marie Newman. This district is solidly Democrat and after winning the primary Newman was viewed as the likely victor. Marie Newman leads Mike Fricilone by 53.2% to 46.8% and has been declared the winner with 99.4% of the precincts reporting.

Two other Congressional Districts were being closely watched to see if first term Democrats Lauren Underwood and Sean Casten would be able to retain their formerly Republican leaning Chicago suburban districts. In the 14th District, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood's race is still too-close-to-call and her opponent Jim Oberweis is leading 50.1% to 49.9% with 100 of the precincts reporting. In the 6th District, Congressman Sean Casten wins reelection against Jeanne Ives by 51.5% to 46.7% with 99.7% of the precincts reporting.

Elections in the remaining Illinois U.S. House district races yielded no surprises for the incumbents.

1st District – Democrat Congressman Bobby Rush wins reelection with 72.7% of the vote.

2nd District – Democrat Congresswoman Robin Kelly wins reelection with 76.5% of the vote.

4th District – Democrat Congressman Chuy Garcia wins reelection with 82.3% of the vote.

5th District – Democrat Congressman Mike Quigley wins reelection with 68.8% of the vote.

7th District – Democrat Congressman Danny Davis wins reelection with 80.5% of the vote.

8th District – Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi ran unopposed and wins reelection with 70.9% of the vote.

9th District – Democrat Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky wins reelection 67.5% of the vote.

10th District – Democrat Congressman Brad Schneider wins reelection with 60% of the vote.

11th District – Democrat Congressman Bill Foster wins reelection 62.9% of the vote.

12th District – Republican Congressman Mike Bost wins reelection with 61.2% of the vote.

16th District – Republican Congressman Adam Kinzinger wins reelection with 65.2% of the vote.

18th District – Republican Congressman Darin LaHood wins reelection with 70.5% of the vote.

Illinois Supreme Court

In Illinois' only Supreme Court race, Republican David Overstreet defeated Democrat Judy Cates to replace retiring 5th District Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier (R). The 3rd District voted not to retain Democratic Justice Thomas Kilbride. This creates a 3-3 partisan split on the court until a replacement for Kilbride is appointed. That seat will be up for election in 2022.

Illinois State Senate

In the Illinois Senate, 22 of the 59 seats were on the ballot, 11 were contested, and only three were competitive. Representative Karina Villa (D, West Chicago) leads over her opponent Jeanette Ward (R, West Chicago) to replace conservative State Senator Jim Oberweis (R, Sugar Grove) who chose to run for Congress. Senator Dave Koehler (D, Peoria) defeated a strong challenge from Mary Burress (R, Pekin). And in an unexpectedly close race, Senator Martwick, (D, Chicago) holds a slim lead over Anthony Beckman (R, Harwood Heights).

Key Senate Races and Open Seats:

10th Senate District: In a surprisingly competitive race, Senator Robert Martwick (D, Chicago) is holding onto a narrow lead over challenger Anthony Beckman (R, Harwood Heights). Final votes will be counted by November 17.

11th Senate District: Senator Celina Villanueva (D, Chicago) defeated a challenge from Democracy in America candidate Mari Brown. Villanueva replaced former State Senator Martin Sandoval.

25th Senate District – Open Seat: In this highly competitive race, at the time of this writing State Representative Karina Villa (D, West Chicago) is narrowly leading Jeanette Ward (R, West Chicago) to replace Republican State Senator Jim Oberweis who ran for Congress.

31st Senate District: Senator Melinda Bush (D, Grayslake) is expected to defeat a challenge from Christopher Kasperski (R, Lindenhurst). The Lake County election authority was having difficulty at the time of writing.

34th Senate District: Senator Steve Stadelman (D, Caledonia) defeated challenger Paul Hofmann (R, Roscoe).

37th Senate District: Republican Win Stoller ran unopposed to replace retiring Senator Chuck Weaver.

40th Senate District: Senator Patrick Joyce (D, Essex) defeated a challenge from Eric Wallace (R, Flossmoor). Joyce emerged victorious in a crowded primary field after he was appointed to replace Senator Toi Hutchinson who was appointed to lead the Pritzker Administration's oversight of adult cannabis.

43rd Senate District – Open Seat: Representative John Connor (D, Lockport) defeated Ben Bierly (R, Elwood) to replace Senator Pat McGuire who did not seek reelection.

46th Senate District: Senator Dave Koehler (D, Peoria) defeated a strong challenge from Mary Burress (R, Pekin).

49th Senate District – Open Seat: Meg Cappel (D, Shorewood) defeated Thomas McCullagh (R, Shorewood) to replace Democratic Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant who did not seek reelection.

52nd Senate District: State Senator Scott Bennett (D, Champaign) defeated a challenge from Alexander Ruggieri (R, Savoy).

55th Senate District – Open Seat: State Representative Darren Bailey (R, Xenia) defeated a challenge from Cynthia Given (D, Olney) to replace Republican Senator Dale Righter who did not seek reelection.

58th Senate District – Open Seat: Representative Terri Bryant (R, Murphysboro) ran unopposed to replace Republican Senator Paul Schmipf who did not seek reelection.

Illinois State House

In the Illinois House, all 118 seats were on the ballot, with 64 of those being contested. Due to mail-in ballots not being counted at the time of writing, the results below could change. As it stands now, House Democrats may have a net loss of two seats but that could change depending on the final election results. In the Illinois House, Representative Nathan Reitz (D, Steeleville) lost to challenger David Friess (R, Red Bud). Representative Monica Bristow (D, Alton) lost to Amy Elik (R, Alton). Representative Mary Edly-Allen (D, Libertyville) is in a tight race with Chris Bos (R, Lake Zurich). First-term Representative Terra Cosa Howard (D, Glen Ellyn) defeated former Representative Peter Breen, (R, Lombard). Breen lost to Costa Howard in 2018. First-term Representative Anne Stava-Murray (D, Naperville) defeated Laura Hois (R, Downers Grove). Representative Dianne Pappas (D, Bloomingdale) lost to challenger Seth Lewis (R).

Representative John Cabello (R, Machesney Park) holds a narrow lead over Dave Vella (D, Rockford). Representative Amy Grant (R, Wheaton) defeated Ken Mejia-Beal (D, Lisle) in this highly competitive race. Representative Deanne Mazzochi (R, Elmhurst) defeated Jennifer Zordani (D, Clarendon Hills). In a rematch from 2018, Representative Tom Morrison (R, Palatine) defeated Maggie Trevor (D, Rolling Meadows). Representative Allen Skillicorn (R, East Dundee) lost to Suzanne Ness (D, Crystal Lake). Representative Brad Stephens (R, Rosemont) defeated Michelle Darbro, (D, Chicago). Stephens was appointed to replace Representative Michael McAullife when he resigned. Representative Dan Ugaste (R, Geneva) defeated Martha Paschke (D, Geneva). Representative Grant Wherli (R, Naperville) lost to Janet Yang Rohr (D). Representative Mark Batinick (R, Plainfield) prevailed in a strong challenge from Harry Benton (D).

Key House Races and Open Seats:

17th Representative District: Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D, Glenview) easily defeated a challenge from Yesoe Yoon (R, Skokie) and Green Party Candidate Christopher Kruger.

18th Representative District: Representative Robyn Gabel (D, Evanston) defeated a challenge from Independent candidate Sean Matlis.

19th Representative District: Representative Lindsey LaPointe (D, Chicago) defeated a challenge from Jeff Muehlfelder (R, Chicago) and Libertarian candidate Joseph Schreiner.

20th Representative District: In this highly targeted race, appointed Representative Brad Stephens (R, Rosemont) is leading over his opponent Michelle Darbro, (D, Chicago) at the time of this writing. Stephens was appointed to replace Representative Michael McAullife who resigned.

35th Representative District: Representative Fran Hurley (D, Chicago) defeated a challenge from Herbert Hebein (R, Chicago).

37th Representative District – Open Seat: Tim Ozinga (R, Mokena) defeated Michelle Fadeley (D, Joliet) to replace Republican Representative Margo McDermed who did not seek reelection.

38th Representative District: Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin (D, Olympia Fields) defeated a challenge from Max Solomon (R, Hazel Crest).

41st Representative District: In this highly competitive race, Janet Yang Rohr (D, Naperville) defeated Representative Grant Wehrli (R, Naperville).

42nd Representative District: In this competitive race, Representative Amy Grant (R, Wheaton) defeated challenger Ken Mejia-Beal (D, Lisle) with all precincts reporting.

45th Representative District: Seth Lewis (R, Bartlett) defeated Representative Diane Pappas (D, Itasca). This race was a rematch from 2018.

47th Representative District: In this highly competitive race, Representative Deanne Mazzochi (R, Elmhurst) defeated a challenge from Jennifer Zordani (D, Clarendon Hills).

48th Representative District: First-term Representative Terra Costa Howard (D, Glen Ellyn) defeated a challenge from former Representative Peter Breen, (R, Lombard). Breen lost to Costa Howard in 2018

49th Representative District – Open Seat: Maura Hirschauer (D, Batavia) defeated Laura Curtis (R, North Aurora) to replace Democratic Representative Karina Villa.

50th Representative District: Representative Keith Wheeler (R, Oswego) defeated a challenge from Kate Monteleone (D, St. Charles).

51st Representative District: At the time of this writing, Chris Bos (R, Lake Zurich) is leading over Representative Mary Edly-Allen (D, Libertyville).

52nd Representative District – Open Seat: Martin McLaughlin (R, Barrington Hills) defeated a challenge from Marci Suelzer (D, Island Lake) and Green Party candidate Alia Sarfraz to replace Republican Representative David McSweeney who did not seek reelection.

54th Representative District: Representative Tom Morrison (R, Palatine) defeated a challenge from Maggie Trevor (D, Rolling Meadows). This race was a rematch from 2018.

55th Representative District: Representative Marty Moylan (D, Des Plaines) defeated a challenge from Libertarian Glenn Olofson.

56th Representative District: Representative Michelle Mussman (D, Schaumburg) defeated a challenge from Scott Kegarise (R, Schaumburg).

62nd Representative District: This race is too close to call at this time. In this race, Representative Sam Yingling (D, Grayslake) is facing a challenge from Jim Walsh (R, Round Lake Beach)

63rd Representative District: Representative Steven Reick (R, Woodstock) defeated a challenge from Brian Sager (D, Woodstock).

64th Representative District: Representative Tom Weber (R, Lake Villa) defeated a challenge from Leslie Armstrong-McLeod (D, Fox Lake).

65th Representative District: With all precincts reporting, Representative Dan Ugaste (R, Geneva) defeated a challenge from Martha Paschke (D, Geneva).

66th Representative District: With all precincts reporting, Representative Allen Skillicorn (R, East Dundee) is leading Suzanne Ness (D, Crystal Lake).

67th Representative District: Representative Maurice West II (D, Rockford) defeated a challenge from Kathie Jo Hansen (R, Rockford)

68th Representative District: Representative John Cabello (R, Machesney Park) defeated challenger Dave Vella (D, Rockford).

70th Representative District: Representative Jeff Keicher (R, Sycamore) defeated a challenge from Paul Stoddard (D, DeKalb).

71st Representative District: Representative Tony McCombie (R, Savanna) defeated a challenge from Joan Padilla (D, Sterling).

72nd Representative District: Representative Michael Halpin (D, Rock Island) defeated a challenge from Glen Evans Sr. (R, Rock Island).

74th Representative District: Representative Dan Swanson (R, Alpha) defeated a challenge from Christopher Demink (D, Sherrard)

76th Representative District: In this race, Representative Lance Yednock (D, Ottawa) is facing a challenge from Travis Breeden (R, Utica). This race is too close to call at this time.

77th Representative District: Representative Kathleen Willis (D, Addison) defeated a challenge from Anthony Airdo (R, Melrose Park).

78th Representative District: Representative Camille Lilly (D, Chicago) defeated a challenge from Libertarian Joshua Flynn.

79th Representative District – Open Seat: Jackie Haas (R, Bourbonnais) defeated Charlene Eads (D, Bradley) to replace Republican Representative Lindsay Parkhurst who did not seek reelection.

80th Representative District: Representative Anthony DeLuca (D, Chicago Heights) defeated a challenge from Clayton Cleveland (R, Mokena).

81st Representative District: At the time of this writing, Laura Hois (R, Downers Grove) holds a narrow lead over first-term Representative Anne Stava-Murray (D, Naperville).

82nd Representative District: House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (R, Western Springs) defeated a challenge from Kassem Moukahal (D, Orland Park).

83rd Representative District: Representative Barbara Hernandez (D, Aurora) defeated a challenge from Donald Walter (R, Aurora).

85th Representative District – Open Seat: Dee Avelar (D, Bolingbrook) defeated Ron Doweidt (R, Bolingbrook) and Green Party candidate Anna Schiefelbein to replace Democrat Representative John Connor.

87th Representative District: Representative Tim Butler (R, Springfield) defeated a challenge from Green Party candidate Gello Sides.

88th Representative District: Representative Keith Sommer (R, Mackinaw) defeated Karla Bailey-Smith (D, Bloomington) and Libertarian Kenneth Allison.

89th Representative District: Representative Andrew Chesney (R, Freeport) defeated a challenge from Independent John Cook.

90th Representative District: Representative Tom Demmer (R, Dixon) defeated a challenge from Seth Wiggins (D, Dixon).

91st Representative District – Open Seat: Mark Luft (R, Pekin) defeated Josh Grys (D, Pekin) to replace Republican Representative Mike Unes who is not seeking reelection.

92nd Representative District: Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth (D, Peoria) defeated a challenge from Libertarian Chad Grimm.

93rd Representative District: Representative Norine Hammond (R, Macomb) defeated a challenge from Scott Stoll (D, Rushville).

94th Representative District: Representative Randy Frese (R, Paloma) defeated a challenge from Angel Smith (D, Quincy).

95th Representative District: Representative Avery Bourne (R, Morrisonville) defeated a challenge from Chase Wilhelm (D, Coffeen).

96th Representative District: Representative Sue Scherer (D, Decatur) defeated a challenge from Charles McGorray (R, Decatur) and Green Party candidate John Keating.

97th Representative District: Representative Mark Batinick (R, Plainfield) defeated a challenge from Harry Benton (D, Plainfield).

100th Representative District: Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer (R, Jacksonville) defeated a challenge from Brandon Adams (Jacksonville) and Pro-Gun/Pro-Life Party candidate Ralph Sides.

102nd Representative District: Representative Brad Halbrook (R, Shelbyville) defeated a challenge from Mitchell Esslinger (D, Strasburg).

103rd Representative District: Representative Carol Ammons (D, Urbana) defeated a challenge from Libertarian candidate Brad Bielert.

104th Representative District: Representative Mike Marron (R, Fithian) defeated a challenge from Cynthia Cunningham (D, Saint Joseph).

105th Representative District: Representative Dan Brady (R, Bloomington) defeated a challenge from Chamberly Cummings (D, Normal).

107th Representative District: Representative Blaine Wilhour (R, Beecher City) defeated a challenge from David Seiler (D, Effingham).

108th Representative District: Representative Charlie Meier (R, Okawville) defeated a challenge from Kacie Weicherding (D, Hoyleton).

109th Representative District – Open Seat: Adam Niemerg (R, Dieterich) defeated John Spencer (D, Louisville) to replace Republican Representative Darren Bailey who ran for State Senate.

110th Representative District: Representative Chris Miller (R, Oakland) defeated a challenge from Independent candidate Kody Czerwonka.

111th Representative District: Amy Elik (R, Alton) defeated Representative Monica Bristow (D, Alton).

112th Representative District: Representative Kaite Stuart (D, Edwardsville) defeated a challenge from Lisa Ciampoli (R, Collinsville).

113th Representative District: Representative Jay Hoffman (D, Swansea) defeated a challenge from Libertarian Mark Elmore and Constitution Party candidate Ryan Musick.

114th Representative District: Representative LaToya Greenwood (D, East St. Louis) defeated a challenge from Dave Barnes (R, Belleville).

115th Representative District – Open Seat: Paul Jacobs (R, Pomona) defeated Green Party candidate Randy Auxier and Libertarian Party candidate Ian Peak to replace Republican Representative Terri Bryant who ran for the State Senate.

116th Representative District: David Friess (R, Red Bud) defeated Representative Nathan Reitz (D, Steeleville).

Additional Analysis

Although solidly blue in a deeply divided nation, the 2020 election reminds us that Illinois continues to be a bellwether state, reflecting the divisions of the nation as a whole. Politics and the pandemic have exacerbated the already existing geographic and intra-party divisions, as record turn-out and early voting have, at least initially, contradicted anticipated trends of a down-ballot Democratic sweep in much of the State.

Despite support at the polls for Biden and Durbin, there are divisions in the State, like the nation, and they have been deepened by the pandemic. Sparsely populated Southern Illinois, which like the nation's deep South, was once solidly Democratic, is now solidly Republican, reflecting its overall conservative bent. President Trump won this region of the State, and three of the State's five Congressional Republicans represent the entire area. All three were re-elected by large margins.

Agricultural Central Illinois, which has been Republican since Lincoln was a lawyer, remains Republican, with the exception of college towns and a few larger cities. The current legislative map, drawn by Democrats in 2011, ensures that some Democrats can be elected, specifically in Peoria, Champaign, and Decatur.

Almost two-thirds of the State's residents live in the greater Chicagoland area. Chicago is overwhelmingly Democratic and it, along with suburban Cook County, fuels the engine for the State's Democratic Party, so much so that a small group of downstate Republican legislators, known as the *Eastern Bloc*, are advocating for the other 101 counties to secede from Illinois and create their own state.

Finally, as seen across the country, the traditional Republican but increasingly diverse suburbs became a battleground between the two parties during the Trump years. Suburban DuPage, Lake and Will counties were once reliable Republican counterweights to Democratic Chicago. Following the 2020 election, while the Democrats did not do as well as projected, much of the western suburbs are now part of the Democratic stronghold.

And the divisions within the State are deeper than just geography or even party. Michael Madigan, the longest serving Speaker of the House in Illinois history and the long-time chairman of the state Democratic party, is, at 78, facing rumbles of opposition from the younger, more progressive wing of his own party. In the Senate, Democratic President Don Harmon won a long and hard-fought battle in January to be the 39th President of the Illinois Senate upon the early retirement of former Senate President John Cullerton last fall. At the time of writing, Harmon is not expecting a challenge.

Within the Republican party at the state level, leadership has tried to capitalize on the Speaker's longevity and the variety of issues that have surfaced over the years, but both House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (suburban Chicago) and Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady (central Illinois) are facing potential opposition from the *Eastern Bloc* (Trump) wing of their party, who point out their leaders' failure to make electoral gains. The House Republicans, however, had a good showing on Tuesday.

Along with continued struggles related to the pandemic in all sectors of the economy and walks of life, a growing budget deficit, and potential intra-party leadership battles, the upcoming Veto, Lame Duck, and Spring Sessions will also see the Legislative Black Caucus issue a series of proposals in response to healthcare disparities exposed during the pandemic and civil justice reforms of the Black Lives Matter movement. Both Chambers also have proposals for legislative ethics reform and the decennial remap of Congressional and legislative districts will be decided. With super majorities in both Chambers and with control of the Governor's Office, Democrats should be able to pass a map that will preserve or even increase their majorities in the Statehouse and the Illinois Congressional delegation for the next decade. Accomplishing it in a way that pleases all Democratic members will be the challenge. Finally, the entire Spring Session will be played against the backdrop of the pandemic. How much members will accomplish and how much time they will have to do it, rests less with the issues to be tackled and more with the severity of the pandemic going into next year.

Notes from Springfield

Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady has announced that he will not seek re-election as caucus leader when the new General Assembly convenes in January. Sen. Dan McConchie and Sen. Jason Barickman are reportedly early front runners to replace him as the leader of the Senate Republican Caucus.

The fall veto session is scheduled to begin on November 17. It is anticipated that veto session days could be cancelled or modified because of the COVID pandemic.

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, notes that the caucus is prepared to present their omnibus package for consideration by the General Assembly during next month's veto session. Each of the four pillars of the package is being led by one Senator and one Representative. Senator Lightford and Representative Ammons are leading efforts in the area of education and workforce development. Senator Belt and Representative Harper are spearheading economic access, equity and opportunity legislation including affordable housing, land use, entrepreneurship, business development, banking and environmental justice. Senator Hunter and Representative Lilly are leading the healthcare and human services discussions. Senator Sims and Representative Slaughter are leading criminal justice reforms.

The House Special Investigating Committee has cancelled a previously scheduled hearing on November 5. The committee is investigating the conduct of House Speaker Michael Madigan in relation to the deferred prosecution agreement reached between electric supplier ComEd and federal prosecutors.

All 11 regions in Illinois are currently under COVID mitigations.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is leading a coalition of institutional investors, called the Diversity Disclosure Initiative, calling for American public companies to disclose the racial makeup of their boards. Frerichs is joined by Connecticut's Treasurer to push companies in the Russell 3000 Index to voluntarily reveal the racial and ethnic composition of their boards.

Rebuild Distressed Communities Grants: The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity teamed with the Local Initiatives Support Group and Chicago Neighborhood Initiative to coordinate reimbursement and capital as part of the Rebuild Distressed Communities program. The new program will direct \$25 million in funding to help cover the costs of civil-unrest-related repairs while also supporting new investments in economically distressed communities across Illinois. Applications opened October 27. [Click here for more information.](#)



For more information, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact [Jerry Peck](#) or [Megan Peck](#) at 800/736-2224.