

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

October 15, 2021

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to convene next week (October 19-21) and October 26-28. The Senate Assignments and House Rules Committees met this week to position legislation for consideration during the six-day Fall Veto Session. A number of potential issues have emerged for consideration. The General Assembly may act on electric vehicle manufacturing incentives, the unemployment insurance trust fund shortfall, clarification to the Health Care Right of Conscious Act, a gaming/sports betting bill, collaborative agreements for physician assistants, repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion Act for minors, election code clean up, midwife certification, and new Congressional and judicial subcircuit maps. The rumor that session days could be cancelled isn't looking likely.

The Senate is implementing COVID protocols for the upcoming session. Those wishing to access Senate areas must undergo twice-a-week COVID testing. Advanced appointments are required to meet with Senators. The House is also making COVID testing available. The House has closed its viewing Gallery to the public, and only the media and special guests will be allowed access.

DRAFT CONGRESSIONAL MAP RELEASED

House and Senate Democrats released their proposed map of new congressional boundaries. The 17 proposed districts have equal populations of 753,677 residents. The map includes just one majority Hispanic district and three predominantly Black districts. Illinois Democrats are attempting to increase their congressional majority from 13-5 to 14-3, but some districts could end up being toss-ups, such as the 14th and the 6th districts.

The proposed map can be seen [HERE](#), and proposed demographic data can be found [HERE](#).

U.S. Rep. **Adam Kinzinger** (R-Channahon) has been drawn into the new 3rd District with Rep. **Marie Newman** (D-LaGrange) in a district that runs from Midway Airport west to Ottawa and LaSalle. Kinzinger has openly mulled a run for U.S. Senate in 2022 and indicated in a statement Friday a statewide race may be more likely. "Following the release of the new congressional maps for Illinois, my team and I will spend some time looking them over and reviewing all of the options, including those outside the House," he said.

Congressman **Darin LaHood** (R-Peoria) and Congresswoman **Mary Miller** (R-Oakland) have been drawn into a potential primary in the new 16th District, which runs from the southern edge of the Quad Cities to Quincy east to rural areas around Champaign and south to Miller's home north of Charleston. It is expected to be heavily Republican.

Congressman **Rodney Davis** (R-Taylorville) was drawn out of his current 13th District and into the new 15th District. The new district includes Vandalia and Effingham to the south, north to Danville and along the Indiana border and cuts to northwest Illinois, including Kewanee, Sterling, Dixon, and Freeport.

The map reduces rural areas of the 13th District and adds Democratic portions of St. Clair County, like Belleville and East St. Louis, to make the district more Democratic. The new 13th district includes nearly all of Springfield, the northern portion of Decatur, and all of Champaign-Urbana. Former Pritzker and Biden administration official **Nikki Budzinski** has announced to run for the seat.

The 17th District is an open seat being vacated by Congresswoman **Cheri Bustos**. The Democrats added more of Rockford and Peoria to the Quad Cities based district, and it also snakes to include central portions of Bloomington and Normal to make it a stronger district for Democrats.

Currently, two additional redistricting hearings will be held next week in order to hear additional feedback from the public. The House Redistricting Committee will meet Wednesday, October 20, at 9 a.m. in room 114 of the Illinois State Capitol building, and the Senate Redistricting Committee will meet on the same day at 2 p.m. in room 212 of the Illinois State Capitol building.

For more information on state legislative and public policy issues, please contact:

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

401 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 200 • Springfield, IL 62701 • 217-528-2858 • www.communitycolleges.org

