



## ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report November 18, 2022

---

*The Illinois General Assembly convened this week for Fall Veto Session but didn't take action on any major issues. We expect to see changes to the controversial SAFE-T Act the second week of veto session, which is scheduled for November 29-December 1. Other controversial issues like abortion and gun control may not be taken up until the lame duck session in January or after the new General Assembly takes the oath of office.*

*Illinois election authorities are still counting late arriving vote-by-mail and provisional ballots, and final totals won't be reported until November 22, but there are clear winners in nearly all races.*

### KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Veto Session:** The Fall 2022 Veto Session is scheduled for **November 29-December 1**.
- **Lame Duck Session:** Members have been advised to be prepared to meet in Springfield on **January 4-10, 2023**.
- **Swearing-In Sessions:** The 103rd General Assembly convenes at noon on **Wednesday, January 11, 2023**. New Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis will swear in the Senate, and soon-to-be Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias will swear in the House.
- **Spring 2023 Session:** The **official Spring Session** calendar will be released after Veto Session.

### SUPERMAJORITIES CONTINUE IN BOTH CHAMBERS

Senate President Harmon and House Speaker Welch raised an incredible amount of money and ran an unprecedented number of legislative races. Each caucus only lost one member, both in the Metro East where shifting population and low voter turnout heavily impacted the election. The **Senate Dems will have a 40-19 Democratic majority** in the 103rd General Assembly. The House Dems picked up 5 seats (plus another that looks to be a Dem win), which would give the **House Dems an unprecedented 78-40 Democratic majority**. Both chambers have turnover, with 22 new members in the House and 7 in the Senate, including several former members and those switching chambers.

The Republican minorities in the Illinois House and Senate elected new leaders for the 103rd General Assembly. Following the election, House Minority Leader **Jim Durkin** announced he would not seek another term, and Rep. **Tony McCombie** (R-Mt. Sterling) secured the votes for the position. She will be the first female House Minority Leader. Although she has yet to form her full leadership team, McCombie already named Rep. **Norine Hammond** as her deputy minority leader. Reps. Marty McLaughlin (R-Lake Barrington) and Tim Ozinga (R-Mokena) also pursued the position. In the Senate, Minority Leader **Dan McConchie** (R-Lake Zurich) drew a challenge from Sen. **John Curran** (R-Lemont), who was ultimately supported unanimously by the Senate Republican caucus.

Senate Democrats also voted to support President **Don Harmon** (D-Oak Park). House Democrats will hold its caucus on November 30<sup>th</sup>, although Speaker **Emmanuel “Chris” Welch** (D-Westchester) announced he secured the necessary votes within his caucus to continue as Speaker of the House.

### **BIG CHANGES TO THE HOUSE GOP CAUCUS**

Rep. **Tim Butler** (R-Springfield) announced last week he will resign from the House and take a job with the Illinois Railroad Association. Republicans will fill his vacancy. Of the 11 HGOP members of Jim Durkin’s leadership team, only three will be returning for the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (assuming Rep. **Deanne Mazzochi** loses her race, as this race is still close): **Tom Bennett**, **C.D. Davidsmeyer**, and **Ryan Spain**. Along with Butler, Rep. **Dan Brady** of Bloomington ran unsuccessfully for Secretary of State, Rep. **Tom Demmer** of Dixon lost for state Treasurer, and Rep. **Avery Bourne** of Morrisonville made a failed bid for lieutenant governor in the June GOP primary. Rep. **David Welter** of Morris lost to a more conservative challenger in the primary, and Rep. **Keith Wheeler** of Oswego was unseated in the general election. Rep. **Mark Batinick** of Plainfield, meanwhile, chose not to seek another term.

### **WORKER’S RIGHTS AMENDMENT PASSED**

Voters were asked to decide whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to include language that would constitutionally enshrine the right to collectively bargain wages and other terms of employment. To pass, the amendment must be approved by 60% of those voting on the question or a majority of those casting ballots. It likely will not reach the 60% threshold but appears to have passed with approximately 53% of the total ballots cast.

### **NEW MEMBERS IN THE ILLINOIS SENATE**

1. Javier Cervantes (1 - D)
2. Mike Porfiro (11 - D)
3. Willie Person (16 - D)
4. Seth Lewis (24 - D)
5. Mike Halpin (36 - D)
6. Rachel Ventura (43 - D)
7. Erica Conway Harriss (56 - R)

### **NEW MEMBERS IN THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Lillian Jimenez (4 - D)
2. Hoan Huynh (13 - D)
3. Kevin Olickal (16 - D)
4. Abdelnasser Rashid (21 - D)
5. Jenn Douglas Latish (45 - D) \*Still counting votes
6. Jennifer Sanalidro (48 - R)
7. Nabeela Syed (51-D)
8. Mary Beth Canty (54 - D)
9. Laura Dias (62 -D)
10. Gregg Johnson (72 - D)
11. Brad Fritts (74 - R)

12. Jed David (75 - R)
13. Norma Hernandez (77 - D)
14. Matt Hanson (83-D)
15. Bill Hauter (87 - R)
16. John Cabello (90 - R)
17. Sharon Chung (91 - D)
18. There will be a replacement named for retiring Rep. Tim Butler (96 - R)
19. Harry Benton (97 - D)
20. Dennis Tipsword (105 - R)
21. Wayne Rosenthal (108 - R)
22. Kevin Schmidt (114 - R)

### **COVID EXECUTIVE ORDER IS EXTENDED**

[Executive Order 2022 - 22](#) reissues previous COVID-related Executive Orders through December 9, 2022.

### **PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS NEAR-COMPLETE DEFICIT ELIMINATION IN FIVE YEARS**

The state's budget deficit will be mostly eliminated in five years, according to models released by the Governor's Office of Budget and Management Monday. The annual [Illinois Economic and Fiscal Policy Report](#) shows that the state can expect as much as a \$1.7 billion budget surplus for Fiscal Year 2023, rather than a \$3 billion shortfall as projected in 2019.

Gov. **JB Pritzker** has stated that he intends to pursue several actions to continue Illinois' strong path forward, including working with the Legislature to:

- Make additional deposits of \$1.3 billion into the state's rainy-day fund, bringing it to more than \$2.3 billion. While Illinois currently has its highest balance ever at \$1.045 billion, Illinois is still among the smallest state rainy-day funds;
- Set aside funds to pay off revenue bonds issued in 2010 to help the state pay bills that mounted during the Great Recession. About one-third of the \$1.5 billion borrowed at the time remains outstanding; and
- Make an additional contribution toward the Unemployment Insurance Trust fund. The Trust Fund's remaining debt to the federal government is \$1.345 billion plus interest, down from last year's level of \$4.5 billion.

### **GIANNOULIAS TRANSITION TEAM**

Secretary of State-elect Alexi Giannoulias revealed his transition team members and a new website to gather ideas from the public for the Secretary of State's office. Members of the committee include retiring U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos; Stephanie Neely, former Chicago treasurer and now managing director at J.P. Morgan Asset Management North America Institutional Central and Canada; Martin Cabrera, CEO and founder of Cabrera Capital Markets and Cabrera Capital Partners; and Ed Smith, CEO and president of Ullico and a former leader of the Laborers International Union.

### **ISBE'S DR. CARMEN AYALA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala has announced plans to retire at the end of her current contract, which concludes January 31, 2023. Dr. Ayala has served as State Superintendent since early 2019, shepherding Illinois schools through COVID-19 and kickstarting their academic recovery – leading most recently to a decade-high in the state's graduation rate.

### **CYBERSECURITY PERFORMANCE GOALS**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a set of cross-sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals (CPGs), which were developed at the direction of the White House, in coordination with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and other agencies. The CPGs provide guidance to critical infrastructure partners to help them prioritize security investments toward areas that will have the greatest impact on their cybersecurity, and they are developed to be implemented in concert with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF). Every organization should use the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to develop a rigorous, comprehensive cybersecurity program. The CPGs prescribe an abridged subset of actions – a kind of “QuickStart guide” – for the NIST CSF to help organizations prioritize their investments. CISA is releasing an accompanying [Checklist](#) that prioritizes each Goal by Cost, Impact, and Complexity.

### **SOCIAL EQUITY FORGIVABLE LOAN**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will make \$8.75 million in Direct Forgivable Loans available to all conditionally-approved social equity cannabis license loan applicants in order to provide immediate access to capital. The loans are fully funded by the state. Craft Growers are eligible for \$500,000, infusers are eligible for \$250,000 and transporters are eligible for \$50,000.

### **CANNABIS DISPENSING ORGANIZATION LICENSES ISSUED**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation issued the first full adult use cannabis dispensing organization licenses to two social equity applicants: Ivy Hall and Green Rose, both located in Chicago. The agency anticipates issuing an additional 198 licenses in the near future.

### **GARCIA ANNOUNCED MAYORAL CAMPAIGN**

U.S. Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (D-4) has formally announced his candidacy for Chicago Mayor. Garcia won reelection to the 4th Congressional District on November 8. He previously ran for mayor in 2015. With Garcia entering the race, that brings the number of candidates up to 14: incumbent Mayor Lori Lightfoot; State Rep. Kam Buckner; Chicago Alds. Sophia King, Raymond Lopez, and Roderick Sawyer; Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson; former Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas; activist Willie Wilson; police officer Frederick Collins; Freedom of Information Act expert Robert Earnshaw; activist Ja'Mal Green; and business executives Dennis “DJ” Doran and John Thomas. Rumored as a potential candidate, Chicago Ald. Tom Tunney has decided not to run for mayor.

## **CHICAGO 2023 BUDGET APPROVED**

The Chicago City Council passed Mayor Lori Lightfoot's \$16.4 billion budget, 32-18, on Monday, November 7. The budget keeps the property tax rate flat and increases police spending. Mandated payments to the city's pension fund continue to grow year over year. In 2023, the city will spend \$2.6 billion in contributions to its four pension funds. This year's budget is also the first to reflect what many hope will be years to come of revenue from the city's forthcoming casino.

## **COOK COUNTY BOARD 2023 BUDGET APPROVED**

The Cook County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the county's \$8.8 billion budget for 2023, which is free of taxes and full of plans to spend the county's federal COVID relief dollars on a slew of social programs. After amendments, the \$8.8 billion figure is a roughly 8% increase over her 2022 budget and nearly three times the size of Preckwinkle's budget a decade ago. That growth has been driven by the county expanding its flagship health system — at a 2023 cost of more than \$4 billion — and steadily rising pension payments, which will total more than \$500 million in 2023.

*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](http://www.communitycolleges.org)

