

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

January 31, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Gov. **JB Pritzker** is scheduled to deliver his combined State of the State and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Address to a joint session of the Illinois House and Senate on February 2. His speech was delivered virtually last year but will be held in person this year, although the chamber will remain closed to the public. The Governor is expected to propose a “maintenance” budget, with little new General Revenue Fund spending, but may create additional programs for education, property owners, and middle-class individuals impacted by COVID.

There has been little legislative action in January, as lawmakers only met one day in person and have only held a handful of committee meetings. The latest COVID surge has largely kept legislators in their district, and the late June primary has forced them to focus on circulating petitions during a time traditionally focused on filing bills, holding stakeholder meetings, and introducing legislation in committees. Legislative leaders, however, say that they are prepared to get back to work in February.

January 21 was the deadline to file substantive bills in the Senate, and January 28 was the deadline to file substantive bills in the House. Since January, the Senate filed over 1,000 bills, and the House filed closer to 1,500. The short amount of time to adopt a budget and address any necessary legislation will be unprecedented.

*****Please review [ICCTA's BILL LIST](#).**

Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- February 2: Governor’s State of the State/Budget Address
- February 10: Senate Committee Deadline
- February 18: House Committee Deadline
- February 25: Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- March 4: House 3rd Reading Deadline

***** LEGISLATION SWITCHES CHAMBERS *****

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

2022 Campaign Updates

Petition circulation for the 2022 general primary election began on Thursday, January 13, with signatures due March 14.

Jonathan Jackson has filed paperwork to run in the Democratic primary for the Congressional 1st district seat being vacated by Rep. Bobby Rush. His father is civil rights activist **Rev. Jesse Jackson**. This race already includes 16 declared candidates, including Chicago Ald. **Pat Dowell**.

Kendall County Board Chairman **Scott Gryder** of Oswego announced a challenge to U.S. Rep. **Lauren Underwood** (D-Naperville) in the new 14th Congressional district. Gryder faces former radio talk show host **Mike Koolidge**, Kendall County GOP Chairman **Jim Marter**, and small business owner **Jack Lombardi** in the GOP primary. Gryder would likely be considered by donors as the most “competitive” candidate against Underwood in November.

In the Congressional 13th District, **David Palmer**, a Democrat from Champaign, is running against **Nikki Budzinski** of Springfield in the June 28 primary. Budzinski is the strong favorite in this district drawn to favor a Democrat. **Jesse Reising**, a Republican from Decatur, and Republican **Regan Deering**, also from Decatur, entered the race last week.

In General Assembly candidate announcements:

- Triton College Trustee **Norma Hernandez** will challenge Rep. **Kathleen Willis** (D-Addison) in the Democrat primary. Hernandez has the support of U.S. Rep. **Chuy Garcia**.
- **Tina Wallace**, a Chicago real estate professional, will challenge Rep. **Lindsey LaPointe** (D-Chicago) in the Democratic primary.
- Republican **Stefanie Hood** will challenge Rep. **Terra Costa Howard** (D-Glen Ellyn). Hood ran against then-Senate President **John Cullerton** in 2014.
- Former state Rep. **John Cabello** (R-Machesney Park) will be challenged in the primary by Operating Engineers Local 150 Business Agent **Mark Szula**. Szula is the village president of Roscoe, which is near Rockford.
- Rep. **Mark Luft** (R-Pekin) will face **Travis Weaver** in the Republican primary. Luft is the son of former Sen. **Dick Luft**, and Weaver is the son of former Sen. **Chuck Weaver**.
- House Republicans are backing **Peter Pettorini** for the open seat created when Rep. **Sam Yingling** (D-Grayslake) decided to run for retiring Sen. **Melinda Bush's** (D-Grayslake) seat. **Laura Dias** and **Tom Maillard** are competing for the Democratic nomination.
- The House GOP is also supporting **Rory Welch** against Rep. **Jonathan Carroll** (D-Northbrook).
- The 47th Ward Democrats have endorsed **Eileen Dordek** in the crowded Democratic primary to replace retiring House Majority Leader **Greg Harris**. About a third of the district's vote comes out of that ward.

COVID UPDATES

Gov. Pritzker and the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health are cautiously optimistic that the latest COVID-19 surge has peaked. While hospitalizations are down 15.2% over the past week, the Governor cautioned that medical staff remain overwhelmed with the sheer volume of patients they are treating. IDPH also reported an additional 843 deaths last week, up again from 746 a week ago.

Chicago also appears to have peaked. The city's COVID-19 test positivity peaked at 19.6% on January 1 and dropped to 12.6% on January 18^h, which is the lowest rate since December 28. Hospitalizations have not yet begun to drop, but they have plateaued.

ILLINOIS UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN IN DECEMBER

Illinois' jobless rate fell 0.4% to 5.4% in December 2021. The Illinois Department of Employment Security reports that nonfarm payrolls increased by 22,800 in December; gains included 9,400 jobs in the professional and business services sector; 8,500 jobs in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector; and 2,200 jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector. Losses of 1,800, 300, and 100 jobs were seen in the financial activities, educational and health services, and government sectors, respectively. The state's preliminary unemployment rate remains 1.4% higher than the national rate of 3.9%.

JUDGE GRANTS RESTRAINING ORDER TO STOP JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING

Earlier this month, Gov. Pritzker signed a law that splits the current 3rd Judicial Circuit — which includes Madison and Bond counties — into new subcircuits. Madison County's state's attorney filed a lawsuit to try to stop that plan. According to the lawsuit, the requirement "poses an undue burden on Madison County Administration in terms of the time, manpower and resources it will take to implement for the 2022 elections." Changes to other circuit maps do not go into effect until 2024, but Madison County's map goes into effect this year with no explanation for the "differential treatment," the suit says. A Sangamon County judge granted a temporary restraining order halting the implementation of the new judicial subcircuits in Madison County.

PRITZKER APPOINTS FORMER COMMISSIONER TO ICC

Gov. Pritzker has appointed **Ann McCabe**, a former member of the Illinois Commerce Commission, to rejoin the regulatory body for a five-year term. McCabe previously served from March 2012 to January 2017. Since leaving ICC, McCabe worked as a U.S. Program Manager and Principal at the Regulatory Assistance Project, a non-profit that assists energy and environmental regulators. McCabe has over 25 years of experience in the energy and environmental policy sectors.

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

