

The Illinois House of Representatives began this week's session on Monday, April 7, while the Illinois Senate will convene today. Lawmakers will be working on their priority legislation to advance it out of the first chamber before the cross-over deadline on Friday, April 11. The week will include a series of committee hearings to take up amendments, as well as floor action to vote on bills.

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

It is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

KEY 2025 SESSION DATES FOR THE 104TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Week of April 7** – BOTH chambers in session
 - **April 11** – Third Reading Deadline (House & Senate)
- **Week of April 14** – Spring Break – NO session
- **Week of April 21** – House ONLY in session
- **Week of April 28 through Adjournment** – BOTH chambers in session
 - **May 7: ICCTA LOBBY DAY**
 - **May 9** – Committee Deadline (House & Senate)
 - **May 23** – Third Reading Deadline (House & Senate)
- **May 31** – Adjournment

ILLINOIS CONSOLIDATED ELECTION RESULTS

The consolidated election held across Illinois on April 1, 2025, resulted in significant outcomes for hundreds of various local offices, including community college boards, mayoral positions, city councils, school boards, and referendums. These nonpartisan races drew considerable partisan attention this year, as local county party organizations and even the state parties got involved. Across the state, Democrats are claiming a 79% success rate of their supported candidates, citing victories for 222 of their 280 local candidates.

Key election outcomes include:

- **Aurora Mayoral Race:** Challenger John Laesch defeated incumbent Mayor Richard Irvin by approximately five percentage points.
- **DuPage County Townships:** Democrats in DuPage County won all their contested township races.
- **Madison County:** All incumbent mayors in contested races secured re-election.
- **Springfield School District 186:** Newcomer Kristin Barnett defeated incumbent Anthony Mares, shifting the school board's composition to a Democrat majority.
- **Sangamon County:** Voters approved a binding referendum to merge the County Recorder's office with the County Clerk's office by December 2026.
- **Bloomington Mayoral Race:** Former State Rep. Dan Brady defeated incumbent Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe. Brady won with almost 48% of the vote in the three-way contest.
- **Orland Park Mayoral Race:** Challenger Jim Dodge defeated three-time incumbent Ketih Pekau by nearly 15 points. Both are Republicans, but Pekau is considered to be further right than Dodge.
- **Rock Island Mayoral Race:** Ashley Harris won the race for Rock Island mayor, defeating GOP incumbent

Mike Thoms, who had served as mayor of Rock Island since 2017.

- *Addison Township*: Democrats swept township wide offices in a Republican stronghold, unseating the Republican Clerk, Supervisor and three of four incumbent Trustees.

These local offices often form the basis for party growth – a place where party leaders can look for people to compete for higher office. Republican losses in the consolidated election could continue the lack of success in future electoral cycles. Republicans have not won a statewide race since 2014, have not won a U.S. Senate race since 2010, and after the congressional maps were gerrymandered in 2021, saw their presence in Congress shrink from five seats to three. (There were 11 in 2013.) Whether Gov. JB Pritzker runs for a third term in 2026 or not, many Republicans fear that they do not have a field shaping up in the race for Governor that can compete, no matter which Democrat is at the top of the ticket.

FY25 STATE BUDGET UPDATE

In March, the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability revised its Fiscal Year 2025 revenue forecast up slightly to \$53.614 billion, as compared to the Enacted Budget revenue total of \$53.281 billion. While the \$209 million growth in March was a positive result for state coffers, the relatively modest increase this month was mostly on par with the Commission’s current revenue projections. Therefore, March’s results do not alter the Commission’s revenue outlook.

With that being said, the largest month for tax collections is coming in April, which history has shown can significantly alter the end-of-year revenue outlook (both good and bad). Once these final tax payments are received, a better assessment of the revenue picture for FY 2025 and FY 2026 can occur.

ED DEPARTMENT CUTS \$77.25 MILLION IN ILLINOIS SCHOOL FUNDS

The Illinois State Board of Education recently announced that the Trump administration has revoked approval for Illinois to spend \$77.25 million in federal pandemic relief funds. The decision, conveyed via letter, forces school districts to reassess essential services. Illinois had already used 98.5% of its total relief funds, with the remaining portion committed but not yet spent. State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders warned of disruptions to critical student services. The U.S. Department of Education stated that Illinois may resubmit extension requests, but ISBE called the process an unnecessary administrative burden.

TRUMP TARIFFS TRIGGER MARKET PLUNGE, DRAW CRITICISM FROM ILLINOIS LEADERS

Wall Street experienced its sharpest single-day drop since the early COVID-19 pandemic in response to sweeping new tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump this week. Illinois business groups, including the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Manufacturers Association, and Illinois Retail Merchants Association, condemned the tariffs for raising costs and disrupting supply chains.

Gov. Pritzker labeled the move an “extreme escalation” against U.S. allies. He had just returned from a trade mission in Mexico aimed at strengthening economic ties, where he signed a new bilateral agreement with Mexican leaders.

ILLINOIS EXPANDS TRADE PARTNERSHIP WITH MEXICO

Gov. Pritzker has signed an updated trade agreement with Mexican Governor Delfina Gómez Álvarez, strengthening economic and research ties between Illinois and Mexico. The addendum to the long-standing Memorandum of Understanding focuses on trade, sustainable development, and innovation in key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, clean energy, and biotech. The signing took place during a trade mission that included Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and over 70 Illinois leaders from government, business, education, and agriculture.

RAOUL, COALITION SUE HHS OVER \$12 BILLION IN HEALTH FUNDING CUTS

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and a coalition of 24 attorneys general and state governors have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for terminating nearly \$12 billion in public health grants, including \$477 million previously approved for Illinois. The lawsuit argues that ending pandemic-era grants threatens public health, especially amid rising cases of measles and bird flu. The coalition seeks a temporary restraining order to restore funding and prevent future terminations.

ILLINOIS MAINTAINS CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION PRACTICES DESPITE FEDERAL DIRECTIVE

On March 25, President Trump issued an executive order mandating that voters provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote. Despite this directive, Illinois voter registration procedures remained unchanged for the April 1 consolidated elections. According to Matt Dietrich, spokesperson for the Illinois State Board of Elections, the National Voter Registration Act allows applicants to affirm their citizenship status through a sworn statement without requiring additional documentation. Illinois does not mandate photo identification at polling stations.

CITY OF CHICAGO IDENTIFIES TOP LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Mayoral Chief of Staff Cristina Pacione-Zayas, a former state senator, recently shared the top pieces of legislation that the city hopes to see passed:

1. Increasing revenues on the personal property replacement tax — a tax on corporations that go toward city coffers.
2. Allowing cities to apply sales tax on telecommunications services.
3. Extending the 911 surcharge, which funds the city's emergency telephone system.
4. Mandated “categoricals” in school funding, which would assure that school districts are fully reimbursed for required services such as transportation, special education and bilingual education.
5. Increasing funding for the city’s universal shelter network, known as the One System Initiative Chicago, to ease homelessness by offering 6,800 beds, up from 126 percent a year ago.
6. Continuing with talks on how to address a looming transit system funding crisis -- and plan for a future transportation system.

NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FLAGSHIP CENTER OPENS IN CHICAGO

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has announced the opening of a new two-story DMV, the Secretary of State Flagship Center, at 125 W. Monroe St. in Chicago’s Loop. The facility consolidates services from multiple departments, improving efficiency and customer experience. Giannoulias plans to hold regular office hours at the new location.

ILLINOIS UNVEILS \$400 MILLION RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved a five-year, \$400 million [Crossing Safety Improvement Program \(FY 2026-2030\)](#) to enhance safety at over 900 highway-rail crossings statewide. Funded by the Grade Crossing Protection Fund and Rebuild Illinois, the plan includes upgrades to warning devices, lighting, gates, pedestrian infrastructure, and grade separations.

CHICAGO UNVEILS EV CHARGING EXPANSION PLAN FOR EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Mayor Brandon Johnson and the Chicago Department of Transportation have introduced the Chicago Moves Electric Framework Plan to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the city, with a focus on historically underserved neighborhoods. While Chicago currently has over 860 public charging locations, most are concentrated downtown. The initiative aims to expand access in the South and West Sides to ensure that all residents benefit from clean transportation options. CDOT Commissioner Tom Carney emphasized that the plan reflects community input and aims to drive down emissions citywide. Residents can provide feedback through the city's EV and Mobility Infrastructure Framework webpage.

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

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