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Pritzker Signs Landmark AI Regulation Bill

The law builds on legislation passed in California and New York to create a state-driven national standard

Maggie Dougherty

Gov. JB Pritzker signed artificial intelligence legislation modeled after similar bills in California and New York on Monday, furthering a push for a state-driven national framework in lieu of federal regulations.

“Congress and the president ought to be passing similar legislation, but they’ve so far been unwilling, because many are captive to special interests that profit from the industry having no regulation,” Pritzker said before signing the bill. “We can work together to establish thoughtful guardrails in ways that benefit both industry and the public, or we can allow a handful of actors to evade accountability and push the costs and detriment onto ordinary people. Illinois has chosen our path.”

Senate Bill 315, also known as the Artificial Intelligence Safety Measures Act, increases transparency and accountability requirements for the largest artificial intelligence models — those that generate more than \$500 million in annual revenue and are trained using massive computing power.

The bill mirrors California’s SB-53 and New York’s Responsible AI Safety and Education Act, which were each signed in late 2025. It establishes new reporting standards for the possibility that the AI model could be used for large-scale harms, such as by providing users assistance in creating a chemical, biological or nuclear weapon or committing cyber-attacks.

Senate sponsor Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, said there is an urgency for states to protect against those potential harms.

“We are not willing to wait for Congress to act,” Edly-Allen said. “There’s an old saying: Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach him to fish, he eats for a lifetime. Teach AI to fish, though, and it might just empty the whole river trying to figure out how.”

Though the three states only account for roughly 20% of the national populace, lawmakers estimate that they represent roughly 40% of the U.S. AI market, effectively creating a de facto national standard.

The new law requires model developers to

publish an AI framework outlining how the developer identifies and assesses “catastrophic risk,” defined as the likelihood that incidents that could cause death or serious injury to more than 50 people or more than \$1 million in property damage.

Developers will also be required to report any incidents that could cause harm to the state within 72 hours of identifying the incident, or 24 hours if it poses an imminent risk for death or serious physical injury.

The bill’s House sponsor, Rep. Daniel Didech, D-Buffalo Grove, said the harms the bill will regulate are not theoretical.

“We have already seen the first AI-inspired mass shooting. We have already seen AI systems utilized to attack a municipal water and drainage utility,” Didech said.

He also alluded to the example of Anthropic’s Mythos model, which the company said was too powerful a cyberweapon to release to the public. Anthropic supported Illinois’ bill and had representatives present at the signing on Monday.

“Every transformative technology in our history, from automobiles to electricity to air travel, has delivered enormous benefits while carrying real risks, and in every case the government responded not by banning the technology and not by taking a hands-off approach, but by building safeguards, so everyday people can trust that these technologies are safe,” Didech said.

Illinois’ version, similar in most ways to the standards set in New York and California, adds a first-in-the-nation requirement for mandatory annual third-party audits; New York’s version only required a single independent audit at the time when developers became large enough to qualify under the law.

During debate in the General Assembly, the third-party audit provision was a point of contention for some industry stakeholders, including TechNet, a coalition of tech executives across the industry.

“We remain concerned that Illinois would effectively be requiring private actors to make highly subjective determinations requiring AI safety compliance without established national standards, certifications, or clear regulatory guardrails,” TechNet representative Ninia Lineo said in committee May 20.

OpenAI and Anthropic both supported the bill on its path through the Illinois General Assembly, and it passed with broad bipartisan support in both chambers; only five Republican senators voted against it, including local Senator Andrew Ehesney, and it passed unanimously in the

House.

Though the large developers pushed for a federal framework rather than what they were concerned would be an inconsistent patchwork of state regulations, Caitlin Niedermeyer of OpenAI’s Global Affairs told the Senate’s AI and Social Media committee in April that OpenAI was open to a coordinated state-driven approach.

“While we have been very clear that the federal government remains well-positioned to lead on frontier safety because it has the resources, expertise and institutions, we also strongly actually see a position for both Illinois but also California and New York to really lead in advancing aligned frameworks, which we believe can absolutely help create a de facto national direction of travel,” Niedermeyer told the committee.

What’s on the AI horizon

Companies that violate it will be subject to civil penalties brought by the attorney general’s office of up to \$1 million for the first offense and up to \$3 million for subsequent violations.

But lawmakers and advocates say they expect to continue working on the topic of AI in the future. For example, Didech identified medical care and education as likely frontiers needing further evaluation of AI’s public safety risks.

Scott Wisor, policy director for Secure AI, was one of the advocates helping to shape Illinois’ bill. Having more external evaluation of the risks the models pose, and make judgments on when they’re ready for release, would be the next step for further transparency and accountability, he said.

“Right now, the evaluation in this bill is, are you complying with your safety framework? Because suppose you had a safety framework, just like, ‘We’re going to do A, B, C, and D,’ you do that, the evaluator confirms it, and yet it’s still a risky thing to have out in the world,” Wisor said.

“So, this is a huge step forward, but I think there’s more we can do,” Wisor said.

Illinois’ law will take effect on Jan. 1, 2028.

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Maggie joined CNI in November, 2025 as a Chicago reporter. Maggie is a 2021 graduate of The College of Wooster, where she received her bachelor’s degree in international relations and economics, and a 2025 graduate of the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, where she received her master’s degree in Investigative Journalism.

Interstates Replaced Route 66

Interstate Highway Act Celebrates 70th Anniversary in 2026

Tom Emery

Route 66 celebrates its centennial this year, but that's not the only anniversary for an American road system. Another special date is for one that brought an end to Route 66.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, signed into federal law on June 29, 1956 to create the modern interstate system we know today. The act revolutionized American transportation and pumped tens of millions of dollars into state and local economies.



- Charles Carlson, 83, Cherry Valley, June 30
- William "Bill" Carr, 86, Marengo, July 1
- Diane Fowler, 76, Belvidere, July 1
- Elizabeth "Betty" Garey, 90, Harvard, June 25
- Kitty Grimm, 56, Belvidere, June 24
- Garry Koenig, 73, Marengo, June 24
- Peter Kruzicevich, 86, Harvard, June 27
- Roger Kueking, 82, Marengo, July 2
- Patrick "Pat" Molander, 67, Cherry Valley, July 1
- Melvin Purdom, 74, Marengo, June 30
- Thomas Schulenburg, 81, Cherry Valley, June 28
- Vickie "Nana" Sinsabaugh, 85, Belvidere, June 30

It also sounded the death knell for Route 66, though many did not realize it at the time. The act authorized \$25 billion to be spent on 41,000 miles of interstate highways, including several that would supplant the storied Route 66.

The interstate system was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and many believe he was influenced by the smooth-running efficiency of the Autobahn, the groundbreaking German highway that he had observed during the European campaigns of World War II.

Some believe that Eisenhower supported the interstate system as a way to ensure that defense would be transported quickly in the event of a war threat. However, others believe that he simply saw the need for improved, safer highways for the American motoring public.

In 1954, Eisenhower named Gen. Lucius D. Clay to chair a committee to discuss a system of interstate highways. Clay later stated that "it was evident that we needed better highways...for safety, to accommodate more automobiles [and]...for defense purposes, if that should ever be necessary." He added that the highways were needed "for the economy... for future growth."

The bill was introduced by U.S. Representative George Fallon (D-Mo.) on April 19, 1956 and passed the House in a resounding 388-19 vote eight days later. That May 29, the bill squeaked by in the Senate, 41-39.

The system was intended to cost \$25 billion and last 12 years. However, the original plans were actually not completed until 1992, and came in at \$114 billion.

As the Interstate Highway System blossomed, Route 66 and other national roads were gradually

replaced. In time, Route 66 was taken over by three interstates. One was Interstate 55, which supplanted Route 66 between Chicago and St. Louis.

Another was Interstate 44, which took over for Route 66 from St. Louis to Oklahoma City. That, in turn, gave way to Interstate 40, spanning from Oklahoma City across the Texas panhandle, New Mexico, and Arizona before ending in Barstow, Calif.

Though Route 66 was in its heyday when the Interstate Highway Act was signed, the end of the road, so to speak, was coming. Route 66 was officially decommissioned in Illinois on Jan. 17, 1977.

As the interstates were completed piece by piece, other sections

of Route 66 were also taken out of commission. By 1979, the highway had been reduced to a 965-mile stretch from Scotland, a small town in southwestern Missouri, to Sanders, Ariz., 20 miles across the border from New Mexico.

In late 1984, Williams, a town in north-central Arizona, became the final town to have its section of Route 66 overtaken by an interstate.

The designation of Route 66 finally came to an end on June 27, 1985, when it was officially decertified by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The decision was made in a meeting in Duluth, Minn., hundreds of miles away from the corridor of Route 66. The association also voted to remove the road signs with the familiar Route 66 designation.

Two days later, the New York Times covered the demise in a lengthy article, stating that "Route 66, the 2,200-mile highway immortalized in song, novel, and television, is officially history, having fallen victim to the nation's Interstate Highway System."

Though the new system has proven wildly successful, it never came with the same emotional bonds as Route 66. Indeed, it is unlikely that, decades from now, anyone will celebrate the memories of Interstates 55, 44, and 40 as the nation has with Route 66.

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 419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
 Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
www.boonecountyjournal.com
news@boonecountyjournal.com

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Fun Facts About Signers of The Declaration of Independence

And July 4 Isn't Even the Correct Date

Tom Emery

Two hundred and fifty years ago Saturday (July 4) was the date of the Declaration of Independence, which was given as July 4, 1776. It's the day we all celebrate, though it's historically inaccurate.

The Second Continental Congress actually voted for independence two days earlier, on July 2. Future President John Adams, in predicting how the Declaration would be remembered, later wrote that July 2 of each year would be marked with fireworks and celebrations.

What is clear, though, is the risk the signers were taking. Had the Revolution failed, the signers would have almost certainly been tried for treason under the British crown, and faced execution.

Benjamin Franklin, himself a signer, supposedly said that "we must all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." Whether he actually uttered those words is unclear, but the premise was correct; the signers could have faced execution if the Revolution went down in defeat.

Fifty-six men signed the Declaration, mostly lawyers, merchants, or landowners. All thirteen colonies were represented in the signatures on the document. Many actually did not sign the document until August 2, when 49 of the 56 men affixed their names.

Today, only a handful of them are household names. Most Americans can't say how many men signed the document, let alone name them. As we roll into 250, here's a look at some of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence.

John Hancock. A filthy-rich businessman who was a delegate from Massachusetts, Hancock

was the first to sign. He signed his name in large cursive, and is reported to have said, "King George will be able to read that." It's unclear whether he actually spoke those words, but his name has been a slang term for signatures (e.g., "put your John Hancock there on the dotted line") ever since.

Benjamin Franklin. At 70, the Pennsylvania delegate was the oldest signer of the Declaration, making him an old man in a time of low life expectancies. Only nine signers were older than 55 years of age.

John Adams. One of two future American Presidents who signed, the Massachusetts delegate was part of the so-called "Committee of Five" whom the Second Continental Congress charged with drafting the Declaration.

Thomas Jefferson. A Virginia delegate, Jefferson was the other future President to sign, and the man who is credited with actually writing the document as part of the "Committee of Five." However, his peers made 86 changes and edits to his original draft, which infuriated him.

Roger Sherman. Sherman was one of the "Committee of Five," though that is hardly his only claim to fame. The Connecticut delegate is the lone individual to sign the four major state papers of the United States; the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Articles of Association, and the Articles of Confederation.

Robert Livingston. Along with Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and Sherman, Livingston, a delegate from New York, was on the

"Committee of Five," and was present for another key moment in American history. On April 30, 1789, he administered the oath of office to George Washington in the first Presidential inauguration in American history.

Benjamin Rush. Rush, a Pennsylvania delegate, was the only signer with a medical degree, and left a sweeping legacy in his field despite a prickly personality. Rush Health, a major health-care provider in Chicago, bears his name. He was the son-in-law of another delegate, Richard Stockton of New Jersey.

Charles Carroll. With the deaths of Adams and Thomas Jefferson on July 4, 1826 – exactly 50 years to the date of the Declaration -- Carroll became the lone surviving signer. A Maryland delegate and one of the wealthiest men in the colonies, he lasted until Nov. 14, 1832, at age 95.

Samuel Adams. The cousin of John Adams, Sam is the namesake of a popular alcoholic drink today. A man with a crafty nature, Sam is credited with founding the Sons of Liberty, an energetic group who opposed the British at every step,

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Congressman Darin LaHood Report

The Congressman represents most of Boone County, except Belvidere

Remembering the Heroes of D-Day - May we always remember their legacy and strive to be worthy of their sacrifice. God bless our veterans, our service members, and the United States of America.

Investing in Infrastructure - Radnor Road is a vital corridor for the City of Peoria. I was proud to secure \$1 million in FY26 and \$500,000 in FY24 to support critical improvements along this route and help prepare the area for future growth and investment. This project will create accommodations for pedestrians, improve traffic flow, and drive economic growth in our community.

Hosting a Reception for U.S. Military Service Academy Appointees - I was honored to host this year's U.S. Military Service Academy appointees from the 16th District and their families in Peoria to celebrate their incredible achievement.

Supporting Individuals with Alzheimer's

I've been proud to champion research, funding, and support for the millions of Americans and families impacted by Alzheimer's. Legislation like my AADAPT Act, which passed out of committee unanimously, and the ASAP Act will expand treatment options, improve outcomes, and ensure patients have the quality care they deserve.

I look forward to continuing to work with members of the Alzheimer's Association's Illinois Chapter to advance research and remove barriers to a cure!

Talking Transportation at R1 in Rockford - From roads and bridges, to rail, aviation, and waterways, strengthening our transportation systems directly benefits economic development across the 16th District. I enjoyed joining local leaders from the Northern Illinois Council of Governments at R1 in Rockford to go over upcoming infrastructure legislation and projects that will support growth in the region.

Discussing Economic Development Opportunities at Beyer Peaches Stadium - Sports transcend politics, bring people together, and boost our local economies. I appreciated the chance to see the renovations underway at the historic Beyer Peaches Stadium in Rockford in preparation for the 2026 Women's Baseball World Cup!

Thanks to the International Women's Baseball Center and Nick Povalitis for showing me around and discussing how we can continue to invest in community assets that create opportunities, attract visitors, and strengthen northern Illinois!

Meeting with Josh Lueker of Broken Together

I'm incredibly grateful to Josh Lueker and everyone involved with Broken Together for their tireless work to foster a stronger sense of community and promote mental and physical wellbeing of our veterans.

Broken Together hosts events like the Red White Glow 5k to advance that mission, bringing people together and ensuring our veterans have the support network they deserve!

Visiting with Chief Jerry Caskey

It was great to meet with Northwest Fire Protection Chief Jerry Caskey in Rockford to go over how we can continue to invest in our first responders

and ensure they have the tools they need to keep our communities safe.

Expanding Access to Care for Veterans with Parkinson's

Boxing therapy helps individuals living with Parkinson's manage symptoms, significantly improves mobility, and supports their ability to live independently.

I'm grateful to Congresswoman Budzinski for joining me in introducing the Boxing Therapy for Parkinson's Access Act to expand access to this innovative therapy and improve quality of life for our veterans battling this disease.

Prepping for the World Cup

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is a generational opportunity for our country that will provide a major economic boost to small businesses and communities across America.

It was great to join Foreign Policy's Sports Diplomacy Summit and Fox Chicago last week to discuss what the tournament means for the U.S. and the future of soccer!

One More Thing: Volunteering at First United Methodist Church

I recently spent time volunteering at the Loaves & Fish food pantry, worship service and medical clinic at First United Methodist Church (UMC) in Peoria.

Started in 1994 by Dr. Steve and Patti Bash, this weekly event serves 300-400 of our most vulnerable citizens in need. A special thanks to Andrew Rininger, who runs the program for First UMC, and all of the dedicated volunteers!

I am grateful to Kevin Nelson for asking me to attend and volunteer. I look forward to coming back!

Congressman Foster This Week

Introduced Legislation to Reduce Student Loan Burden On Parents

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL), who represents Belvidere, has introduced the Parent PLUS Loan Fairness and Responsibility Act. This legislation would allow students to take over the student debt incurred by their parents on their behalf, providing a sensible solution for parents facing multiple financial burdens.

This legislation would allow parents to transfer Parent PLUS loans to the student with the consent of the parent, student, and lender, provided the student meets the credit requirements for the PLUS loan program and has been out of school for at least six months. After transfer, the loan would be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

"With rising tuition and the overall cost of living continuing to increase, families should have greater flexibility in deciding who assumes responsibility for Parent PLUS loan debt based on their financial situations," said Congressman Foster. "This legislation would provide a solution by allowing students, if they're willing and able, to take financial responsibility for the loans that allowed them to go to college."

Seeks Regulatory Clarity on Agentic AI Trading

Representatives Bill Foster (D-IL), representing Belvidere, and Brad Sherman (D-CA) led Members on the House Financial Services Committee in calling on the Chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission, Paul Atkins, to explain what oversight, guidance, and investor protections are in place as brokerage firms begin allowing AI agents to make autonomous trades on behalf of retail investors, and whether the agency has evaluated the risks these systems pose to market integrity and consumer protection.

The letter also asks Chairman Atkins to provide clarity on the legal responsibilities of broker-dealers, AI developers, and AI agents themselves, and whether existing securities laws are sufficient to regulate agentic trading or if additional action from Congress would be needed.

In the letter to Chairman Atkins, the Members wrote:

"While generative AI and associated agents have the potential to help investors make faster and better-informed decisions, the facilitation of agentic trading by retail brokerage platforms raises serious questions for investor protection, broker-dealer responsibilities, market integrity, and the accountability of AI developers.

"The AI firms developing and deploying these agents have thus far operated largely outside the securities regulatory framework, even though their systems are making or enabling consequential investment decisions on behalf of retail investors.

"It is essential that this technology be delivered in a manner that preserves the protections investors expect in regulated financial markets, and not as a tool to conceal conflicts of interest, evade broker-dealer responsibilities, manipulate markets, or provide unsound investment advice."

This letter was cosigned by Representatives Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Jim Himes (D-CT), Sean Casten (D-IL), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX).

Foster, Merkley Introduce Bicameral Investor Choice Act

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL-11), representing Belvidere, and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced the Investor Choice Act, legislation to prohibit pre-dispute mandatory, or "forced," arbitration agreements and preserve customers' ability to bring or join class action lawsuits in certain financial sectors.

"Individuals shouldn't need to surrender their legal rights because they choose to work with a financial advisor or broker-dealer to plan for their retirement and invest their hard-earned money," said Congressman Foster. "This legislation levels the playing field for consumers and prevents them from being victims of a rigged system that denies them fair legal recourse if they are wronged. I'm proud to work with Senator Merkley on this important legislation for American consumers."

"Every consumer deserves a fair chance to seek justice when they have been wronged by an investment professional," said Senator Merkley. "Too often, the arbitration system is stacked against consumers—allowing financial firms to select the arbitrators who decide cases, pay them, and keep them in line for future work. That is not a fair process, and we need legislation like the Investor Choice Act to put consumers back on equal footing."

The legislation is endorsed by Americans for Financial Reform, the North American Securities Administrators Association, the Public Investor Advocate Bar Association, and Public Citizen.

Signers

from page 3

never shying from violence.

Benjamin Harrison. A Virginia delegate, he was the father of the ninth U.S. President, William Henry Harrison, and the great-grandfather of the 23rd President, Benjamin Harrison.

Francis "Lightfoot" Lee. Another Virginia delegate, Lee joined his brother, Richard Henry Lee, as signers. Both were members of a Virginia family dynasty that produced countless dignitaries, and were ancestors to Confederate commander Robert E. Lee.

Elbridge Gerry. A Massachusetts delegate, Gerry later died in office as Vice-President in 1814. The political term "gerrymandering" is named for him.



Developer Withdraws Zoning Request for Data Center in Hoffman Estates

The project conjured statewide questions about the role of neighboring communities in data center decisions

Maggie Dougherty

After weeks of organizing by concerned neighbors, a developer in Chicago's northwest suburbs withdrew its request Tuesday to rezone land for a hotly debated data center.

The data center would have sat on the edge of the village of Hoffman Estates' municipal boundaries, bordering the nearby areas of South Barrington and Barrington Hills. The project raised serious questions about how neighboring towns, which have no official say in decision making, are impacted by large-scale data center developments.

"After several weeks of conversations with the Village and residents, we've decided the right step is to withdraw the current rezoning request," Karis Critical spokesman Patrick Skarr said in

an email to Capitol News Illinois. "We heard the feedback clearly, including the call for a more specific plan before any rezoning. We'll take the time to get that right. Should we bring a proposal forward in the future, the Village and the community will have the details they need to evaluate it fully and on its merits."

Barrington Hills resident Amanda Pollard drives past Plum Farms three or four times a day. When she saw signs go up announcing public notice for the proposed rezoning, she quickly went online to see what was planned for the rural property. What she saw worried her, and she began rallying her neighbors.

"I knew a bit about data centers, and talked to my neighbors, wrote letters, showed up at the meeting, and then it's kind of snowballed from there into what it is now," Pollard said.

When the Hoffman Estates Plan Commission held a public hearing on June 3 to discuss rezoning plans for Plum Farms, residents showed up in droves, packing the three-hour meeting and spilling into the hallway to voice their opposition.

Dozens of residents from Hoffman Estates, South Barrington and Barrington Hills also sent emails urging commissioners to reject the proposal.

The Plan Commission voted 4-2 to recommend against rezoning the land, but the official decision would have been in the hands of the Village Board, which was set to vote on the rezoning at a now-cancelled meeting Monday.

The dispute is reflective of a broader trend, as villages and towns across the state are left to their own devices in data center negotiations after lawmakers failed to pass regulations this spring.

Transparency concerns

When the Plan Commission held its meeting, discussion was limited to the issue of rezoning the site from traditional neighborhood and commercial mixed-use districts to a manufacturing dis-

trict; residents were told there were no specific site plans for a data center project.

Karen Daulton Lange, a recently retired village administrator in Lake Barrington, is now a coordinator at the Flint Creek & Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership, which submitted a letter to the Plan Commission opposing the rezoning.

"What I found disappointing in Hoffman Estates is that they did not roll this all into one package," Daulton Lange said. "I personally think it is more transparent, if you're going to rezone because you have a developer in mind who's come to your door, that you would make that widely available to the public, and ask for the details, which would be the plans, the environmental studies, the water usage."

Other residents had concerns about the impacts of a large-scale data center on traffic, noise and light pollution and air quality.

"None of what you'd need to weigh those impacts is in the record," Barrington Hills residents Michael and Christine Irizarry wrote in an email to board members. "We aren't against growth. We're asking you to expect what a decision this size deserves: a real plan, real studies and a use that fits where it's going. None of that is in front of you."

Zoning map

Hoffman Estates' Interactive Zoning District Map shows the parcels of land that were proposed for rezoning to manufacturing. The plots are currently zoned as Traditional Neighborhood and Commercial Mixed-Use districts. Hoffman Estates has two other data centers under construction, but they are in areas already zoned for manufacturing that residents said are more appropriate than the residential area near forest preserves.

"Nobody here is saying, 'Don't do a data center,' everyone's saying, 'Don't do it here,'" Barrington Hills resident Karen Trzaska said.

Seeking answers

Feeling like they weren't getting the whole story, opposition organizers filed a public records request seeking communications from village

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LEGAL NOTICES

TAKE NOTICE CERTIFICATE NO. 2022-00160

TO: LIZETTE D. VEGA, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCCUPANTS, TENTANTS, SPOUSES, UNKNOWN OWNERS

County Clerk of Boone County:
Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.

A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of BOONE County, Illinois as Case #2026-TX-21
Property located at 121 N. STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Legal Description or Permanent Index No. 05-26-434-007
Said property was sold on 10-27-23 for delinquent taxes for the year 2022. This period of redemption will expire on 10-26-26.

On 12-15-26 at 9:15AM ZOOM 96397918024 the petitioner will make application to such court in said county for an Order for Tax Deed, should the real estate not be redeemed.

TAX LIEN INVESTMENTS, Petitioner
Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

TAKE NOTICE CERTIFICATE NO. 2022-00159

TO: LIZETTE D. VEGA, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCCUPANTS, TENTANTS, SPOUSES, UNKNOWN OWNERS

County Clerk of Boone County:
Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.

A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of BOONE County, Illinois as Case #2026-TX-20
Property located at 121 N. STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Legal Description or Permanent Index No. 05-26-434-006
Said property was sold on 10-27-22 for delinquent taxes for the year 2022.

This period of redemption will expire on 10-26-26.
On 12-15-26 at 9:15AM ZOOM 96397918024 the petitioner will make application to such court in said county for an Order for Tax Deed, should the real estate not be redeemed.

TAX LIEN INVESTMENTS, Petitioner
Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE, IN PROBATE
In the Matter of: SANDRA A. RATHER, Decedent.
2026PR22

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Sandra A. Rather on March 18, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on May 21, 2026, to Stacy Henneberry, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 205 Cadillac Court #4, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 9, 2026, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

NOTICE

The Board of Education of Belvidere Community Unit School District 100 ("School District" or "Board") is requesting and accepting proposals from qualified vendors for a Multilingual Program Review including a comprehensive evaluation of the District's bilingual/ESL programs. The selected vendor will assess alignment with state and federal requirements, evaluate program effectiveness in supporting multilingual learners, and provide recommendations for program improvement and sustainability.

All bids are due by Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, at 2:00 pm CST, and a public bid opening will take place at 2:15 pm the same day at the Administrative Building, 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. All vendors are welcome to attend the bid request opening.

All bids must be submitted through SECURE BIDS. Link to CUSD 100 website with SECURE BIDS <https://colbisurebids.com/agency/bcUSD100>.

Proposal specifications will be available through the SECURE BIDS website. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 815-544-8616 or via email at purchasing@district100.com.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
Holly Houk
Clerk
Board of Education

Published in The Boone County Journal 6/30/2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE INTEREST OF: JATAYVEON FRANKLIN, A minor
JUVENILE DIVISION 25 JA 19

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN: Tyree Caso and all unknown fathers and "To Whom it May Concern"

Take notice that on February 13, 2025, a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the Kane County State's Attorney in the Circuit Court of the 16th Judicial Circuit and on May 12, 2025, the matter of In Re the Interest of Jatayveon Franklin, a minor, was transferred from Kane County and accepted by Boone County on June 5, 2025.

On July 30, 2026 at the Boone County Courthouse located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois at 2:00 p.m. in courtroom #3, or as soon thereafter as the cause may be heard, a Petition for Termination

of Parental Rights hearing will be held regarding declaring the minor a ward of the 'court under the Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO THE MINOR'S ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL

PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. Unless you appear in court, in person, on July 30, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of proceedings in this case, including the filing of any amended petitions to terminate your parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered against you.

Dated: 6/16/26 PAMELA CODUTO, CIRCUIT CLERK
by: Kristina L. Pearson, Deputy Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal Jun 30, July 7 & 14, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE ZONING COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF
TIMBERLANE, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-13-7 and 65 ILCS 5/11-13-14 and the Zoning Ordinance and Sign Ordinance of the Village of Timberlane, the Zoning Committee of the Village of Timberlane, Boone County, Illinois, will hold a public hearing on JULY 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Timberlane, Village Hall, located within the Immanuel North Lutheran Church, 2940 Charleston Court, Caledonia, Illinois 61011, to consider the petitions described below filed by Roundabout Ventures, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, the owner of record of the property described below.

SUBJECT PROPERTY: Approximately 23.65 acres located at the northeast corner of Illinois Route 76 (Fairgrounds Road) and Caledonia Road, commonly known as 10568 Caledonia Road, Belvidere (Village of Timberlane), Boone County, Illinois, and identified as Boone County Permanent Index Numbers 05-11-300-015, 05-11-100-018 and 05-11-100-019, presently zoned I-L Light Industrial District. A complete legal description of the Subject Property is on file with the Village Clerk and available for public inspection.

NATURE OF THE RELIEF REQUESTED: Roundabout Ventures, LLC has filed an omnibus land-use application consisting of four petitions seeking the following relief, in connection with the development and use of the Subject Property for a self-service storage facility with outdoor commercial vehicle storage and two off-site sign structures:

PETITION No. 1 — SIGN VARIANCES. Variances from the Village of Timberlane Sign Ordinance (Ord. No. O12-292-01), including Sections 5.6.2, 5.6.7, and 5.6.8, to authorize two (2) off-site sign structures on the Subject Property at their existing dimensions and configuration, including sign face area, number of faces, height, spacing, and illumination, including external LED floodlight illumination of one static sign structure and a full-color electronic multi-message (LED) display on the other sign structure.

PETITION No. 2 — SITE DEVELOPMENT VARIANCES. Variances from the Village of Timberlane Zoning Ordinance (Ord. No. O25-079-01), including Sections 1.7, 4.3, and 10.5, concerning off-street parking quantity; parking and storage area surfacing; curb-and-gutter, wheel-guard, and striping requirements (Sections 4.3.J, 4.3.K, and 4.3.L); maximum lot coverage; and front-yard setback, as applied to the proposed self-service storage facility and its outdoor storage area.

PETITION No. 3 — ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS. Amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance and the Sign Ordinance, namely: (a) amending Chapter 2 (Definitions) and Chapter 4 (Off-Street Parking) to distinguish "Parking Areas" from "Outdoor Storage Areas" and to add a new Section 4.3.Q; (b) amending Section 10.3.1.C (I-L Light Industrial District permitted uses) to add self-service storage facilities and accessory outdoor storage of recreational vehicles, boats, campers, and trailers, and adding a definition of "Self-Service Storage Facility"; (c) amending the definition of "Lot Coverage" in Chapter 2 and Section 1.7; (d) amending Sign Ordinance Section 5.6.8.G (off-site sign height); (e) amending Sign Ordinance Section 5.6.2.H.7 and adding a new Section 5.6.15 to permit electronic multi-message displays in the I-L Light Industrial District subject to operational standards; and (f) adding a new Section 18.4 to Chapter 18 (Performance Standards) cross-referencing those operational standards.

PETITION No. 4 — SPECIAL USE PERMIT. A Special Use Permit under Chapter 14 of the Zoning Ordinance and 65 ILCS 5/11-13-1.1 to authorize commercial vehicle storage in the I-L Light Industrial District on the Subject Property, including the outdoor parking and storage of commercial, work, contractor, recreational, and similar vehicles, trailers, and equipment.

The petitions also request such other, further, alternative, or related relief as may be necessary or appropriate to grant the relief described above, including any variance, amendment, or special use reasonably related to or in support of the petitions.

TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING; HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The public hearing will be held at the date, time, and place stated above. At the hearing, any person desiring to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard with respect to the petitions. Written comments may be submitted to the Village Clerk at or before the hearing.

WHERE TO REVIEW THE PETITIONS: The petitions, the proposed text amendments and ordinances, the site plans, and all supporting documents are on file with, and available for public inspection at the office of, the Village Clerk, Village of Timberlane, P.O. Box 56, Caledonia, Illinois 61011, during regular business hours.

The hearing may be continued from time to time without further published notice except as required by law. The Zoning Committee will, following the public hearing, make findings and a recommendation to the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Timberlane, which will act upon the petitions.

Dated: July 6, 2026.
VILLAGE OF TIMBERLANE, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
By: Debra Marner, Village Clerk
Published in the Boone County Journal 7/7&14/26

ASSUMED NAMES

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4289 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CARPENTRY business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BARAGLIA TRIM that its location is or will be 10042 TANGLEWOOD CIRCLE in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 224-291-1537
Weston Anthony Baraglia 10042 Tanglewood Cir
Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: June 22, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/23, 6/30, 7/07 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4290 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a STAINED GLASS MAKING AND SELLING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE GLASS GARDNER that its location is or will be 925 WHITNEY BLVD in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-566-5957
Christine Elizabeth Gardner 925 Whitney Blvd.
Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: June 22, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/23, 6/30, 7/07 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4291 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HVAC business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of HCE that its location is or will be 226 ANDREWS DR in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-721-1696
MANUEL ALEJANDRO MARQUEZ 226 ANDREWS DR
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: June 8, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/30, 7/7, 7/14/26 - P

Data Centers from page 5 staff about the project.

The records they received showed village staff in discussions with Karis about a potential data center project as early as 18 months ago, as first reported by the Daily Herald, including a so-called "comfort letter" signed by Village Manager Eric Palm the day before Karis purchased the 186-acre property for \$45 million in January 2025.

Palm told Karis in the letter, "The Village Board recognizes the benefits data centers provide for the community" and pledged that staff would support "necessary zoning and development approvals for a data center project."

Palm caveated that staff could not guarantee the actions the Village Board would take, but said staff would recommend the project's approval.

It is normal for village staff — who do not work directly for the board and do not vote — to work with owners and developers on proposed developments "for months and even years before the projects are presented to the Board," according to Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod. When issues are presented to the Board, Palm and other staff members prepare a memo describing the matter and providing a recommendation to the Board.

But residents were upset to learn that the project, which they were told had no specific plans, seemed to have been discussed in detail by staff for so long before the rezoning request was an-

continued on page 7

Data Centers

from page 6

nounced.

“It just seems like we’re doing all this for just for political theater,” Pollard said. “What’s the point of having a public hearing if they don’t hear us? They’ve already made up their mind 18 months ago.”

She filed an Open Meetings Act complaint to the Illinois Attorney General’s office, asking for a review of the board and staff’s behavior.

Pollard pointed to emails between the village’s Economic Development Director Kevin Kramer, also a member of staff, and Karis executives, including CEO Jake Finley and Executive Vice President Greg Strom, which she said show Kramer “coordinating private developer access to the Mayor and trustees outside any public meeting.”

In emails exchanged in late April, Strom asked Kramer whether he and Finley should meet with McLeod and other board members.

“I think it might be a bit early, but let us give an update on Monday to the Mayor about the rezoning and see if he’s hearing from any trustees who might need a refresher meeting before going public with the new zoning district,” Kramer replied.

McLeod said he did not arrange any private meetings with trustees regarding the Karis project and said he believes the Village Board keeps an open mind to all matters that appear on its agenda.

“Just because the staff or the village manager express support for a development that does not mean the Village Board will approve the development,” McLeod said.

Statewide trends

Though the proposed data center would have been located in Hoffman Estates, much of the resistance came from residents and leaders of the neighboring Barrington Hills and South Barrington neighborhood.

“Barrington Hills respects Hoffman Estates’ authority to make land-use decisions within its jurisdiction,” Village President Brian Cecola told the Daily Herald. “However, we share the concerns raised by South Barrington, surrounding residents, local businesses and community stakeholders.”

And as data centers grow larger, bringing broader environmental and noise concerns, more areas across the state are grappling with the question: What role do neighboring communities play in making decisions about data centers within another municipality?

“It’s a repeated pattern that we’re seeing where surrounding municipalities are rightfully concerned, and we need to identify a way that they have a formal voice in the process,” said Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Inverness. “I do think municipalities will be looking for more guidance.”

She pointed to the nearby village of Mundelein, where residents are concerned about the impact of a data center proposed in the adjacent village of Grayslake.

Mundelein would not generate revenue from the Grayslake data center project and only learned of the project “after it was approved, per-

mits issued, and construction started,” according to a post from Mundelein Mayor Robin Meier.

Mundelein asked its attorneys to determine whether it had any legal recourse to challenge the data center. They found it did not.

Karis, also doing business as H.E. Holdings LLC, had recently seen a similar proposal rejected in Naperville in January after months of opposition from residents there.

In the legislature, one proposal on the table is Senate Bill 1050, sponsored by Sen. Darby Hills, R-Barrington Hills, which would prohibit data centers from being placed within 3 miles of the boundaries of another municipality without express written consent.

“We are very concerned about local communities having a meaningful voice before the major industrial developments are approved, so that’s why I introduced this, so that we can make sure that we get some local control,” Hills said.

She said her bill, which also adds public notice requirements, could move during the General Assembly’s veto session, or if the legislature is called back for a special session.

Last month, Gov. JB Pritzker suspended tax incentives for data centers starting July 1 and called on lawmakers to pass new data center reforms during the fall veto session. Since those incentives began in 2019, the state has committed an estimated \$666.6 million in tax credits to data center projects, the state’s latest report shows.

Syed also said she is exploring ways to draft legislation to give neighboring communities a seat at the table, as well as ensuring data centers are built with union labor and other energy and water use regulations that were outlined in the POWER Act.

‘We can make a difference’

But as data center conversations continue at the state level, residents in Hoffman Estates have successfully paused data center development at Palm Farms — at least for now.

Pollard said she was “very happy” to learn about the company’s decision to withdraw the request and said it gave her hope for residents’ ability to make their voices heard.

“I can’t imagine that they would pull out without seeing all the community pushback, and it gives me hope that what we do matters,” Pollard said.

“So many people were telling me, ‘It’s going to go through no matter what. These politicians, they don’t listen to us.’ And this shows that we can make a difference, and we do have a say in our community.”

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

New Illinois Republican Party Chair Hopes for ‘JB Fatigue’ in Tough Midterm

More consistent fundraising, better unity part of Bob Grogan’s long-term goals

Ben Szalinski

It’s been more than a decade since Republicans won a statewide race and the party has seen its representation in both the General Assembly and Illinois’ congressional delegation shrink under unfavorable maps. Meanwhile, suburban voters have increasingly embraced Democrats and weak fundraising has made it even harder for Republicans to compete against Democrats.

The party has also seen its share of infighting, whether that’s on the State Central Committee, inside the House Republican Caucus, or generally among members about whether President Donald Trump helps or hurts the party in Illinois.

In an interview with Capitol News Illinois, Grogan, who was elected party chair in May, said he knows what bridges he needs to build for the party to find success in the 2026 midterms.

“We have to go back to the Reagan rule, where if somebody agrees with us 80% of the time, they’re not a 20% traitor,” Grogan said. “You know, they are actually part of our team, and that our entire Republican team is better than the entire Democratic team, and we need to pull together. We can’t purge our way to 51%” of the vote.

Grogan, of Downers Grove, has long been active in Republican politics in DuPage County and served several years as the elected county auditor in the 2010s. He’s also a certified accountant and fraud examiner.

He said his goal will be to build a party that can relate better to average voters and doesn’t silo itself into litmus tests by longing for the perfect politician.

“We are pickier often about our elected officials than we are about our spouse,” he said.

“We have to get back to listening to our neighbors, not lecturing them, and then actually communicating with them one conversation at a time,” Grogan said.

The Trump question

Previous party leaders differed on how much to embrace Trump. Don Tracy, now the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate, largely avoided tying Illinois Republicans to Trump during his tenure. Kathy Salvi, who Grogan defeated in May’s party election, openly embraced Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act, telling Capitol News Illinois last year it would be a key part of Republicans’ 2026 midterm message.

Grogan praised some of Trump’s legislative achievements, such as eliminating taxes on overtime and tips. But he described Trump as the “elephant in the china shop,” and argued “we have a lot of Illinois problems, and we need to have Illinois solutions.”

“The number one issues we face in the state of Illinois right now are property taxes,” Grogan said. “Donald Trump has zero to do with the cur-

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