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Belvidere a Century Ago

David Larson

This was Belvidere about a hundred to a hundred and ten years ago. Around the time of World War I In the succeeding 20 years, Downtown Belvidere changed radically due to the advent of the automobile. It has not changed much since then other than the neglect of the Turn-of-the-Century architecture. In the photo it appears to be a cloudy day perhaps with occasional rain.

Weather conditions meant much more to people in the early 1900s than is the case for many today. Perhaps one reason why weather meant so much back then was because few knew with certainty what would arrive later that day or the next day. Therefore, the importance of the weather was a subject of greater interest a century ago than perhaps today. A century ago, some could predict the weather conditions for the next day or two with greater accuracy merely by eyeing the clouds, smelling the air, or plotting the wind direction, rather than with today's computerized forecasting equipment, with predictions delivered to us on a wide-screen TV.

The old-timers spent time watching the clouds, feeling the air and sensing the air pressure. Flies told farmers a lot about what was to come when

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Illinois Governor's Race Will be a Rematch in 2026

Former state senator who lost to Pritzker in 2022 wins GOP nomination for governor for second try

Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Republican voters in Illinois have once again chosen former state Sen. Darren Bailey as their candidate for governor, giving him a second chance to unseat incumbent Democrat JB Pritzker in November.

Bailey, a farmer from southern Illinois and the party's 2022 nominee, claimed victory Tuesday night in a four-way primary for the GOP nomination, defeating Ted Dabrowski, former head of the conservative policy website Wirepoints.

According to unofficial returns compiled by the Associated Press, Bailey had carried about 50% of the vote as about 8:35 p.m. when the race was called. Dabrowski garnered about 32%.

DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick and businessman Rick Heidner, who spent more than \$1 million of his own money on the campaign, each had under 10% when the race was called.

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Stratton Defeats Krishnamoorthi With Help From Chicago, Downstate Voters

Former Illinois GOP Chair Don Tracy set to face Stratton in November

Ben Szalinski, Brenden Moore & Jenna Schweikert Capitol News Illinois

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton rode a late wave of momentum to win the Democratic nomination for Illinois' open U.S. Senate seat, toppling long-time frontrunner Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi with the financial aid and political muscle of Gov. JB Pritzker and an outsider message that set her apart from her rivals with Washington experience.

With 82% of precincts reporting, Stratton had a 39.6% to 33.6% lead over Krishnamoorthi, a margin of about 50,000 votes out of more than 900,000 cast. Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Lynwood, was in third place with 18.5%. The Associated Press called the race for Stratton at 9:40 p.m. Tuesday evening.

"Eleven months ago, I made a promise to Illinois to be the fighter you deserve, to go to the mat fighting for you, and bring your voices with me

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Bill Would Require Illinois High Schools Offer Voter Registration

Named after the late Rev. Jesse Jackson, the act aims to increase youth voter registration

Amy L. Wong Medill Illinois News Bureau

A proposed bill bearing the name of the late Rev. Jesse Jackson would require high schools to offer a voter registration opportunity for all eligible students graduating from Illinois high schools.

House Bill 4339, also known as the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. Young Voter Empowerment Act, had 28 co-sponsors, all Democrats, when it cleared the House Ethics and Elections Committee unanimously on March 18. The lead sponsor, state Rep. Kimberly Du Buclet, D-Chicago, said the bill is intended to increase youth voter registration rates.

“This bill is nonpartisan, meaning it’s not about picking a party or picking a candidate. It’s just about

getting people involved,” Du Buclet said. “It’s not about Democrats, it’s not about Republicans. It’s just giving our students the information and helping them get registered to vote early.”

Du Buclet said she plans to speak to Republicans to see if she can gain bipartisan support.

But some in the GOP said the party is reluctant to add more unfunded mandates to school districts. Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, said in an interview he also thought the act was “somewhat duplicative” since Illinois provides an opportunity for everyone to register to vote when they visit driver’s service facilities for their license.

“All I hear from schools on a bipartisan basis is ‘stop with the mandates,’” Keicher said. “We need to teach kids and you keep throwing additional things on our plate.”

The measure does not provide funding or any guidelines for its implementation, leaving some to worry that school districts could make registration drives partisan.

Keicher added he’s not sure the bill would affect turnout.

“I’m a firm believer in voting and registering to vote,” he said. “I think everybody who is legally registered should vote, but our problem is turnout, not registration.”

According to a Tufts study released in April 2025, 41% of Illinoisans aged 18-29 voted in the 2024 presidential election. Nationally, Illinois ranks on the lower end for voters participating from that age group, with Minnesota at the highest at 62% and Oklahoma at the lowest with 33%.

A companion bill in the Senate, Senate Bill 1786, is awaiting a committee vote.

Support for the Bill

Chicago Votes, a nonpartisan nonprofit, supports the act. Frederique Desrosiers, the policy and advocacy director at Chicago Votes, said a strength of the legislation is that it applies to all of Illinois, which addresses some of the gaps in voter engagement efforts.

“One of the reasons why I think this bill is so important is because a lot of times voter registration efforts focus ... on downtown Lakeshore campuses, and a lot of times young people who live on the South and West Sides aren’t really folded into the conversation and not really encouraged and engaged,” Desrosiers said.

Franklin Hughes, a freshman at Dominican University and a student leader at Chicago Votes, said he supports the act and emphasized the importance of high schools offering students a chance to register to vote on school grounds.

“Voting is a gateway to having a voice in decisions that impact young people’s lives, and yet, many of us want to engage and don’t always know how or

when, and that’s why it’s so important that schools and youth spaces become trusted places,” Hughes said. “This bill meets young people where we already are and gives us a real pathway to participate in our democracy.”

Read more: High schoolers flood state Capitol to advocate for drug abuse prevention bills

Andrea Durbin, Chief Executive Officer at Illinois Collaboration on Youth, said that if the youth do not vote, those in power may not prioritize their needs since voting is a method for constituents to communicate their concerns.

“We need to make sure, especially if young people are exercising that right and that power, (that) if they flex that muscle, people will pay attention,” she said.

Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Legacy

Jackson, who died on Feb. 17, was a national voice for civil and voting rights and a civic leader based in Chicago for six decades. In 1972, Jackson organized voter registration drives and encouraged Black Americans to vote.

Former Presidents Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Bill Clinton attended his public memorial in early March. Obama said during his speech that Jackson helped create the political climate for what would be the future president’s campaign success.

“It was because of that path that he had laid, because of his courage, his audacity, that two decades later, a young Black senator from Chicago’s South Side would even be taken seriously as a candidate of the presidential nomination,” Obama said.

Du Buclet said Jackson’s advocacy for youth voter registration and legacy in the civil rights movement encouraged her to sponsor the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. Young Voter Empowerment Act.

“The Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. was such a trailblazer in fighting for voting rights, particularly for children, for young people,” Du Buclet said. “One of the things that was his vision was that students graduated with a diploma in one hand and a voter registration card in the other hand. That was part of my inspiration for the bill, just to try and fulfill his vision and keep the voting rights vision and efforts going forward.”

Amy L. Wong is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and fellows in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

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.



- Nancy Anderson, 74, Belvidere, March 13
- Gail Blum, 83, Marengo, March 14
- William Czirjak, 91, Harvard, March 12
- Amelia “Millie” Giese, 88, Belvidere, March 11
- Edith Hudson-Hamblin, 77, Belvidere, March 7
- Lori Mabe, 64, Marengo, March 13
- Roger Wiley 72, locally, about 2 months ago



real journalism for a real democracy

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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.
Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.
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Margaret Croke Wins Democratic primary For Illinois comptroller

Four Democrats fought to replace outgoing Comptroller Susana Mendoza

Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Chicago state Rep. Margaret Croke was declared the winner in the Democratic primary for Illinois comptroller, according to the Associated Press.

Croke will advance to the November election and face Republican Bryan Drew of Marion in the first open election for the comptroller's office since 2016. Incumbent Comptroller Susana Mendoza, a Democrat from Chicago, is not seeking reelection after nearly 10 years in office.

Results of the closely contested race as of Thursday afternoon show Croke receiving 34.6% of the vote with 92% of precincts across the state reporting. The race was too close to call on Tuesday night as Sen. Karina Villa, D-West Chicago, trailed by a few points.

Croke received 39% of the vote in Cook County, which is home to the largest population of Democratic voters in the state. Villa, who positioned herself as the progressive in the race, performed best in west suburban counties that include parts of her Senate district and received 32.3% of the vote statewide.

Lake County Treasurer Holly Kim came in third with 24.4% of the statewide vote but received support from more than half of primary voters in her home county. Kim also won several downstate counties where she campaigned heavily.

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, received 8.7% of the vote.

"Margaret has always been committed to responsible fiscal management and improving the lives of hardworking Illinoisans," Pritzker said in a statement. "She knows how to get things done, and I know she will hit the ground running on day one fighting for Illinois families."

Croke's attention now turns to her Republican opponent, Drew, who told reporters on Wednesday at a Republican Party breakfast in Naperville that his career as an attorney makes him the candidate who understands how government works the best.

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.

Political Will Grows For Data Center Regulations as Power Act Remains in Committee

Capital News Illinois

Lawmakers, stakeholders, the governor and feds all have indicated they're open to regulation

Managing data centers has been a growing issue around the U.S. as states balance economic development with community concerns about pollution, water supply and energy prices.

That has led to different regulations nationwide from moratoriums on development permits to putting data centers in their own ratepayer class. Illinois legislators have proposed regulating data centers with the POWER Act, a bill that addresses concerns about prices, water and pollution by:

- Requiring data centers to pay for their own energy and the infrastructure to generate it, and requiring that energy to come from renewable sources.

- Mandating transparency from data centers about their water use and water permits from

the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which would manage how data centers handle wastewater and meet efficiency standards.

- Requiring the IEPA to conduct assessments about how a data center would impact a community and mandating data center developers enter community benefits agreements that promote transparent engagement with the public. The community benefits agreements will be enforced by a coalition of residents, organizations and

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Belvidere

from page 1

the insects were biting the cattle. Flies tend to become “nippy” when the barometric pressure drops and that is a sure predictor of a storm moving along the western horizon. But that method of weather prediction is gone for most farmers today. And many across Boone County have given up feeding cattle or hogs. Their farms remain only as a distant memory.

The two women shown in the photograph crossing the street likely watched the clouds that day as they avoided puddles and danced through the traffic to make their way across South State Street where Logan Avenue bears off to the east. We might conclude by their dress and their probable pace that these women were enjoying a spring “girls’ day out.”

In that era, Belvidere was marked by a vibrant, exciting downtown where almost anything these two women could want would be found, all within a few paces of where they walked. It was a place where everyone had a purpose in being there. They were crossing South State Street near where the Plane Hardware Store stood for decades. Belvidere was an island community then—in the sense that a trip outside of the community to purchase commodities was rare. Rockford was too far, despite a streetcar that connected the two cities. The Internet was beyond imagination. It would require multi-story apartments in the central city area to support a local walkable marketplace today.

Fantasy is experienced when one looks back in time or when one looks forward. The current reality that is downtown Belvidere begs for someone in city government to fantasize about how the former vibrant downtown district might be reborn. Zoning laws and the important historic district designs provide the framework for expansion and development.

We might fantasize that one day a wealthy entrepreneur will arrive in Belvidere with limitless funds, smiling while hired city officials search for a way to interpret statute. Maybe one day Belvidere will enjoy another dining establishment that offers an exciting menu with luscious dishes and a friendly face behind a bar, offering a tasty libation. Maybe one day that fantasy will come true, but today that fantasy is just that, a fantasy of a reality that has disappeared. No one knows when, or if, that reality will ever reappear.

**Darren Bailey**

ed the GOP’s conservative base by asserting that Bailey was “too conservative” for Illinois.

Bailey went on to lose the general election, 55% to 42%, after Pritzker swept Cook County and most of the collar counties

Two years later, he tried unsuccessfully to unseat fellow Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost in the 12th District, narrowly losing that primary by less than 3,000 votes.

Bailey announced his plan to run for governor again in September, vowing to run a different campaign that would focus more on Chicago and its suburbs. That started with choosing Cook County Republican Party Chairman Aaron Del Mar as his running mate.

“Aaron definitely brings a whole bunch of stuff to the table,” Crystal Bell, a Bailey supporter from Beardstown, said in an interview Tuesday night. “The dynamic duo, is what I call them.”

Barely a month after announcing his candidacy, however, Bailey suffered a family tragedy that could have ended his campaign when his son Zacharay, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren were all killed in a helicopter crash in Montana.

But Bailey chose to stay in the race, “not for politics, but for every family trying to make it in a state that’s lost its way, for every parent who dreams of a better future for their children and for every Illinoisan who knows that we can do better.”

Although Trump did not issue a formal endorsement this time around, Bailey made it clear that he would model his administration after the current president, vowing to set up a DOGE-like commission to root out waste and inefficiency in state government.

Speaking to a ballroom full of supporters in Springfield Tuesday night, Bailey reiterated his pro-Trump message.

Dabrowski, meanwhile, campaigned on the idea that he was the more electable candidate, arguing that Bailey’s poor performance in the suburbs four years ago was an omen that he could never win a statewide general election.

“Victory runs through the suburbs,” Dabrowski said in his final TV ad of the primary campaign. “Darren Bailey is a disaster in the suburbs. It’s why Pritzker wanted to run against him four years ago and does again.”

But Sheldon Schulte, a Bailey supporter from Vandalia, said Tuesday that if more southern Illinois Republicans had turned out in 2022, Bailey would have won the race.

“People do not get out and turn out,” he said in an interview. “I mean, all we needed was 15% more people in southern Illinois to show up and we would have won. They just won’t get out and vote. They like to sit around a coffee shop and bitch. They don’t want to get out and vote. I don’t understand..”

Senate Race

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to Washington,” Stratton told supporters on Chicago’s West Side. “I haven’t forgotten that promise.”

Stratton received about 44% of the vote in Chicago to Kelly’s 25% and Krishnamoorthi’s 23%. She essentially fought suburban Cook County to a draw with Krishnamoorthi while he came out ahead in the suburban collar counties besides Will County, where Stratton led.

Stratton also led in many downstate counties, especially population centers in the Metro East, Springfield, Bloomington-Normal and Campaign-Urbana.

“We never lost sight of what’s most important, and that is courage, courage, inspired me to run,” Stratton said. “Courage powered this campaign, and courage will bring this fight straight to Donald Trump’s door.”

Stratton pledged to continue calling for abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, raising the minimum wage and instituting Medicaid for All.

“It’s time for bold ideas, big dreams and real courage in Washington, and we won’t wait a second longer,” Stratton said.

Across town at Krishnamoorthi’s event, the energy in the room was flat the entire night as results streaming on a large projector continually showed Stratton ahead. Eventually, the feed was cut off and replaced with a large “Raja” campaign logo.

While the Associated Press had yet to call the race, Krishnamoorthi took the stage shortly after 9:30 p.m. to announce that he’d called Stratton to concede the race.

“Obviously, this is not the result we sought,” a somber-looking Krishnamoorthi, flanked by his wife and two of his children, told supporters. “But unlike Donald Trump, I’m not going to question the outcome. I’m proud of the race we ran. And I’m honored at the support we received from every corner of the state, from Rockford to Cairo and from the Quad Cities to Decatur.”

Referencing an old Chicago machine phrase about excluding outsiders from party politics, Krishnamoorthi cast himself as the guy “nobody sent.”

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Four years ago, Bailey won the nomination with 57% of the vote in a crowded race that also featured Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin and venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan.

In that campaign, Bailey had the endorsement of then-former President Donald Trump. But many observers noted he also had backhanded help from the Pritzker campaign, which viewed him as a weaker candidate than the better financed Irvin.

Pritzker funded ads that, on the surface, appeared to criticize Bailey but which subtly target-

Senate Race

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He thanked supporters “who had the courage to defy the party establishment and endorse the candidate with 29 letters in his name.” He also thanked his donors, whom he credited with enabling him to “compete against very wealthy interests,” a not-so-veiled reference to Gov. JB Pritzker, who largely bankrolled a super PAC that backed Stratton.

End of long primary season

Tuesday night marked the conclusion of a lengthy and expensive primary campaign to replace Sen. Dick Durbin, who has held the seat since 1997, and did not make an endorsement in the race.

Krishnamoorthi spent years laying the groundwork for a Senate run. He made frequent stops across the state, from fundraisers for various county Democratic parties to official congressional events well outside the boundaries of his suburban congressional district.

He was also the most aggressive fundraiser in the Illinois congressional delegation, banking more than \$19 million before he launched his Senate run in May 2025.

He continued fundraising at a breakneck pace, allowing him to run television advertisements nonstop since last July — more than six months before any other campaign or outside political action committee got on the air. Krishnamoorthi’s campaign spent more than \$27 million on ads.

The name recognition attained through his paid media blitz allowed Krishnamoorthi to build an early polling lead on his main rivals, Stratton and Kelly. However, Krishnamoorthi’s numbers eventually hit a ceiling, remaining stubbornly stuck in the mid-to-high 30s even as he continued to lead his opponents.

Stratton entered the race with Pritzker’s endorsement. But after seven years as the self-funding billionaire’s No. 2, she struggled to fundraise on her own — a problem exacerbated by strict federal contribution limits to campaign committees.

She attempted to turn this weakness into a strength by pledging not to accept donations from corporate political action committees. She also made bold policy proposals like an hourly \$25 minimum wage.

But she really started gaining ground on Krishnamoorthi in January, when the Pritzker-funded Illinois Future PAC finally launched a long-expected ad campaign on her behalf.

Unlike candidate committees, which are subject to strict contribution limits, PACs can raise unlimited sums, making it an attractive option for Pritzker to exert outsized influence on the race.

Krishnamoorthi simultaneously faced tough headlines over more than \$90,000 in contributions from donors with ties to President Donald Trump, including nearly \$30,000 from Shyam Sankar, the chief technology officer of Palantir, a company that holds a \$30 million contract with ICE to help track individuals for deportation. Krishnamoorthi donated a sum equaling Sankar’s contributions to immigrant rights organizations.

This was around the same time Operation Mid-

way Blitz dominated the headlines, drawing negative attention to federal immigration officers.

Kelly has served in Congress since 2013 and previously served a stint as chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois before being ousted by Pritzker-backed Lisa Hernandez. She cast herself as a progressive in the race who could work across the aisle to get things accomplished.

But Kelly also struggled to break out due to a lack of resources, always remaining a distant third place behind Krishnamoorthi and Stratton.

As Stratton gained in the polls, dark money PACs with ties to the cryptocurrency industry poured more than \$10 million into ads against her. They also sought to boost Kelly, leading to accusations that the effort was meant to split the



Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton delivers a victory speech Tuesday night, shortly after 10 p.m., after securing the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in 2026. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Maggie Dougherty)

Black vote between Stratton and Kelly, who are both Black women.

Stratton begins the general election as a heavy favorite to succeed Durbin, facing off against former Republican Party Chair Don Tracy.

Seven other candidates were also on the ballot and received about 9% of the vote.

Republican results

In the Republican primary for Durbin’s open Senate seat, Tracy received 40% of the vote as of 10 p.m. Tuesday evening. Tracy faced five other candidates in the primary race, which lacked the same attention as the Democratic primary with a field of lesser-known candidates with little political experience.

“We stand before you tonight as the Illinois Republican nominee for the United States Senate. Thank you again for entrusting me with this important nomination,” Tracy said at his watch party in Springfield. “With your help, we’ll deliver that underdog victory in November that will shock the nation and make Illinois better, more balanced and a stronger state.”

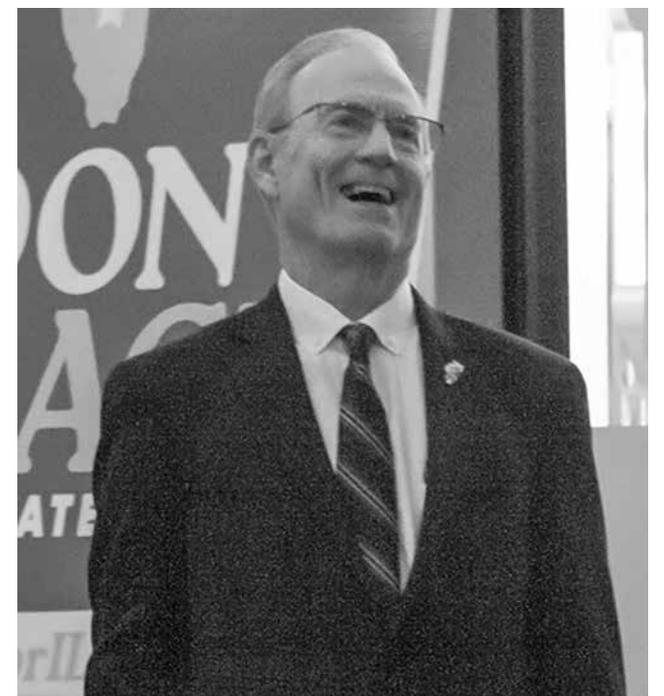
Tracy said his top priority will be reducing cost of living in key areas like energy and health care. The mood at the watch party was quiet initially, picking up as supporters watched results roll in. Kathy Salvi, the current Illinois Republican Party chair and the party’s failed Senate candidate in 2022, spoke to the growing crowd around 8 p.m.

“I am absolutely delighted to be here for you, Don,” Salvi said. “Everything that you stand for will elevate and bring hope and promise to Illinois.”

Of the five other candidates, Chicago attorney Jeannie Evans received about 22% of the vote, real estate manager Casey Chlebek received 11%, and the final three candidates received about 25% collectively.

Congressional results

Four of the five open congressional seats saw intense competition in their primary races this cycle, with dozens of candidates seeking rare open seats in Congress and an unprecedented \$62 million contributed in direct campaign contributions and outside funding.



Don Tracy, the former chair of the state Republican Party, celebrates his nomination as the GOP’s candidate for U.S. Senate in 2026. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Jenna Schweikert)

In the 9th Congressional District, Evanston mayor Daniel Biss won with about 30% of the vote as of 10 p.m. The contentious primary in one of the state’s most liberal districts gained national attention after candidates sparred over whether they aligned with the views of American Israel Public Affairs Committee and one candidate was charged by the federal government with conspiring to impede immigration agents. Biss, a former state senator who lost the 2018 gubernatorial primary to Gov. JB Pritzker, will face Republican John Elleson in the November general election.

In the 2nd Congressional District, Cook County commissioner Donna Miller beat nine candidates including state senator Robert Peters and former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. with 40% of the vote as of 10 p.m. Miller will face Republican Michael Scott Noack, who won his primary uncontested, in the general election.

In the 7th Congressional District, state Rep. La Shawn Ford won the Democratic primary against 12 other candidates, with just under 25% of the vote as of 10 p.m. Ford will face the GOP primary winner Chad Koppie in November.

In the 8th Congressional District, former U.S. Rep. Melissa Bean won her primary with about 32% of the vote as of 10 p.m. and will face Republican

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS. NO. 2026FC7**

**JARED A DEBOLT A/K/A JARED ALEXANDER DEBOLT; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.
8788 SHEFFIELD DRIVE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008**

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU,

Jared A Debolt a/k/a Jared Alexander Debolt
Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants
defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT EIGHT (8) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF OAK HILLS ESTATES, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 11 OF OAK HILLS ESTATES PLAT NO. 1 AND A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH FIRST NAMED SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 5 OF PLATS ON PAGES 10 AND 11 AS DOCUMENT NO. 123385 ON MAY 9, 1962 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 8788 Sheffield Drive Belvidere, IL 61008 and which said Mortgage was made by,
Jared A Debolt a/k/a Jared Alexander Debolt Mortgageor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Cherry Creek Mortgage Co., Inc.

Mortgage, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2018R01986; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before April 16, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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Chicago, IL 60606-1220
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 25-23307IL-1338468
I3283350
Published in The Boone County Journal March 17, 23, 31

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff,
-v- 2025FC19**

**JEREMY OWEN; WANDA OWEN A/K/A W OWEN, Defendants.
11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008**

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 1/21/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 4/20/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on April 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 4, Township 44 North, Range 4 East of the Third Principal Meridian, bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 29 seconds East along the North line of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section, 328.34 feet; thence South 00 degrees 7 minutes 23 seconds East, parallel with the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 398 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 29 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 328.34 feet to the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 7 minutes 23 seconds West along the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section, 398 feet to the point of beginning, subject to the rights of the public and State of Illinois in and to those portions thereof taken, used or dedicated for public road purposes; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

Commonly known as 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 06-04-100-008

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$384,907.20 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is

offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-16194IL. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 23-16194IL Case Number: 2025FC19 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

I3283760

Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 31; Apr 7, 2026 PNN

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 employee benefits broker and consulting services. The selected vendor will optimize our broker expenses, fully utilize the resources available to us, and reduce the overall costs to Belvidere Community Unit School District 100 and our employees. Ideally, the District desires to work with a Broker/Consultant who can provide multiple services to the District.

All bids are due by Friday, April 10, 2026, at 11:00 am CST, and a public bid opening will take place at 11:30 am 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://colbisebids.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 Mar 24, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of the property owner, Rush Power Systems, LLC, 1981 Belford North Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a map amendment (rezoning) on approximately 13 acres located at 1014 Irene Road, Belvidere IL 61008 from RH, Rural Holding District (pending annexation) to P1, Planned Industrial District pursuant to the Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Section 150.903 Amendment to Official Zoning Map. The subject property is legally described as:

Part of Lot 12 and part of Lot 13 as designated upon the Plat of Belford Industrial Park being a subdivision of part of the East 1/2 of Section 32 and the West 1/2 of Section 33, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, the Plat of which subdivision is recorded in Book 12 of Plats on Pages 30 and 31, as document number 74-738 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the southwest corner of said Lot 13; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds West, along the west line of said Lots 13 and 12, a distance of 924.26 feet to the northwest corner of said Lot 12; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 12, a distance of 528.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 54 seconds East, 330.06 feet to its intersection with the north line of said Lot 13; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 13, a distance of 267.36 feet; thence South 00 degrees 04 minutes 09 seconds East, 384.26 feet to its intersection with the south line of said Lot 13; thence South 74 degrees 23 minutes 30 seconds West, along the south line of said Lot 13, a distance of 825.11 feet to the point of beginning; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois. Containing 12.934 Acres. PIN: 05-32-200-042

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of property owner, Rush Power Systems, LLC, 1981 Belford North Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a special use to permit a planned development on approximately 13 acres in the P1, Planned Industrial District at 1014 Irene Road, Belvidere, IL 61008. The planned development will allow for the following departures: Section 150.105(C)(7)(C)(2) allowing for the outdoor storage of trailers, equipment and products as well as the occasional testing of equipment; Section 150.204(3)(B)(1)(A)(1) allowing for more than 20% of a platted lot to be used for cultivation purposes; Table 150.604 allowing

for the landscaping to not be placed within the categorized area so long as the total amount of landscaping points for the overall site is being met; Table 150.604 allowing for the street frontage landscaping along the vacant portion of Irene Road to be delayed until development occurs; Table 150.607(C)(2)(B) allowing for the required regular development landscaping and outdoor storage fencing to be utilized to meet the requirements of a .40 bufferyard; Section 150.702(J) allowing for the maximum width of the driveways to be increased from 35 feet to 40 feet and the maximum width of the flares to be increased from 45 feet to 110 feet; Section 150.704(F)(1) allowing for the outdoor storage with area to be on crushed asphalt; Sections 98.22/151.41(E) (2)/151.65(1) allowing for the waiver of installing sidewalks in the public right-of-way; Section 118.132 allowing for grasses and native plantings to exceed 8 inches in height in the undeveloped portions of the property; and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures. The planned development is being requested in order to construct a light industrial manufacturing building. The subject property is legally described as:

Part of Lot 12 and part of Lot 13 as designated upon the Plat of Belford Industrial Park being a subdivision of part of the East 1/2 of Section 32 and the West 1/2 of Section 33, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, the Plat of which subdivision is recorded in Book 12 of Plats on Pages 30 and 31, as document number 74-738 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the southwest corner of said Lot 13; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds West, along the west line of said Lots 13 and 12, a distance of 924.26 feet to the northwest corner of said Lot 12; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 12, a distance of 528.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 54 seconds East, 330.06 feet to its intersection with the north line of said Lot 13; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 13, a distance of 267.36 feet; thence South 00 degrees 04 minutes 09 seconds East, 384.26 feet to its intersection with the south line of said Lot 13; thence South 74 degrees 23 minutes 30 seconds West, along the south line of said Lot 13, a distance of 825.11 feet to the point of beginning; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois. Containing 12.934 Acres. PIN: 05-32-200-042.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 2026

NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BELVIDERE CUSD 100, TO DISCUSS THE DECISION TO POSSIBLY CLOSE A SCHOOL BUILDING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the community of Belvidere CUSD 100. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the 6th day of April 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at The D100 District Office 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive input from the community, to discuss the potential reconfiguration of our school buildings, and to discuss the decision to possibly close Perry Elementary School, 633 W. Perry Street, Belvidere, IL. By order of the President of the Board of Education of Belvidere CUSD 100.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the community of Belvidere CUSD 100. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the 7th day of April 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at the D100 District Office 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive input from the community, to discuss the potential reconfiguration of our school buildings, and to discuss the decision to possibly close Perry Elementary School, 633 W. Perry Street, Belvidere, IL. By order of the President of the Board of Education of Belvidere CUSD 100.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the community of Belvidere CUSD 100. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the 9th day of April 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at the D100 District Office 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive input from the community, to discuss the potential reconfiguration of our school buildings, and to discuss the decision to possibly close Perry Elementary School, 633 W. Perry Street, Belvidere, IL. By order of the President of the Board of Education of Belvidere CUSD 100.

NOTE: You must be present in order to participate. All hearings at the District Office will be livestreamed. Spanish language translation services will be available at all hearings. Should you need other translation services, please reach out to the District Office at 815-544-0301.

Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 2026

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA 4271 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PERSONAL CARE business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of RADIANT PERSONAL CARE that its location is or will be 1411 ILES AVE 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.

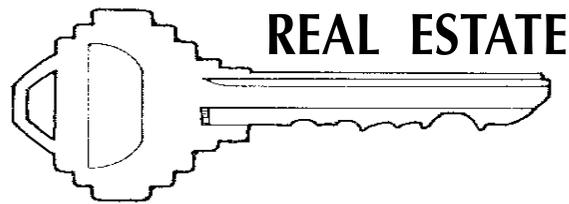
Phone Number: 779-208-1492
JOSE FRANCISCO COLLAZO JR.
1411 ILES AVE. BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and 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: March 10, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 03/17,24,31 P.

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY
 ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 No. DBA 4270 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COTTAGE FARM STAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE FLOUR & FLOWER CO. that its location is or will be 155 W NORTH ST in CAPRON, 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: 815-764-7439
 STACEY ANN RIVERA
 155 W NORTH ST CAPRON, ILLINOIS 61012
 I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and 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: March 5, 2026
 Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/10,17,24 P.

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY
 ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 No. DBA 4272 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a INTERNET RETAIL business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of CARD MANIA that its location is or will be 1220 W. JACKSON ST 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: 815-979-5386
 ROSEMARIE COLDIRON
 1220 W. JACKSON ST BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008
 I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and 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: March 19, 2026
 Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/24,31 04/07 P.

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY
 ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 No. DBA 4273 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of LOGAN AVENUE MOBILE that its location is or will be 220 LOGAN AVE. 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: 815-547-5560
 TAMI JEAN TEMPLE
 10290 RUSSELLVILLE RD BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008
 I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and 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: March 23, 2026
 Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/24,31 04/07 P.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
 THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff,
-v- 2025FC19
JEREMY OWEN; WANDA OWEN A/K/A W OWEN, Defendants.
11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 1/21/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 4/20/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on April 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.
 Commonly known as 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 Property Index No. 06-04-100-008
 The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$384,907.20 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-16194IL. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 23-16194IL Case Number: 2025FC19 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 I3283760
 Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 31; Apr 7, 2026 PNN

Senate

from page 5

nominee Jennifer Davis in November.

The 4th Congressional District is also open this fall but did not have a contested primary. The November election is expected to be a tense battle between Democratic nominee Patty Garcia and candidates who filed as independents.

Data Centers

from page 3

local government officials who will make up a community advisory board.

Democratic lawmakers sponsoring the bill call the regulations "commonsense" guardrails on a growing industry that impacts communities and electricity prices.

"Obviously, we know that data centers can provide economic development. But on the other hand, I want to make sure that our environment is protected and our people are protected," said Illinois House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston.

While data center backers say the economic benefits include job creation, capital investments and property tax revenue, environmentalists and consumer advocates say they are far outweighed by the risks for water resources and energy prices.

The POWER Act thus far remains in committee. But Illinois has a history of passing large-scale energy packages, such as the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and the Clean and Reliable Grid Act, as extensive amendments late in their regular or fall legislative session. The session is slated to adjourn on May 31.

Growing need for rules

Aurora is one Illinois city already regulating data centers. The city in September implemented a 180-day moratorium on development that will expire in late March.

The city set the pause so it could study the fiscal, environmental, stormwater and utility impacts on the community and come up with better rules and safeguards.

In late February, Aurora proposed ordinances that would require developers to conduct and submit multiple studies dealing with noise, water consumption and energy needs. The ordinances also require future data centers to meet standards for noise, vibrations, water use and energy use. New and expanded data centers "will also need to install and operate either on-site renewable energy techniques or on-site resilience storage procedures."

The POWER Act has similar requirements, and negotiations on the bill are ongoing. Those conversations include municipalities and workforce, labor, manufacturing and environmental groups.

"What we're asking for in this legislation are principles that I think, widely, people understand," said state Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago.

"Accountability protects our taxpayers and protects our environment. That's, I believe, entirely possible," he continued.

Technology is an essential part of many people's lives, and the data centers needed to support that technology will continue to exist and expand, Villivalam said.

"We're not saying 'no.' We're saying this is going to continue. This is how we need to approach it," he said.

Agreement between the governor and feds

Protecting consumers from paying for data centers' energy needs is a key part of the POWER Act, and shifting the cost to the data centers has widespread, bipartisan support in Illinois and nationwide.

During his annual budget address, Gov. JB Pritzker put the onus on PJM Interconnection, the electric grid operator that covers all or part 13 states from Illinois to the East Coast: "PJM must force data center developers to pay for capacity resources to power their operations to protect consumers from higher rates."

Pritzker also proposed a two-year pause on tax credits for new data centers to compensate for rising demand and higher prices. Illinois has provided tax incentives for data centers since Pritzker signed bipartisan legislation in 2019. According to the state's 2024 report, at least 27 data centers had received incentives totaling \$983 million in estimated lifetime tax breaks and benefits.

"With the shifting energy landscape, it is imperative that our growth does not undermine affordability and stability for our families," Pritzker said.

Pritzker has long advocated for attracting data centers to Illinois, especially given his focus on growing quantum computing, but he lately has said he also wants development to be controlled.

In January, Pritzker joined the Trump administration and 12 other governors in the PJM service area to call for PJM to adopt six principles to lower electricity prices. One principle would require PJM to allocate the cost of "any new" capacity to data centers.

Tech companies in early March signed a voluntary, nonbinding "Ratepayer Protection Pledge" at the White House, agreeing to cover the majority of costs for data center energy, though the pledge does not include penalties or other enforcement language. Seven companies have signed, including Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Meta. President Donald Trump announced the pledge during his State of the Union address.

In a separate letter, Pritzker and New Jersey Gov. Philip Murphy clarified to PJM that "implementation of these principles must also ensure that clean, cheap energy growth will not be sabotaged."

Cautious support from Republicans

Illinois Republicans have also called for data centers to pay for their own energy generation, though their support for the POWER Act isn't guaranteed and they don't share a commitment that energy generation come from renewable sources.

"While data centers have become part of the broader energy discussion, they are not the primary driver of the rate increases families have been experiencing," said Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris. "At the same time, I believe large energy users should pay their fair share and that our grid must remain secure and dependable."

Rezin sits on the committees that will likely discuss the POWER Act and she said she's open to "thoughtful, targeted proposals" for handling data centers, but she also wants to ensure companies aren't dissuaded from investing in Illinois.

Her concern is similar to that of groups like the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, which framed the POWER Act as "penalizing innovation" in a news release after it was announced. They also advocated for dealing with energy prices by pursuing an "all-of-the-above energy approach" to generation.

continued on page 8

Data Centers

from page 7

However, Gabel said she's had conversations with groups like the IMA, and they've indicated they're open to negotiation.

"I have spoken to both the IMA and the Data Center Coalition, and they both say that there's much in this bill that that they can work with," she said. "There may be a few issues that we need more discussion about, but neither of those organizations felt like this was DOA."

Considering how many other states have data center regulations, Gabel said she thinks concerns about scaring away development are overblown.

"I've met with data centers, and they are open to this," she said.

The Clean Jobs Coalition, a group of organizations committed to renewable energy favors the bill but also supports negotiation.

"We also know that data center development in Illinois to date has not delivered a fair deal for families, who have paid millions in tax incentives while subsidizing Big Tech's utility costs," the group said in a statement. "The POWER Act is an opportunity to reconcile that imbalance moving forward and will need further discussion and consideration among stakeholders."

A big reason for the urgency, Gabel said, is that data centers built elsewhere in the PJM territory would impact what Illinoisans pay anyway, even if the centers aren't built in Illinois. That's because all states in that territory pull from the same energy pool.

"We feel like it's our responsibility to put some guardrails around the development of these data centers," she said.

The bill language is now in the House Executive Committee, which meets Thursday at 10 a.m. and the Senate AI and Social Media Subcommittee, where senators will discuss multiple bills regulating data centers, though negotiations could come down to the wire if recent history is a guide.

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.

Sports Betting Tax Becomes Battleground Between Chicago and State Lawmakers

Chicago's hefty new 10.25% tax on sports betting is creating backlash in Springfield and prompting a legal battle

Erika Tulfo Medill Illinois News Bureau

Chicago's steep new tax on sports betting is creating a backlash in Springfield that could lead to new restrictions on whether municipalities should have the power to tax gambling revenue.

The highly contested tax charges sports betting businesses 10.25% on their net gambling revenue. The tax, which took effect Jan. 1, is in addition to the state's existing levy on sports gambling, which includes per-bet fees. The combination gives Illinois one of the most

severe betting tax structures in the country.

As Illinois begins Problem Gambling Awareness Month, state representatives from both sides of the aisle say the tax will drive bettors to illegal markets, hurting revenues for Illinois. And some Chicago officials worry it could become a point of tension between the city and state legislators, hindering future collaboration on financial issues.

"When we passed our sports betting law, it was never the intent of the legislature that there would be a patchwork of different rules and different tax rates in every municipality throughout the state," Rep. Daniel Didech, D-Buffalo Grove, told Capitol News Illinois. "Now that Chicago has opened that door, I think we're going to try to close it."

Didech, who serves as chairman of the Illinois House Gaming Committee and played poker professionally for over five years, filed House Bill 4171 in October with a long list of Democratic and Republican cosponsors. It passed committee in February, taking it one step closer to a vote.

The bill would negate Chicago's tax and would be effective immediately if passed and signed into law. Didech said it was intended to maintain uniform, state-wide regulations on sports gambling by preventing local governments from imposing their own taxes.

The Sports Wagering Act was passed in 2019, and the state raked in \$429 million in tax revenues related to sports gambling in fiscal year 2025, according to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

Illinois' tax structure

Currently, Illinois ranks fifth in the U.S. and first in the Midwest in taxes collected on sports wagering, according to the Illinois Policy Institute.

When sports betting became legal in the state, sportsbooks paid only a flat 15% tax on the revenue they earned. Now the tax rate is as high as 40% depending on a sportsbook's revenue, while the state also enacted a 25- to 50-cent per-wager fee last year.

But the most recent data from the Illinois Gaming Board shows that the total number of bets placed fell by 15% from September to October last year after the per-wager tax was introduced.

Chicago identified the sports betting tax as a stream of "progressive revenue" in its 2026 Budget Overview, claiming it would help balance the budget without cutting essential services or raising costs for working families. The tax was passed on June 1, 2025, and city officials projected the measure would generate \$26.2 million.

But the new city tax amplified growing tensions between Chicago and the Sports Betting Alliance, which represents major sportsbooks including DraftKings, FanDuel and BetMGM.

The Alliance filed a lawsuit in December challenging the tax. The coalition argued that the Sports Wagering Act did not allow the city to impose its own sports betting taxes on top of the state's existing taxes.

"The State — not the City — has sole authority to license and tax online sports wagering in the State of Illinois," the lawsuit argued. "The Illinois Constitution reserves authority over licensing for revenue and income-based taxation to the State unless expressly delegated. The Illinois General Assembly has never authorized the City to impose licensing fees or income-based taxes on online sports wagering."

The city declined to comment, citing pending litigation.

A hearing is scheduled later this month. "Ultimate-

ly, we just have to continue to press the case," Alliance president Joe Maloney said.

Chicago and Springfield at odds

In the meantime, state lawmakers are taking aim at Chicago's tax — and trying to prevent other municipalities from setting their own local sports betting taxes.

Sen. Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, filed Senate Bill 2760 in January, which seeks to penalize Chicago by taking the total amount the city gained from its sports wagering fee and deducting it from Chicago's share of the Local Government Distributive Fund, one of the largest sources of state funding for cities and counties. That amount would then be redistributed to other municipalities following the fund's allocation formula.

Joyce said in an interview that he, along with other members of the General Assembly, was open to sitting down with Chicago officials to discuss the bill.

He also filed Senate Bill 2800, a bill identical to Didech's House version that denies home rule units the authority to regulate or tax sports wagering.

The tax remains a divisive topic in Chicago, too.

Chicago Ald. Gilbert Villegas, who opposed the new tax, said he was concerned it would cause a rift between the city and state lawmakers.

"I just think it was the wrong approach," he said. "To do this with Springfield signaling that there was going to be huge opposition and a potential bill sends the wrong message from a city that is going to need to be down in Springfield making requests for different items."

What does the tax mean for bettors?

Sportsbook operators have already been feeling the squeeze after the implementation of the state's per-wager tax in September, which required them to pay 25 cents on each of the first 20 million bets placed, and 50 cents for each bet over that amount.

Some betting operators, like FanDuel, have shifted the cost to customers by forcing them to pay a \$0.50 per-bet fee. Other sportsbooks like BetRivers have responded to Illinois' tax pressures by raising the minimum stake. The number of total bets placed in Illinois fell to 28.5 million in the fall from 33.6 million the year before.

Both the Sports Betting Alliance and state lawmakers worried that the city's tax would drive Chicago bettors away from licensed sportsbooks and into illegal, unregulated markets.

But some avid sportsbook users, like Chicago-based social media content creator Sam Cantalupo, are continuing to stomach the cost.

Cantalupo is known for his sports betting analysis videos, which have garnered over 100,000 likes on his TikTok channel "djsammycaps." While he has signed petitions opposing the city's sports betting tax, he said that, at the end of the day, he is still willing to pay a higher price if an even heavier tax were imposed.

"If they raised it, honestly, I would probably have to suck it up and pay it," he said.

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