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You Are America

By Charles Herbst

This winter, workmen are putting the lettering on the museum building of the Obama Presidential Center, being constructed in Jackson Park in Chicago. This lettering consists of five-foot-tall concrete letters from the text of President Obama's "You Are America" speech marking the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches, delivered in 2015.

The Barack Obama Presidential Center, home of the Barack Obama Foundation in partnership with the University of Chicago, celebrates the presidency of Barack Obama and consists of a library, museum, community center, and conference facility on a 19-acre site in Chicago's Jackson Park. The library will be first presidential library to be fully digitized. Obama taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School.

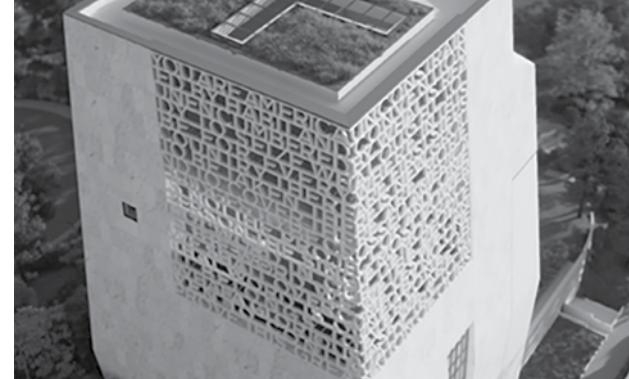
Panels of letters were made in South Bend, Indiana using architectural-grade concrete. Each panel measures between 20 to 30 feet tall and 9 to 15 feet wide, weighing from 11,000 to 20,000 pounds, with a depth of one foot. The panels feature the typeface Gotham, originally used during President Obama's 2008 campaign. Stainless steel custom-fabricated embeds and brackets hold the panels in place.

The museum, designed by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, is expected to open in June 2026, with other components opening later, including a branch of the Chicago Public Library.

The concrete letters spell out Obama's message: "You are America. Unconstrained by habit and convention. Unencumbered by what is, and ready to seize what ought to be. Everywhere in this country, there are first steps to be taken, there's new ground to cover, there are more bridges to be crossed. America is not the project of any one person. The single most powerful word in our democracy is the word 'We.' 'We The People.' 'We Shall Overcome.' 'Yes We Can.' That word is owned by no one. It belongs to everyone. Oh, what a glorious task we are given, to continually try to improve this great nation of ours."

In addition to the museum, the site will feature Home Court, a place for community engagement and enrichment and will also include the Eleanor Roosevelt Fruit and Vegetable Garden.

Photos courtesy of the Obama Foundation



Stadelman Praises \$440,000 For Local Training In Construction Trades

State Senator Steve Stadelman praised the announcement that EDDR Foundation in Rockford would receive \$440,000 in funding through the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

"The needs of the workforce remain a priority of mine, so I'm encouraged to see a second round of investment in the Rockford area," Stadelman said in reference to EDDR earning a same-size grant in 2024. "The continuation of this program will increase access to good-paying jobs for underrepresented populations in our region."

EDDR is among 39 organizations to receive \$17 million in pre-apprenticeship grants statewide. recipients statewide. Pre-apprenticeship grants are used to create a diverse pool of skilled candidates in construction and building trades and help them establish careers in the field.

OBITUARIES

Emmett Craig, 91, Belvidere, January 24
 Rosanne Diaz, 77, Marengo, January 20
 Charles "Chas" Donner, 67, Harvard, January 26
 Maddy Geissman, 60, Belvidere, January 23
 Kirsten Harmon, 60, Marengo, December 29
 Mary "Eileen" King, 98, Harvard, January 23
 Thomas Mason, 76, Belvidere, January 23
 Robert Quinn, 78, Belvidere, January 26
 Nancy Ray, 92, Belvidere, January 22
 Kaye Slagle, 87, Belvidere, January 20
 Richard Todd, 65, Belvidere, January 20



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

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.

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

Illinois' Democratic U.S. Senate Primary Heats Up Over ICE

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton goes on offense as immigration dominates debate

Brenden Moore *Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois' once-sleepy Democratic primary for retiring Sen. Dick Durbin's seat heated up Monday night as the three leading contenders used their first live debate to cast themselves as the strongest bulwark against President Donald Trump and his administration's aggressive immigration enforcement tactics.

The hourlong debate, hosted by the Chicago Sun-Times, WBEZ and the University of Chicago, came in wake of two deadly shootings involving federal immigration agents in Minneapolis this month that have sparked national outcry — and echoed the enforcement campaign that targeted and disrupted the Chicago region last fall.

Abolish ICE?

The three candidates — Rep. Robin Kelly of Lynwood, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Schaumburg, and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton — all to varying degrees called for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be dismantled but differed on the extent.

"I want to abolish ICE because this agency cannot be reformed," Stratton said, adding that "it doesn't matter whose ICE it is."

Stratton sought to create a wedge against her opponents, going even further than Gov. JB Pritzker, who came out in favor of abolishing "Trump's ICE." The agency has ratcheted up in aggressiveness since it received a massive funding boost under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act Trump signed last year. Pritzker has endorsed his No. 2's campaign.

Some Democrats view the phrasing as an attempt to qualify a slogan that, in its absolute form, could politically backfire, much as "defund the police" did for the party in 2020.

Krishnamoorthi said he supports abolishing "Trump's ICE" while backing reforms such as banning agents from wearing face coverings, requiring visible identification and installing an inspector general within the agency to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

Kelly said they needed to "dismantle ICE" and "build an agency that people can trust" as part of a larger overhaul of the nation's immigration system.

"The Department of Homeland Security is too big, too unwieldy and not accountable, and

we need to do all this in the guise of immigration reform," Kelly said. "It can't be one thing or another."

Race heats up

Pressure on ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has intensified in recent weeks as the agencies carry out an aggressive enforcement campaign in the Minnesota, which has led to violent confrontations between agents and protesters.

Earlier this month, it turned deadly after an ICE agent shot 37-year-old American citizen Renee Good at close range while she apparently attempted to flee a traffic stop. Over the weekend, a Border Patrol agent fatally shot 37-year-old American citizen Alex Pretti.

Senior Trump administration officials later labeled both as "domestic terrorists," despite them having no criminal records. Video footage and witness accounts contradicted the government's initial versions of events, prompting questions about the use of deadly force.

The uproar has spilled over into Illinois' Democratic primary for Senate.

Days after Good's killing, Kelly introduced articles of impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The measure has 140 cosponsors, including Krishnamoorthi and most of Illinois' Democratic congressional delegation.

Immigration dominated the debate even before it began, with Krishnamoorthi's campaign and allies of Stratton releasing ads hours before highlighting their candidates' positions on ICE.

"Donald Trump has weaponized ICE against our cities and our people," Krishnamoorthi said in a 30-second television ad. "Torn apart families, terrorized neighborhoods. We should abolish Trump's ICE. We can't have a government or ICE running out of control. It's morally wrong, and it's unlawful."

Illinois Future PAC, a group supporting Stratton, launched a targeted digital ad focusing on the immigration issue.

"Juliana Stratton has made clear ICE must be abolished — not reformed, not restrained, abolished," a narration reads. "Every candidate on the debate stage knows what ICE is doing to our state and our country. Juliana Stratton will do what it takes to stop it. And that's the difference."

Stratton attacks

Trailing in fundraising and polling, Stratton further attempted to use immigration as a wedge against her opponents, particularly Krishnamoorthi, accusing the Schaumburg Democrat voting to "thank ICE" and for accepting "funding from ICE contractors."

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Debate

from page 2

She pointed to nearly \$30,000 in campaign contributions Krishnamoorthi received from Shyam Sankar, the chief technology officer of Palantir, which holds a \$30 million contract with ICE to provide tools to track self-deportation, the Sun-Times reported last month.

The contributions, made over several years, represent a minuscule fraction of the millions Krishnamoorthi's raised over the past decade. And after the news report came out, his campaign said it donated the sum of Sankar's contributions to unnamed immigrant rights groups.

Stratton also criticized Krishnamoorthi for joining Republicans and 74 Democrats last year in voting for a resolution that, in part, expressed "gratitude" to ICE officers, arguing that it is "not the example of somebody who is going to stand up to Donald Trump."

The language was attached to a larger resolution condemning anti-Semitism following a 2025 terrorist attack that injured at least a dozen people at a rally for Israeli hostages in Colorado, killing one. Krishnamoorthi defended the vote, saying that he's "going to condemn anti-Semitism eight days out of the week" and that it was important to signal support to the Jewish community.

Recognizing himself as "the only immigrant on this stage," Krishnamoorthi — born in India — defended his oversight record, arguing that he was "the only candidate on the stage that actually inspected an ICE facility itself."

"We can either roll over or we can fight," Krishnamoorthi said. "And I say we have to fight."

"We have to fight in the courts. We have to fight in the press. We have to fight in the court of public opinion, in the halls of Congress and, yes, the United States Senate," he said. "But we should never, ever, ever surrender our values."

Stratton also criticized Krishnamoorthi and Kelly for accepting donations from corporate political action committees. They pushed back, accusing Stratton — who has pledged not to accept corporate PAC money — of hypocrisy, noting that Illinois Future PAC has yet to disclose its donors despite running ads in support of her candidacy.

Kelly acknowledged accepting contributions from corporate PACs, but said she votes "like the people who put me in office want me to vote."

"And the corporate PAC money I take? You see who I take corporate PAC money from, unlike

the commercial that the lieutenant governor has that is paid for by dark money, and we don't know who's behind those commercials," Kelly said.

Party leadership

Stratton said she would not support keeping Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in charge of the upper chamber's Democrats. Kelly and Krishnamoorthi said they would hear him — and any other possible candidates — out.

Kelly, Krishnamoorthi and Stratton will debate again on Thursday on ABC 7 Chicago.

Early voting begins Feb. 5. And the primary election is March 17.

The seven other Democratic candidates running for Senate include Steve Botsford, Sean Brown, Awisi Bustos, Jonathan Dean, Bryan Maxwell, Kevin Ryan and Christopher Swann.

There are six Republicans running for the office: Cary Capparelli, Casey Chlebek, Jeannie Evans, Pamela Denise Long, Jimmy Lee Tillman II and Don Tracy.

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2nd Senate Debate: Democrats Talk Fighting Trump, Restoring Trust in Government

Ben Szalinski Capital News Illinois

The top three Illinois Democrats vying for a seat in the U.S. Senate sought to position themselves as the best candidate to fight the Trump administration and restore trust in government Thursday night.

In an hourlong debate hosted by ABC-7 Chicago in partnership with Univision and the League of Women Voters, U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton pitched voters on how they will serve as a legislative check to President Donald Trump.

Thursday's debate featured less sparring over immigration and campaign donations compared to the first debate held two days prior as candidates were not given time to respond to attacks by

their opponents.

Instead, the trio agreed Trump's second term has plunged America into a constitutional crisis.

"I don't think anyone imagined that someone would take advantage and break the laws that he has been breaking," Kelly said, arguing she's already taking steps to fight back by filing articles of impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Krishnamoorthi, who holds a solid lead in fundraising and the polls, advocated for Congress to use its authority over government spending to block the president's agenda by establishing conditions the executive branch must follow to spend money. He argued that would be an effective way to ensure the administration follows science-based vaccine policies, for example.

"I think that we have to block appropriations ... and restrict money that's spent at HHS (the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) unless it's spent in the right way, including in executing a well thought-out vaccine policy," he said.

The Schaumburg Democrat also said he supports a series of ideas including banning mid-decade redistricting, and limiting the president's power to levy tariffs and issue pardons.

Krishnamoorthi also committed to using the Senate's "blue slip" process that allows senators to block nominees to federal judgeships in a senator's home state.

Stratton called for reforming the U.S. Supreme Court, accusing the conservative-leaning body, which includes three justices appointed by Trump in his first term, of "rubber-stamping" his agenda. She said she supports enacting term limits for justices and expanding the size of the court.

Stratton, a Chicagoan who has served as lieutenant governor since 2019, committed to opposing any nominees Trump makes to the Supreme Court or federal agencies.

continued on page 4

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2nd Debate

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Bringing Illinois to D.C.

Stratton pledged several times to implement some of Gov. JB Pritzker's accomplishments at the federal level.

"We need to do what we've done here in Illinois over the past seven years in our administration," she said. "We have made record investments in K-through-12 education and didn't leave it there. We also invested in early childhood and made college more affordable."

To improve voting accessibility, she added Congress should follow the state's lead in expanding voting hours and mail-in voting options. But Kelly, who polls show is in a tight second-place race with Stratton, sought to give Stratton a reality check.

"Oftentimes what you can do in Illinois, a very blue state, you cannot do that nationwide," Kelly said. "It just does not work like that. As I've often said, I've been in Congress 13 years, and only in the majority four years."

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Foreign policy

The candidates also shared some disagreements over the War Powers Resolution and when a president should have to come to Congress for permission to take military action abroad.

Kelly took an absolute stance.

"I think the president should have to receive our approval before he attacks any country or tries to take over any country, tries to buy a country, tries to take over a country, tries to kidnap any leader of a country," she said. "I think that he needs to come to us first before he does anything that can put our country and our people in harm's way."

Stratton said she wants "to make sure that Congress has the appropriate ability to review, give authority, have oversight."

Krishnamoorthi was willing to give the commander-in-chief more leeway.

"In the case of an emergency, the President should be able to act to defend the United States," he said. "However, where there's not an emergency, such as what we saw with Venezuela, where he deployed armed forces in hostilities, he must come to Congress first."

The candidates were also asked what Congress should do to ensure the U.S. stays engaged in global public policy after Trump has removed the United States from international treaties and collaboration on a variety of issues.

"We have to take care of and be a role model in our own country before we can tell other countries what to do," Kelly said. "The other countries need to see that we care."

Minimum wage

Stratton has carved out a bold lane in the race with her call to raise the minimum wage to \$25 hourly. It has been \$7.25 hourly since 2009 and \$15 in Illinois for a little more than a year.

"I don't think we should think about just minimum wage," Stratton said. "I think we should think about a livable wage. What kind of income must people have so that they can put food on the table and maybe save a little extra money and maybe have something to spend in the small businesses in their communities."

Stratton's opponents were less aggressive, both saying they support raising the minimum wage to \$17.

Krishnamoorthi said it "sounds reasonable given inflation," but it must be done "in a way that also respects small businesses."

Kelly again pushed back on the reality of Stratton's idea making it through Congress.

Seventeen dollars is "what studies show is viable," Kelly said. "And also, we have to be realistic about how much we want to raise it

because we of course have to get 218 votes in the House and 60 votes in the Senate."

The seven other Democratic candidates running for Senate include Steve Botsford, Sean Brown, Awisi Bustos, Jonathan Dean,

Bryan Maxwell, Kevin Ryan and Christopher Swann.

There are six Republicans running for the office: Cary Capparelli, Casey Chlebek, Jeannie Evans, Pamela Denise Long, Jimmy Lee Tillman II and Don Tracy. They will meet for a debate on ABC-7 next month.

Early voting begins Feb. 5 and the primary election is March 17.

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State High Court Rejects Challenge To Wind-Generated Transmission Line

Project still faces funding challenges after Trump administration cancels federal loan

Peter Hancock

Capitol News Illinois

Developers of a proposed massive transmission line that would bring wind-generated electricity from western Kansas to Illinois and other Midwest states cleared a legal hurdle Friday when the Illinois Supreme Court rejected a challenge to their state permit.

In a 6-0 ruling, the court said Grain Belt Express LLC, also known as GBX, had met its duty under the state's 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act to show it could finance the project "without significant adverse financial consequences for the utility or its customers."

The court made that ruling despite a decision by the Trump administration last summer to cancel a \$4.9 billion federal loan guarantee that had previously been approved by the Biden administration to finance the first phase of construction of the power line across Kansas and Missouri.

That loan would have been just one part of a complex financing package that also includes private funding from multiple sources.

Friday's decision reverses a 2024 ruling by the 5th District Court of Appeals, which said the Illinois Commerce Commission erred when it originally granted a permit, known as a "certificate of public convenience and necessity," to GBX. "Proof of GBX's current and present financial capability was not a condition precedent to the issuance of the CPCN," the court said in an opinion written by Justice Mary K. O'Brien. "Instead, evidence of the industry's method of financing the construction of large-scale energy projects, along with unrefuted evidence that such projects do not generate revenue until regulatory permits are issued and customer contracts are executed, supports the ICC's decision to issue a CPCN to GBX."

The project, which has been in the planning stages for years, calls for an 800-mile high-voltage direct current line that would stretch from western

Court**from page 4**

Kansas, across Missouri and through nine counties in Illinois, ending in Indiana, where it would connect to the MISO and PJM regional power grids.

In 2018, the Supreme Court overturned an ICC decision to grant a permit to build and operate the Illinois portion of the project, saying the company did not meet what was then the state's definition of a public utility.

Three years later, state lawmakers addressed that issue with passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA, a far-reaching plan to incentivize development of renewable energy in Illinois, with the goal of transitioning the state to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045.

That act contained a provision specifically designed for Grain Belt Express that allowed ICC to issue permits to a "qualifying direct current applicant," which the law defines in a way that specifically describes GBX and its proposed project.

After passage of the bill, GBX reapplied for the permit, which the ICC approved in March 2023.

Illinois Farm Bureau then teamed up with several landowners and opponents of the project to challenge the permit on several grounds, including a provision of the state's Public Utilities Act that requires applicants to demonstrate they are capable of financing the proposed construction without adversely affecting the utility or its customers.

They also challenged the provision of CEJA that was specifically designed to facilitate the project, arguing it violated the Illinois Constitution's equal protection and separation of powers clauses as well as its limits on "special legislation."

Friday's ruling addressed only the challenge to the statutory financing requirements. It remanded the remaining challenges back to the 5th District Court of Appeals for further consideration.

A GBX spokesperson said after the ruling that the company was pleased with the decision and that it plans to move forward as a privately financed project.

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New SNAP Work Requirements Go Into Effect February 1, Threatening Eligibility

The requirements change which recipients must work or volunteer and how often

Jenna Schweikert Capitol News Illinois

New work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program go into effect Feb. 1, threatening benefits for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans.

Adults aged 18 to 64 without dependents under age 14 will be required to work, participate in SNAP Employment and Training programs or volunteer for at least 80 hours per month to receive benefits. Previously, only adults aged 18 to 54 without dependents under age 18 had to meet those requirements.

H.R. 1, known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," set these new SNAP requirements and made changes to many other federal programs when it was signed into law in July 2025.

Up to 340,000 Illinoisans are at risk of losing their benefits with the new requirements, according to the Illinois Department of Human Services. Adults who do not meet the requirements can only receive SNAP benefits for up to three months in a three-year period.

As of September 2025, nearly two million Illinois residents were using SNAP benefits, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Two major changes to SNAP

Most SNAP recipients must meet general work requirements by applying for and accepting available work, participating in SNAP Employment and Training and not voluntarily quitting or reducing work hours below 30 a week without good reason.

Some recipients are automatically exempt from this requirement based on factors like age, while others must submit exemption forms if they meet other criteria like homelessness or certain health conditions.

A smaller group of SNAP recipients known as

ABAWDs, or able-bodied adults without dependents, must meet further requirements if they are not exempt.

H.R. 1 made two major changes by modifying the definition of ABAWDs and implementing more work requirements for the newly defined population, ending Illinois' long-term work requirement waiver for existing ABAWDs, according to IDHS.

"Trump's budget bill is designed to deliberately prevent Americans and Illinoisans from receiving assistance through the SNAP program by implementing new requirements that burden states and individuals who rely on this 100 percent federally funded benefits resource," Summer Griffith, a spokesperson for IDHS said in a statement.

SNAP recipients must also continue to update their income and household information to ensure they are receiving the correct benefits and meeting the applicable requirements.

"The Illinois Department of Human Services is communicating with SNAP participants regarding upcoming changes to SNAP and continues to provide support as people navigate new processes and changes imposed by the Trump Administration," Griffiths said.

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Illinois Vs. Trump: One Lawsuit A Week

A look at Illinois' 51 lawsuits against the Trump administration

Brenden Moore Capitol News Illinois

Illinois has filed lawsuits early and often against the Trump administration since the president's return to power last year.

The state challenged Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship less than a day after he took office.

Fifty more suits followed as of late January — roughly one per week.

"It's been 365 days, but together, we remain resolute and clear eyed and ready to continue our fight," Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said at a Chicago news conference this month to mark the anniversary. He added, though, that "the strain has been a real one."

Raoul said "collaboration has been critical to being able to handle the load," with his staff meeting with those of the 23 other Democratic state attorneys general daily. Communication among the attorneys general themselves occurs two to three times per week, he said.

Illinois has been the lead plaintiff in four cases — two of which are specific to actions within the state's borders. In all, the cases cover a wide range of subjects — though there are many parallels

continued on page 7

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LEGAL NOTICES

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MORTGAGE CENTER L.L.C., Plaintiff,
 v.
EDWIN H. RANDALL JR, KRISTINE L. RANDALL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 27, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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The judgment amount was \$262,156.98.

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For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-001179.

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 Case Number: 2024 FC 21
 TJSC#: 46-99

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.

Case # 2024 FC 21 6088-961469

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 SW

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE

**In The Interest of CHAROLETTE BORN, minor No. 24-JA-16
 To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern
 ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on July 19th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Charolette Born, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on 03/26/26 at 1:30 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that 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 POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an Amended Petition or a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights. Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered. Dated: January 20, 2026

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10/26-C

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY
 PUBLICATION NOTICE

**In The Interest of VIOLET BORN, minor No. 24-JA-15
 To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern
 ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on July 19th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of VIOLET BORN, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on 03/26/26 at 1:30 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that 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 POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an Amended Petition or a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights. Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered.

Dated: January 20, 2026

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10/26-C

Early Voting Hours

Early Voting for the March 17th, 2026, General Primary Election will begin on Thursday, February 5th, 2026, and end March 16th, 2026. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, except for holidays. The office will also be open on Saturday, March 14th, 2026, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. The office will be closed on Monday, February 16th, 2026, in observance of Presidents' Day.

For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103.

Amy E. Ohlsen
 County Clerk & Recorder

Published in The Boone County Journal 02/03, 02/10, 02/17, 02/24, 03/03, 03/10

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 COUNTY OF BOONE, IN PROBATE
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:TOBY ROUSH,
 Deceased. 2025PR74

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Toby Roush on September 9, 2025. Letters of Office were issued on December 18, 2025, to Nicole L. Keil, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before August 6, 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 2/3, 10, 17

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 200
 BID NO. 26-01

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200, Boone County, Illinois, hereby invites sealed proposals for the purchase of five (5) new 2027 model year 77-passenger school buses, including the mandatory trade-in/purchase of five (5) used buses, in accordance with District specifications.

Sealed proposals must be clearly marked "BUS BID #26-01 – FEBRUARY 2026" and delivered to:

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
 District Office 6248 North Boone School Road
 Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:30 a.m. (prevailing time) on February 19, 2026, in the District Office Large Conference Room at the address listed above.

Late proposals, facsimile submissions, and electronic submissions will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities or irregularities in any proposal.

Complete specifications and proposal documents are available on the District's website at www.nbcusd.org under the Business Services section.

Questions regarding this proposal must be submitted in writing via email to Dr. Joe Mullikin, Executive Director of Business Services, at jmullikin@nbcusd.org, no later than five (5) business days prior to the proposal opening date.

Published in The Boone County Journal 2/3

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 200
 BUS LEASE – BID NO. 26-02

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200, Boone County, Illinois, hereby invites sealed proposals for the lease of five (5) new 2027 model year 77-passenger school buses, including the mandatory trade-in/purchase of five (5) used buses, in accordance with District specifications.

Sealed proposals must be clearly marked "BUS BID #26-02 – FEBRUARY 2026" and delivered to:

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
 District Office 6248 North Boone School Road
 Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:30 a.m. (prevailing time) on February 19, 2026, in the District Office Large Conference Room at the address listed above.

Late proposals, facsimile submissions, and electronic submissions will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities or irregularities in any proposal.

Complete specifications and proposal documents are available on the District's website at www.nbcusd.org under the Business Services section.

Questions regarding this proposal must be submitted in writing via email to Dr. Joe Mullikin, Executive Director of Business Services, at jmullikin@nbcusd.org, no later than five (5) business days prior to the proposal opening date.

Published in The Boone County Journal 2/3

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is seeking bids for: Belvidere High School Roof Restoration

Proposal specifications will be available on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, after 8:00 a.m. CDST/CST. To obtain bid specifications, please visit <https://colbisecurebids.com/agency/bcbsd100>. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Mark via email at Purchasing@District100.com.

There will be a pre-bid meeting on Thursday, February 12th at 10:00 a.m. CDST/CST held at Belvidere High School 1500 East Ave Belvidere, Illinois.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. CDST/CST, on Friday, February 20th, 2026, via SecureBids, the District's online portal (<https://colbisecurebids.com/agency/bcbsd100>). Bids will be publicly opened and read in person at 10:15 a.m. CDST/CST, the same day at the District Administration Building – located at 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois.

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

Holly Houk

Board Clerk

Board of Education

Published in The Boone County Journal 2/3

NOTICE

Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is seeking bids for Asbestos Abatement for District Wellness Center.

A mandatory pre bid contractor site walk through will be held at the project site on Tuesday February 10th, 2026 at 10:00am. Failure to attend mandatory pre bid contractor site walk through will result in bid proposal disqualification. Site is located at 1414 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

All bids are due by Tuesday February 17th, 2026, 2:00 pm and a public bid opening will take place at 2:30 pm the same day at the Administrative Building - Staff Development Room, 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. All vendors are welcome to attend the bid request opening.

All bids should be submitted through SECURE BIDS. Link to CUSD 100 website with SECURE BIDS <https://colbisecurebids.com/agency/bcbsd100>.

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 2/3

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA 4261 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of GG'S LANDSCAPING that its location is or will be 1001 W 6TH 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: 815-544-1860

GERARDO GARDUNO 1001 W 6TH 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: January 27, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County

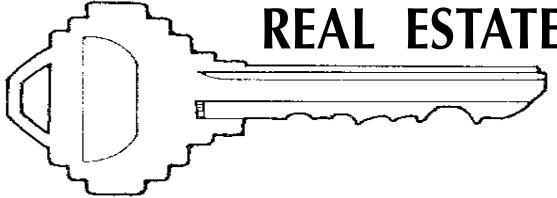
Published in Boone County Journal 02/03, 10, 17 P.

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk 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: January 6, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 01/13/20,27 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
No. DBA 4260 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BEAUTY COSMETIC SALES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of KENYADDOIT BEAUTY SHOP that its location is or will be 878 IVY OAKS DR in CALEDONIA, 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: 224-401-7930
KENIA LIZULY SIFUENTES 878 IVY OAKS DR CALEDONIA, ILLINOIS 61011
I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk 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: January 13, 2026
Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 01/20/2027 02/03 P.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
MORTGAGE CENTER L.L.C., Plaintiff,
-v- 2024 FC 21
EDWIN H. RANDALL JR, KRISTINE L. RANDALL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 27, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 18143 CAPRON ROAD, CAPRON, IL 61012
Property Index No. 02-35-300-002

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$262,156.98.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-001179.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA
180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400
CHICAGO IL, 60601
312-782-9676
Fax #: 312-782-4201
E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@weltman.com
Attorney File No. WWR 23-001179
Case Number: 2024 FC 21
TJSC#: 46-99

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.

Case # 2024 FC 21 6088-961469

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 SW

AG from page 5

between them.

Several of the lawsuits focus on the Trump administration's efforts to tie federal funding to sought-after policy change. The administration has moved to pause or withhold funding for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance and grants in hopes of forcing states to change their policies on immigration, diversity equity and inclusion and gender identity.

Raoul said those suits have protected over \$6.6 billion in federal funding for the state.

Capitol News Illinois has compiled a list of the suits Illinois has filed or joined against the Trump administration. The vast majority are ongoing, though Raoul has notched some wins.

In more than a dozen cases, permanent injunctions or summary judgement were issued in favor of the plaintiffs — or the Trump administration backed down by restoring funding or dropping policy demands. Only two cases have been dismissed outright. Eighteen preliminary injunctions or temporary restraining orders remain in place. In all, Raoul's office has received some form of relief in more than half the suits filed or joined.

Here's some of the litigation the Illinois Attorney General's office has initiated or joined in against the Trump administration since January 2025:

Illinois-filed lawsuits

Two lawsuits deal with the federal government's aggressive immigration enforcement campaign. The first challenged Trump's now-abandoned plan to deploy National Guard troops to Chicago over Gov. JB Pritzker and local leaders' strenuous objections. The other was a broader suit challenging and seeking to curtail the aggressive tactics federal immigration agents used during Operation Midway Blitz last fall.

In the former, Raoul filed suit just one day after Trump ordered the federalization of 300 Illinois National Guardsmen over Pritzker's objections and deployed 200 members of the Texas National Guard to the nation's third-largest city.

They were only active for a day at the Broadview Immigrations and Customs and Enforcement processing facility before U.S. District Judge April Perry issued a temporary restraining order blocking their deployment.

The Supreme Court last month denied the Trump administration's emergency appeal of Perry's ruling, effectively leaving the TRO in place while the case works through the courts. A week later, Trump announced he was abandoning plans to deploy the guard.

In the latter, Raoul accused the feds of "causing turmoil and imposing a climate of fear" through its aggressive immigration campaign and withholding funds as a means of applying pressure over policy differences. That case is ongoing.

The state also sued the Federal Emergency Management Agency last year over making hundreds of millions of dollars of emergency planning grants contingent on state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement actions.

A federal judge ruled in the state's favor in September 2025.

But soon after, the state learned of another attempt to divert funding: the reallocation of \$100 million in public safety and disaster relief funds "away from Illinois and other states around the country." Illinois' cut was worth \$30 million, Raoul estimated.

As a result, Illinois led another lawsuit challenging the reallocation, which amounted to a 69% reduction in State Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

The court granted Raoul summary judgement and funding was restored without the Trump administration's added conditions.

Other prominent lawsuits

Oregon v. Trump challenged the president's imposition of 10% tariffs on all countries. Washington v. Trump seeks to halt Trump's executive order declaring an end to birthright citizenship. A nationwide injunction was granted in the latter case and both are now awaiting a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

California v. Trump challenges an executive order seeking to require documented proof of citizenship to vote and prohibit the counting of absentee ballots received after Election Day. A preliminary injunction is in place and the case is ongoing.

California Infrastructure & Economic Development Bank v. Citibank challenges the freezing of federal grant funds authorized under the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act for green infrastructure projects. Washington v. U.S. Department of Transportation seeks to unfreeze grants for the buildup of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, after the feds withheld \$117 million from Illinois. A preliminary injunction blocking that freeze was issued. Both cases are ongoing.

Oregon v. Kennedy challenges a Department of Health and Human Services declaration that would bar health care providers from participating in Medicare and Medicaid if they provide gender-affirming care for transgender minors. The rules have not yet taken effect and the case is pending. New York v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, filed in January, challenges the administration's move to withhold potentially hundreds of billions of dollars in grant funding from states that refuse to comply with the administration's definitions of sex and gender.

Raoul has also joined three lawsuits challenging the Trump administration's efforts to restrict access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Those cases targeted attempts to force states to hand over sensitive personal data of SNAP recipients, strip benefits from certain lawful immigrants and suspend payments during a federal shutdown. In each case, the courts have blocked the efforts or the administration backed down. About 1.9 million Illinois residents receive SNAP benefits.

In other cases, the federal government has sued Illinois, including for its full unredacted voter rolls. Illinois is one of more than 20 states fighting the federal government's efforts in similar cases. Illinois' case is ongoing, although a federal judge in Oregon rejected the Department of Justice's lawsuit for that state's rolls this week.

BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

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