

To be notified of new issues online, register at www.boonecountyjournal.com

Belvidere School District: New Reading Materials, Special Ed Resources

By Sofi Zeman
Contributing writer

Belvidere Community Unit School District 100 trustees on February 6 adopted a literacy curriculum intended to offer more consistent learning for students in grades K-5. They also greenlit investing in personnel that would offer support to the district's special education and dual language programming.

The board approved a \$1,044,915 contract with Benchmark Advance to offer reading instructional materials for the next six years. The recommendation by the district administration to switch the curriculum followed a comprehensive review by 21 teachers, instructional coaches, interventionists, and administrators, according to the district. They narrowed down several literacy-based curriculum options down to three, including Benchmark, McGraw-Hill, and Savvas and requested each group offer presentations on their academic approach to reading. Teachers across the district piloted the Benchmark and McGraw-Hill curricula during the fall semester. After a series of meetings, staff recommended the Benchmark materials.

District 100 will now have new staff members supporting its special education services. The board narrowly approved the item by a 3-2 vote with members Tom Bucher and Matt Zickert dissenting. New job descriptions include a supervisor for elementary and early childhood programming; a program director, an inclusion facilitator, and a multi-tiered system of supports/social emotional learning integration administrator.

The district hopes that adding these positions, which it deemed necessary in its review of special education services, will offer multiple levels of support as the demand to provide such services increases. The review identified the need for added continuity and consistency in the district's special education programming.

Zickert said that although he supported the MTSS/SEL integration administrator position, he couldn't support the item as a package. He said he was concerned about adding higher-level administrative roles at a time where the board and education itself are likely to drastically change in 2025, and that he didn't like the bureaucratic appearance of adding from the top.

Other board actions during the February 6 meeting included approving a batch of legal and local administrative policies, hearing updates on district demographics and ongoing capital projects, and approving the destruction of closed session recordings in adherence with a state law that allows districts to do so.

During public comment and ahead of the curriculum vote, resident Bob Hauser told the board he's concerned about gloomy academic outcomes reflected on the 2024 state report card.

Continued on page 4

Election Contests To Decide Several Local Offices

Sofi Zeman
Contributing writer

In addition to school board races, the April 1 consolidated election has several contested races.

First, a Republican Primary election will be held on February 25. At the primary, to become the a candidate for mayor, Frederic C. Brereton, a former longtime mayor, and Daniel N. Arevalo, a former city alderman, will face off. In Ward 4, Chris Linenfelser is challenging incumbent Matthew Fleury. In Belvidere Township, Bernard O'Malley and Rodney J. Riley are vying for the township supervisor role.

In the April 1 election, the Republican mayoral candidate will challenge John Albertini, alderman of Ward 1, and incumbent mayor, Clinton Morris. In Ward 1 for alderman, Democrat Michael Carlyle challenges incumbent Independent Clayton Stevens. In Ward 2, Democrat Michael Hart is opposing Independent Jerry Hoiness. In Ward 3, it's Democrat Michael Yates vs. Independent Sandra Gramkowski.

Eligible persons may register to vote or check their registration details at www.elections.il.gov, or visit the county clerk's office at 1212 Logan Avenue. Early voting for the February primary ends Feb. 24; early voting for the April election begins March 14.

District 100 Trustee Vacates Seat Ahead of April Election

Sofi Zeman
Contributing writer

Belvidere school trustee Lisa Whitcomb, whose seat is among five up for grabs in the April 1 school board election, resigned on the morning of February 6, effective immediately. According to Superintendent Cassandra Schug, Whitcomb is the past year to resign. Last summer, because she

Voters will elect five trustees on April 1. Three people filed to run in the school board election: Jeff Diestelmeier, the board's newest member, who joined in October after Sarah Brenner's 2024 mid-term resignation; Jermaine Pigeo, who works for the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford as a public information officer; and district employee Barbi Yunk.

Beside the seats held by Whitcomb and Diestelmeier, the open seats are currently held by Board President Karla Maville, Matt Zickert, and Tom Bucher.

School board members serve for a term of four years and are not paid. Besides the five seats open, there are two other trustees, Holly Houk and Jorge Herrera, whose terms expire in 2027.

Pritzker Proposes \$2b In Spending Growth Without New Income Or Service Taxes

Budgeting office says global outlook has changed since previous \$3.2B deficit estimate

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Editor's note: This is a breaking news story. Check back to capitolnewsillinois.com for fuller coverage of the budget proposal later today.

Gov. JB Pritzker has proposed growing spending by about \$2 billion without new income or service taxes in the upcoming fiscal year – though his administration acknowledged policy changes by the Trump administration could drastically alter the fiscal landscape.

Spending and revenues would each grow by about 3% under the proposal laid out Wednesday during the governor's annual budget address, with total general revenue fund spending growing to \$55.2 billion.

[View the budget book here](#) | [View the budget in brief here](#)

The proposal is balanced, in part, because the governor's budgeting office expects to collect about \$1.5 billion more in base tax revenue than it did when it issued its first fiscal year 2026 forecast in November.

Continued on page 4

Eliminating Immigrant Spending, Boosting Education Funding Top Senate Republican Budget Priorities

Gov. JB Pritzker set to give budget address Wednesday

By Bridgette Fox Capitol News Illinois

A day ahead of Gov. JB Pritzker's annual budget address Wednesday, Senate Republicans said they want budget negotiations to include cuts to noncitizen spending while bringing in "transparent accounting."

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget predicts the state would face a \$3.2 billion deficit in fiscal year 2026 if no changes were made to revenue or spending. Federal pandemic aid is no longer flowing, and tax revenue projections are static.

The new fiscal year will begin July 1.

Senate Republicans want the Pritzker administration to provide more details about how the state has spent money on programs for asylum seekers and undocumented residents. They argue the state has made it difficult to see exactly where resources have been spent.

Continued on page 4



Mark Lawrence

May 24, 1949 - January 7, 2025

Mark Lawrence passed away peacefully at the VA Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin on January 7, 2025 from cancer linked to agent orange exposure. Mark was known for his kindness and his positive attitude. Even during his stay in the Hospice Unit at the Veterans Hospital, he welcomed all visitors with a huge smile, and told everyone that he was receiving the “Best care in the world!”

Mark was born on May 24, 1949 in Belvidere IL, to Dr. Allen & Elaine Lawrence RN.



- Jack Burke, 77, Marengo, Feb. 11
- Elmer Engelke Jr., 89, Belvidere, Feb. 8
- David Gathercoal, 86, Poplar Grove, Feb. 11
- Darlene Kohlmeyer, 91, Harvard, Feb. 12
- Gerald “Buzz” Lee, 63, Formerly Marengo, Feb. 12
- Roseann Nuckles-Coots, 85, Belvidere, Feb. 15
- Frances “Fran” Tody, 98, Harvard, Feb. 15
- Melodie Warren, 59, Belvidere, Feb. 9

He graduated Belvidere High School in 1967 after surviving the Belvidere tornado.

Mark served in the US Army 1st Cavalry during the Vietnam war, where he was awarded the Bronze Star along with 3 purple heart medals.

As a veteran Mark graduated from Southern Illinois University then earned an MBA from Purdue University. He worked for the NASA Space Shuttle Projects in Houston and later as a senior systems programmer for IBM on the Y2K project helping to safely usher computers into the 21st century. Mark truly was a rocket scientist!

Mark’s motto was, “I’d rather be with the givers than the takers!” He embodied that slogan in many ways. He cared for his mother at his home for several years after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. He was awarded the Boy Scouts of America Wood Badge, an honor reserved for leaders with distinguished service to the organization. He served on the Belvidere Tornado Memorial Committee that built the Tornado Memorial at the Belvidere High School.

If there was any cause for veterans, Mark was there helping out. He started two chapters of The Vietnam Veterans of America and served in all offices in Rockford IL Chapter 998. He was regularly seen at the Rockford Airport welcoming troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mark served on the board of the Allen J Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation, with his good friend Al Lynch, a Medal of Honor Recipient.

Until recently, Mark’s very special Lakeland Terrier service dog, Katie, helped him cope with PTSD. Mark had a special place in his heart for fellow veterans who suffered from PTSD, and worked to get many of them help.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Tom and sister Susan. He is survived by his brothers; John Lawrence of Rockford, with whom he spent the last decade of his life, and David Lawrence of Elgin, IL. Among his many special friends and family are Kimberly and Jeff Metheny of Rockford, IL and cousins Doug and Beth Plier of Horicon, WI.

A memorial service will be held on March 8, 2025 at the VFW Post 9759, 2018 Windsor Rd., Loves Park beginning at noon. In Lieu of flowers, a contribution can be made in Mark’s memory to the Alan J Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation at their website, ajlynchfoundation.org or through the mail at 6615 Grand Ave Ste B PMB 415, Gurnee, IL 60031.

Doris Oncken Celebrates 104th Birthday

Resident Doris Oncken will celebrate her 104th birthday on Wednesday, February 19th, and she is remarkably active for her age.

Doris regularly participates in total body strength training with one of our Fitness Trainers, Jennifer Stoliker. She does lower body, upper body, and core work using bodyweight, light dumbbells, and resistance bands. Jennifer also throws in some cognitive exercises to help keep her mind sharp.

Here’s what Jennifer has to say about working with Doris, “Doris has become so strong in all her movements! We have been able to increase her weight and reps with every exercise. She is inspiring and a perfect example that the body was meant to move, no matter the age. She feels better physically, mentally, and emotionally after our workouts, which is a demonstration that exercise is not only beneficial to the body but to the mind as well.”


Doris has lived at Wesley Willows for twelve years. Doris spent most of her life in Belvidere, IL, later retiring in Friendship, WI, with her loving husband Rod.

Foster Introduces Legislation to Make Scientific Resources Available to Employees At Federal Agencies

Press Release

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced the Well-Informed, Scientific, & Efficient (WISE) Government Act to better equip federal agencies with the scientific literature necessary to make well-informed policy decisions. This legislation would require the U.S. General Services Administration to work with the Library of Congress, agency libraries, and government information services to identify ways to make accessing scientific literature more efficient and to identify short and long-term solutions.

“To be able to make well-informed policy decisions, it’s essential that federal agencies are equipped with the most up-to-date information, especially scientific literature,” said Congressman Foster. “It’s unacceptable that employees at federal agencies have a harder time accessing scientific literature than employees at most large universities. This must change if we are serious about growing our economy and promoting innovation. The WISE Government Act will help employees at agencies such as the Department of Defense, EPA, State Department, NASA and others access the latest scientific data in an efficient manner.”



real journalism for a real democracy


Publisher/Editor Senior Writer/Editorial Advertising Photography Office	David C. Larson Charles Herbst Bethany Staniec Susan Moran Amanda Nelson
---	--

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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.



Infinity Upholstery

Don't replace it - Recover it...

Rick & Renee Vettore

Rvettore90@gmail.com

Furniture, Boat Covers, Auto

For estimate call 815-904-5473

Be the first to Read the Journal

The Boone County Journal is available Online at no cost at boonecountyjournal.com

Leave your email and you will receive a notice whenever a new issue is posted on the Journal’s website.

For Sale

3 cemetery lots in Highland Gardens Cemetery valued at \$2700. Will sell for \$1350.

Please call and leave message if interested

815-975-7163

The Journal has old newspapers free for picking up from time to time. Call to see if any are available

OP-ED

Trump's Federal Buracracy

Belatedly, more and more observers are recognizing purpose in what they had heretofore dismissed as ramblings or ruminations on the part of Donald Trump. This is fortunate, because there is definitely method to his madness. Let us examine just one example.

President Trump is not just randomly nominating eccentric oddballs. He is carefully crafting his cabinet, indeed his entire administration, to confront and "solve" the perennial problem faced by all presidents. That problem is the daunting task of engaging and taming the unwieldy hydra that is the federal bureaucracy.

All presidents have always struggled with the bureaucracy. Republicans manifest more frustration with the struggle than Democrats, due partially to the perceived liberal leanings of most bureaucrats. Despair over this constant, grinding struggle drove Richard Nixon down the path that led eventually to Watergate. Remember the "Plumbers"?

President Trump appears to have adopted a novel approach to wresting control over the bureaucracy. His approach to this thorny problem, if successful, could generate a revision in the practice of public management. It will certainly be noted and analyzed in the literature. His criteria for administrative appointments are two: profound personal fealty to him and profound skepticism concerning the agency to be managed. Every single one of his nominees exudes skepticism, nay hostility, toward a key function of the agency to be managed. Kennedy and vaccines constitute just the most obvious example. Matt Gaetz was a "shot across the bow". "If you trifle with me this is what you could get."

All of Donald Trump's nominees are intensely loyal to Donald Trump; and all are intensely skeptical concerning the mission of their agencies. Thus, as he intends, they are all likely to be "mega" MAGA managers. Add to the mix the celebrity status of most of the nominees, and an additional advantage is likely to be generated by the unfolding process. Extensive media coverage is likely to follow these very public servants as they make their rounds.

As is the case with most of his behavior as President, there is novelty to Donald Trump's administrative selections. They constitute a novel example of the fox guarding the henhouse.

Robert "Bob" Evans
Rockford University

Foster Condemns Firing of 168 National Science Foundation Employees

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) issued the following statement:

"Firing 168 National Science Foundation employees is a devastating loss of expertise and institutional knowledge, especially at an agency that contributes so much valuable research on everything from public health to our national defense," said Foster. "In an era driven by rapid scientific advancement, this action, along with the numerous other attacks on science from the Trump Administration, will hinder innovation and threaten our nation's global competitiveness."

Michael Madigan: The Rise and Fall

By *Andrew Adams and Hannah Meisel*
Capitol News Illinois

"The Velvet Hammer." "Sphinx." "King of Illinois." "The Wizard of Oz." "The Real Governor of Illinois." "Himself."

Michael Madigan was called all of these names and more during his five-decade career in public office. During that time, he became one of the most powerful men in Illinois history.

He holds the record for the longest-serving legislative leader in any state or Congress, earned a national reputation for reshaping state and national politics by drawing and redrawing Illinois' legislative maps, and personally oversaw every major piece of legislation in Illinois for almost forty years.

Now, he faces accusations of running a yearslong racketeering ring involving multiple bribery schemes. Federal prosecutors allege he used his position to bolster his own power in addition to enriching himself and his allies through job recommendations and no-work contracts at companies seeking to curry his favor. But he denies any wrongdoing. A jury now holds his fate in its hands.

Who is Madigan? How did he amass his power? What did he accomplish at the highest levels of state politics and government over his years in office?

Born April 19, 1942 Madigan grows up in Marquette Park, he attends St. Adrian Catholic

School and St. Ignatius High School. He will live in Chicago's 13th Ward on the Southwest Side for the rest of his life.

A political family 1950s and 60s

Madigan's father, also named Michael, is a precinct captain in Chicago's 13th Ward and the ward superintendent for the city's sanitation department. Through his father, Madigan gets jobs working for the city and makes connections with the 13th Ward Committeeman and Cook County Clerk Michael J. Flynn as well as legendary Mayor Richard J. Daley and his son, the future

Mayor Richard M. Daley. Madigan would later become Democratic committeeman for the 13th Ward, an important step in building his political empire.

Graduates University of Notre Dame, 1964

"There was never any question in the house," Madigan says years later about his upbringing. "That's where I was gonna go."

Madigan meets Mayor Daley, 1965

Chicago Tribune reporter Ray Long notes in his biography of Madigan that "To Michael J. Madigan, there are few political figures who stand as tall as Richard J. Daley." The longtime mayor of Chicago and last boss of the legendary Chicago political machine, mentors Madigan early in his career.

Michael Madigan Sr. dies, October 1966

Madigan is 24 when his father dies following a series of heart attacks. According to Madigan's trial testimony, his father is an alcoholic who "quit drinking but he carried an anger problem." Madigan's parents display little affection.

Graduates Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 1967

Mayor Daley hires the young Madigan to work in the city's law department during and after graduating law school.

Madigan elected to Constitutional Convention, 1969

Winning his first election, Madigan is selected as a delegate to the state's 1970 Constitutional Convention, which creates the first new state constitution in more than a century. The campaigns leading up to the convention led to a series of court orders in the 1970s and early '80s banning political patronage in the city.

Madigan selected as 13th Ward Committeeman, 1969

Madigan is selected by local precinct captains as Chicago's 13th Ward Committeeman, a role he will hold onto for more than five decades. For much of that time, the 13th Ward's Democratic political organization served as the backbone of Madigan's political machine.

Elected to the Illinois House, Nov. 3, 1970

Madigan's 50-year career in the Illinois House of Representatives begins with an easy election win.

Founded Madigan & Getzendanner law firm 1972

Madigan's law firm, led by himself and Loyola law school classmate Vincent "Bud" Getzendanner, starts as a general law practice but within a few years begins specializing in property tax appeals. Throughout its

Continued on page 5

Has your tax preparer retired?

Looking for someone with experience that you can trust?



It can be hard to find the right person. Someone who understands your needs and can deliver.

I've worked with hundreds of families and closely-held businesses, including farms. I understand your situation. I've practiced tax law for over 35 years. I have an advanced tax law degree. I've worked for a big four accounting firm, been on the staff of a major tax publisher and served as the tax research director for a major consulting company.

My overhead is low and my rates are competitive and reasonable. Most of all, returns are prepared in the privacy of an attorney's office, with the confidentiality that only an attorney can provide. No fishbowl atmosphere, flimsy partitions, overheard conversations or prying eyes. Hours are strictly by appointment, so you won't be kept waiting.

If this sounds like what you need, please call me for an appointment.



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.
LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

FOR RENT:

210 W. Boone Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.
Two-bedroom duplex with basement and garage. Non-smoking and no pets.

Water and trash pickup included. \$900.00 per month plus deposit.

815-547-3357.

John Albertini
For Mayor



Looking to Make Belvidere Better For EVERYONE!

District 100

from page 1

Hauser cautioned the board that the district and its students will continue down a similar path and fail to regain scores observed in 2017 without urgent action. He also asked for a monthly update on how the district is actively “moving the needle” on the day-to-day rather than plans for schools years to come.

“The band is playing and the ship is sinking and we are just strictly rearranging the deck chairs,” Hauser said. “Ninety percent failure is unacceptable. We need a herculean effort to help our kids and I do not see the crisis mentality to force a change.”

Three District 100 teachers are among 20 finalists in Winnebago and Boone counties for the 2025 Golden Apple teaching award. Teachers Kalli Brunk of Caledonia Elementary, Nicole Seaver of Lincoln Elementary and Belinda Roberts of Washington Academy will now undergo three rounds of classroom observation and interviews. Five winning teachers chosen among the finalists will receive a \$1,000 payment, professional development funding, a tablet, and a scholarship, according to the district.

The board convened February 6 in place of the January 21 monthly meeting, which the district cancelled. As of publication time, the board was scheduled to convene for its next regular meeting at 6 PM on February 18.

Pritzker

from page 1

That November forecast from the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget had projected revenues to remain flat, driving a deficit of \$3.2 billion. But it relied on a September economic forecast from the financial services company S&P Global. The governor’s office says S&P has since revised its forecasts – but the numbers released Wednesday are ultimately likely to fluctuate amid the rapid pace of policy changes happening in Washington, D.C.

The governor’s proposal would increase K-12 funding by \$350 million and boost higher education funding by 3%. He’d keep funding flat for the Early Childhood Block Grant, however, which is a major driver of his effort to increase access to publicly supported preschool in Illinois.

Ultimately, lawmakers and the governor will have to come to an agreement on a spending plan by the end of May. But the governor’s opening salvo could meet opposition from Democratic lawmakers in the General Assembly – especially members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus – due what it doesn’t fund.

The proposal would eliminate a health care program for low-income noncitizens aged 42-64 who are in the U.S. without legal permission. The Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program, which was implemented in 2022, provided Medicaid-like and costs the state general revenue fund roughly \$330 million, or less than 1 percent of the overall budget.

“As always, I stand ready to work with members of the General Assembly to deliberate and negotiate the final budget, but let’s be clear, I will only sign a balance budget. If you come to the table, looking to spend more, I’m going to ask you where you want to cut,” Pritzker said in his address.

Advocates say that program is a key public health measure that drives down emergency room care costs and ultimately saves money. The governor’s office says its decision not to propose funding reflects the state’s fiscal reality.

The budget proposal maintains funding for a similar program serving immigrants aged 65 and older, passed by the legislature during the early months of the pandemic in 2020.

The governor’s plan would raise another \$469 million in revenue through other changes to law, including adjusting tax rates on electronic gambling and table games at casinos to generate \$100 million in revenue. The plan also calls for pausing the transfer of \$171 million in sales tax collected on motor fuel to the road fund, and raising \$198 million by providing temporary amnesty for individuals making delinquent tax payments.

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.

Republicans

from page 1

“We’re unable to do that because of all the workarounds by this administration through executive orders and the state of emergency declarations that are constantly issued,” Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, said Tuesday at a Capitol news conference.

Curran was referencing Pritzker’s 30 separate, but altogether similarly worded, emergency declarations made since September 2022 in response to the asylum seekers transported from Texas and southern states to cities around Northern Illinois.

The declarations allow Pritzker to allocate funding for emergency services to cities like Chicago and its suburbs to support asylum seekers. The governor’s most recent declaration related to asylum seekers was filed Jan. 31.

Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, claimed the declarations were a way for Pritzker to “move money in the shadows,” as lawmakers aren’t sure how much money has been allocated from the budget for disaster declarations.

However, the comptroller’s office has a database showing specific state expenditures on payments processed by the comptroller’s office for asylum seekers beginning in November 2023. Data shows the state has spent \$158.7 million on asylum seekers since then.

Senate Republicans said they don’t want taxes raised to fix the shortfall; instead, they want the emergency declarations to stop.

“We’re calling on Gov. Pritzker to not increase taxes on Illinois families and businesses and present a transparent plan of how he intends to address the budget hole,” Rezin said.

Pritzker said in January that increasing taxes to raise revenue would be a “last resort.”

Curran also criticized the Illinois State Board of Education for not releasing \$50 million from this year’s budget to fund after school programs.

ISBE said it was waiting on direction about how to release that \$50 million, and Democratic lawmakers said they were frustrated by ISBE. In early February, Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said lawmakers would explore giving ISBE more guidance to ensure the money is released.

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.

Foster Leads Bicameral Effort to Strengthen Nuclear Arms Control Regimes

Press Release

Rep. Bill Foster (IL-11) announced the introduction of H.Res.100, a resolution with Reps. John Garamendi (CA-08) and Don Beyer (VA-08), co-chairs of the Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group, condemning the Russian Federation’s suspension of its participation in the New START Treaty and supporting the value of international arms control agreements. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) is leading a companion resolution in the Senate.

The New START Treaty will expire on February 4, 2026. It is the last major remaining bilateral nuclear arms control agreement and has provided valuable insight into Russia’s nuclear arsenal, including placing verifiable limits on all Russian deployed intercontinental-range nuclear weapons. Members of the Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group are deeply concerned about the fraying of the arms control regime as exemplified by the purported suspension of the New START Treaty, Russia’s use of escalatory nuclear rhetoric in service of its war of aggression against Ukraine, and the build-up of China and Iran’s nuclear programs.

The bicameral resolution:

- Condemns the Russian Federation’s escalatory nuclear rhetoric and veiled threats on the potential use of nuclear weapons to further its invasion of Ukraine.
- Condemns the Russian Federation’s purported suspension of the New START Treaty.
- Calls for the Russian Federation to promptly return to full implementation of New START, including on-site inspections, provision of treaty-mandated notifications and data, and resumption of Bilateral Consultative Commission meetings.
- Calls on the Trump Administration to continue to engage the People’s Republic of China in further bilateral talks on nuclear risk reduction and arms control, and to pursue new multilateral arms control efforts.
- Calls on the Trump Administration to continue to pursue nuclear arms control and risk reduction dialogue with the Russian Federation to maintain strategic stability, ensure the conflict in Ukraine does not escalate to nuclear use, and avoid an unrestrained nuclear arms race.

Continued on Page 5

COAT CLOSET NOW OPEN
Open Each Saturday, 10 AM - Noon
(One FREE Coat Per Person)

WANTED: Donated Clean Coats
Adult & Child Sizes For Our Coat Closet
Donations May Be Dropped Off At The Church.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
217 E. Huribut, Belvidere
815-544-2635

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**

WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES
Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd.
Belvidere, IL
815-547-7111

Additional 10% off Jewelry with this ad
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

Pritzker

from page 3

“As a physicist, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons has always been one of my top priorities,” said Representative Foster. “Russia’s suspension of the New START Treaty and Putin’s rhetoric about the potential use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine should have the entire international community on high alert and should serve as the impetus for us to pursue substantive nuclear arms control dialogue. American leadership is desperately needed to prevent escalation and avoid an unrestrained nuclear arms race.”

“The Trump administration has an historic opportunity to initiate high-level talks for a new pact and prevent a dangerous and costly nuclear arms race,” said Senator Markey. “I urge President Trump to work with Russia to replace New START and to talk with China about arms control. We are just one year away from losing New START and with it, all legal limits on Russian nuclear forces. There is no time to wait.”

“For far too long, nuclear weapons have threatened our country. Our leadership has long recognized that arms control is the most effective way to ensure American security. In today’s environment, it’s more important than ever that we begin to treat arms control with the same dedication we give our nuclear modernization and begin a constructive dialogue for a New START Treaty. We must strive for a more peaceful future, one without the existential threat of nuclear weapons,” said Representative Garamendi.

“Now more than ever, it is absolutely critical that we redouble our commitment to nuclear nonproliferation,” said Representative Beyer. “The New START treaty is our last major nuclear arms control agreement, and with rising instability overseas the ingredients are there for a runaway nuclear arms race that endangers us all. This resolution demonstrates broad bicameral support for a renewal of New START and further arms control talks with other nuclear arms states that will help avert the potential global catastrophe that is a nuclear exchange.”

Madigan

from page 3

history, the firm represents some of the most highly valued buildings in Chicago.

Mike McClain takes office in the House June 15, 1972

Mike McClain replaces his father Elmo “Mac” McClain in the Illinois House after the elder McClain collapses on the House floor just after voting on the Equal Rights Amendment. McClain’s father died of a heart attack that afternoon. He and Madigan, both young legislators, will become friends and rely on each other politically. Throughout their decade in office together, they often sit just a few seats apart on the House floor.

Starting a family, 1976

Madigan meets Shirley Murray while she works at another Chicago law firm, and they marry after just a few months of dating in 1976. Murray had a daughter, Lisa, from a previous marriage, whom Madigan adopts. Madigan understands the marriage as a “duo package,” according to testimony at his later trial. The couple goes on to have three more children: Tiffany, Nicole and Andrew. Also in 1976, Gov. Dan Walker appoints Shirley to the Illinois Arts Council. She later chairs the state agency’s board from 1983 to 2022.

Madigan elected House Majority Leader Jan. 12, 1977

At the outset of his fourth term in the House, Madigan is named Majority Leader, the second-highest-ranking member of the Democratic caucus.

The ‘Cutback Amendment’ passes

Nov. 4, 1980

Voters in 1980 approve the “Cutback Amendment,” which reduces the size of the Illinois House from 177 members to 118 beginning with the 1982 election and abolishes “cumulative voting,” which guaranteed bipartisan representation in each House district. Madigan, speaking at the inauguration of the first House of Representatives post-amendment, says it is a “new era.”

Madigan draws his first maps June 18, 1981

Following the 1980 Census, lawmakers embark on drawing new legislative districts. Future GOP Gov. George Ryan is Speaker of the House. During a contentious debate, as Ryan attempts to approve maps that favored Republicans, Democrats “stormed the podium,” per a United Press International report. After breaking for caucus, Democrats return to the floor to find armed Capitol police guarding the podium — a move that Madigan compares to “Nazi Germany and dictatorial regimes.” That measure ultimately fails, sending it to a redistricting commission that adopts maps drawn by Madigan. This was the first time the future speaker oversaw redistricting—which becomes the bedrock of his grip on power.

McClain loses reelection, Nov. 2, 1982

McClain loses his House seat in the election cycle following the 1980 Cutback Amendment. The loss spurs his decadeslong lobbying career and marks a new chapter in his friendship with Madigan, with whom he would still strategize up until the feds’ investigation became public. McClain eventually becomes known to work out of the speaker’s Capitol office suite while in Springfield.

Madigan elected speaker, Jan. 12, 1983

Madigan is first elected House speaker in 1983, unanimously chosen by his House colleagues. At the time, he outlines his top priorities. “Crime has not decreased,” Madigan says in his first speech as speaker. “We still have not funded education in our state. We still have not properly funded an adequate transportation system for downstate and for upstate. So as we begin this new era, we can look upon the same problems that we attempted to solve in the last era.”

Madigan backs transparency reform,

May 5, 1983

In one of his first acts as speaker, Madigan backs a proposal to create the Freedom of Information Act. Initially opposed to the proposal to make government records more accessible, he would later reflect on the law in the statement announcing his resignation.

Madigan stops time, June 1988

After White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf threatens to move the South Side baseball team to Florida, Madigan and then-Gov. Jim Thompson push through more than \$200 million in funding for a new Comiskey Park. But the two men don’t secure the votes until after a midnight deadline which would have raised the requirement from a simple majority vote to three-fifths. So Madigan “declared” that the vote happened a few minutes earlier, with some alleging that the speaker literally has the clocks of the House chamber stopped a few minutes before midnight.

“Operation Cobra”, May 17, 1989

In the late 1980s, Gov. Thompson pushes for an increase to the state’s income tax — an effort Madigan rebuffs. But after seeing the condition of dilapidated schools in Effingham and allegedly cutting a deal with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Madigan reverses course. In a secret operation, Madigan pushes through an 18% income tax hike in six hours, using only Democratic votes. “It is bold. It’s audacious. And it might even be diabolical,” Thompson says at the time.

Redistricting after the 1990 Census, 1991-1992

When Democrats control both the Illinois House and Senate in 1991, they pass legislative maps that are then vetoed by the Republican governor. Without maps, a redistricting commission is appointed and eventually deadlocks. When state officials randomly select the tie-breaking vote, Republicans win, marking the one time in Madigan’s career as speaker that he doesn’t control the legislative map-making process.

Madigan in the minority, Jan. 8, 1995

The only interruption to Madigan’s nearly four decades as Speaker comes in 1994, amid the so-called “Republican Revolution” of that year’s midterm elections. Led by Newt Gingrich, soon to take over as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Republicans across the country pick up seats in Congress and in statehouses. Madigan is succeeded as speaker in 1995 by Lee Daniels, who had served as the minority leader for Madigan’s entire time leading the House. “Mr. Speaker, congratulations. I wish you the best of luck,” Madigan tells Daniels in 1995. “I feel that over my 12 years as Speaker, that you and I were very worthy adversaries when we should have been adversaries.”

Madigan regains speakership, Jan. 8, 1997

After a ferocious devotion to recruiting candidates and backing campaigns for six competitive races in Chicago’s south suburbs, Madigan receives credit for retaking the Illinois House, positioning him to retake the speakership. He remains speaker until 2021. Former 13th Ward precinct captain Ed Moody claims credit years later for helping Democrat Kevin McCarthy come from “nine or 10 or 11 points behind” and win by approximately 50 points. “He was it. He was number 60. We had the majority,” Moody says of McCarthy’s impact on Democrats retaking the House. McCarthy would go on to sponsor the 2011 “Smart Grid” bill, which, according to the feds, was the first law passed due to ComEd’s alleged bribery.

Madigan takes over as Democratic Party chairman, April 3, 1998

Coming off a political victory in the 1996 elections, party insiders elevate Madigan to chair the state’s Democratic Party. He replaces Gary LaPaille, who was Madigan’s former chief of staff and a close ally. Madigan remains in this post for more than 20 years, using it as a key lever to exert influence on Democratic campaigns.

Lisa Madigan wins a senate seat, Nov. 3, 1998

Madigan’s adopted daughter Lisa runs unopposed in the general election for a state Senate seat. She won her primary election with 66% of the vote. In the Senate, Lisa Madigan is seatmates with then-state Sen. Barack Obama and their offices are next to each other.

Redistricting after the 2000 Census, 2001

Lawmakers fail to pass a redistricting plan in 2001, thanks to a deadlock between Madigan’s Democrat-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate under James “Pate” Philip. When a random selection gives Democrats the tie-breaking vote on the appointed redistricting commission, Madigan is again empowered to draw the legislative maps.

Lisa Madigan elected Attorney General Nov. 5, 2002

During her first term in the Illinois Senate, Lisa Madigan runs for state attorney general, winning with the support of her father — the subject of some controversy. The first woman to hold the position, she stays in that office until 2019.

Madigan feuds with Democratic leaders 2003-2009

In the first election using freshly drawn legislative maps, Democrats win control of both legislative chambers and the governor’s mansion. But Madigan often butts heads with then Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Senate President Emil Jones Jr. Both men accuse Madigan of being too conservative, with Blagojevich calling Madigan a “George Bush Republican” after

Continued on Page 6

Madigan

from page 6

Reyes Kurson inks ComEd contract, Oct. 25, 2011

Democratic fundraiser and Madigan ally Victor Reyes' law firm contracts with ComEd for legal work. Prosecutors allege the arrangement is part of an overall bribe to Madigan ahead of an override vote on Smart Grid legislation, pointing to McClain's interest in the contract. ComEd's top lawyer later says the utility's CEO at the time had directed him to look into Reyes Kurson earlier in the year.

Madigan allegedly supports ComEd in exchange for "stream of benefits", 2011-2018

Madigan allegedly supports ComEd on several legislative initiatives as part of a wide ranging bribery scheme throughout the 2010s. Those initiatives include a 2011 "Smart Grid" law which lays out a new formula-based process for setting electricity rates in Illinois. The House overrides a gubernatorial veto with Madigan's support. The bill is allegedly worth "hundreds of millions of dollars" to ComEd. Other bills in this alleged corruption scheme include a 2013 law which aimed at strengthening the policy laid out in the original "Smart Grid" law and a broad package of energy reform known as the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016, which prevented the closure of multiple nuclear plants in Illinois. In 2018, Madigan allegedly blocks a bill that was backed by his daughter, then-Attorney General Lisa Madigan, though defense witnesses testified the bill didn't have the support it needed to pass until a year later.

Second alleged no-work contract, Feb. 2012

Longtime 13th Ward precinct captain Ray Nice begins receiving \$5,000 monthly checks from Doherty, funded by an expansion of the lobbyist's contract with ComEd.

Third alleged no-work contract, April 2012

Former 13th Ward precinct captain Ed Moody, a longtime volunteer for Madigan's political operation, begins a \$4,500 per month arrangement with McClain, funded by an expansion of the lobbyist's longtime contract with ComEd. Moody asks Madigan for help landing a side job and according to Moody's testimony at trial, after an emotional confrontation, the speaker tells him, "This is how I reward my good soldiers." Through the next 6 ½ years, Moody is passed around to three other external ComEd lobbyists — including Jay Doherty — until he becomes Cook County Recorder of Deeds in late 2018.

Metra patronage scandal, 2013

As Alex Clifford, the then-CEO of commuter rail operator Metra, is being ousted from his post, he alleges Madigan used political clout to push for a raise for one employee and for another person to be hired. The situation eventually leads to an investigation by the Legislative Inspector General, which clears Madigan of wrongdoing. The Chicago Tribune obtains a leaked copy of the final report, which found that Madigan exacerbated an "unhealthy situation" created by his and his allies' requests. The scandal eventually leads to reforms at Metra and five board members resigning, including its chairman.

Lisa Madigan doesn't run for governor, citing father, July 15, 2013

After a decade in office, Lisa Madigan's name is floated to potentially run for governor in 2014. She eventually settles the matter with a statement saying she considered running due to widespread "frustration" over the Quinn administration but ultimately pointed to "another consideration" stopping her from running. "I feel strongly that the state would not be well served by having a governor and speaker of the House from the same family and have never planned to run for governor if that would be the case," she says. "With Speaker Madigan planning to continue in office, I will not run for governor."

Madigan secretly taped by FBI mole, Aug. 18, 2014

Real estate developer-turned-FBI cooperator See Wong secretly videotapes a meeting in Madigan's downtown Chicago law office that was arranged by Ald. Danny Solis, the influential chair of the city council's zoning board. Madigan & Getzendanner don't end up taking on the client, but it bolsters the FBI's case to begin wiretapping Solis the next month, which would continue on and off for nearly two years.

Clash with Rauner leads to budget crisis 2013-2017

Republican businessman Bruce Rauner spends more than 1 ½ years and millions of his own dollars on a gubernatorial campaign that vilifies Madigan and some of his biggest allies. Though Illinois Republicans had tried to paint Madigan as corrupt for years, Rauner's substantial self-funding marks the beginning of a new era of public awareness of Madigan among Illinoisans. As Madigan's public profile rises, he locks into a very public battle with Rauner, resulting in a two-year budget impasse during which the state goes without an official spending plan. The impasse has far-reaching effects, devastating social services and tanking the state's credit rating. In July 2017, when 15 House Republicans cross party lines to override Rauner's veto on a budget and income tax hike deal, Madigan says there is work to be done to "heal the wounds" of the past few years.

Acevedo gets no-work contract with AT&T April 27, 2017

Newly retired Democratic state Rep. Eddie Acevedo is offered a nine-month consulting contract under AT&T Illinois external lobbyist — and former Madigan staffer — Tom Cullen. The meeting comes more than two months after McClain emailed a member of AT&T's internal lobbying team asking if the company had the budget for "even a small contract for Eddie Acevedo." While Acevedo initially balks at the \$2,500-per-month offer, he accepts the next day. Prosecutors allege the contract is meant as a bribe for Madigan to grease the wheels for the passage of a law that would allow the company to eventually stop maintaining aging landlines. Acevedo also has an alleged no-work consulting contract indirectly with ComEd during 2017. He and his two sons are indicted on tax evasion charges in 2021 and all three serve short prison sentences after guilty pleas and a jury conviction for Alex Acevedo. The tax evasion charges stem from the federal probe into the no-work contracts for Madigan allies.

Madigan calls Solis, Summer 2017

After nearly two years of the FBI wiretapping his cell phone and discovering evidence of corruption, Chicago Ald. Danny Solis agrees to begin cooperating with the government in June 2016. That includes secretly videotaping his colleague Ald. Ed Burke, who is ultimately convicted in his own federal corruption trial in Dec. 2023. In June 2017, Solis returns an out-of-the-blue call from Madigan in which the speaker said he'd like to know the developers of an apartment complex in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood. An FBI agent overseeing the feds' ongoing criminal probe testifies years later that the investigation shifted to Madigan after that call. At a meeting several weeks later the speaker says Solis "shouldn't be talking like that" when the alderman insinuates Madigan was seeking a "quid pro quo."

Madigan shepherds law favored by AT&T July 1, 2017

A telecommunications reform bill containing a provision long-sought by AT&T passes with Madigan's blessing. This bill later becomes a central part of the case against Paul La Schiazza, the then-AT&T executive accused of bribing Madigan.

Madigan, McClain help Solis with Chinatown land transfer, July 2017-Nov. 2018

Under the direction of FBI agents, Solis asks Madigan for guidance on a proposed development in

Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood on land owned by the state of Illinois. Eventually, McClain gets involved in the legislative effort to have the land transferred to the city where it can then be sold to a developer. Prosecutors later allege Madigan has a profit motive and wants the developers as clients for his property tax appeals law firm. Madigan's law partner later testifies at trial that the practice's strict conflict-of-interest policy would have prevented that from happening. After hitting roadblock after roadblock, the effort eventually fizzles out in late 2018.

Push for Juan Ochoa's appointment begins Nov. 2017

As part of his bid for appointment to ComEd's board, influential businessman Juan Ochoa meets with Madigan to ask for his support, joined by mutual ally U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez. Within minutes of Ochoa sending his resume to Madigan's secretary, she forwards it to ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore..

Alaina Hampton accuses Madigan ally of harassment, Feb. 13, 2018

Alaina Hampton, a former campaign worker in Madigan's political organization, goes public with allegations that the 13th Ward Democratic Organization — and later Madigan himself — mishandled her sexual harassment complaint against Kevin Quinn, a ward office staffer and brother of 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn. Madigan moves quickly to oust Kevin Quinn from his organization. Mike McClain later arranges monthly checks for Quinn from a handful of lobbyists close to Madigan, though the speaker says he'd "oughta stay out of it" in an Aug. 2018 wiretapped call.

Madigan ousts chief of staff, Early June 2018

Madigan fires Tim Mapes — who held roles as Madigan's longtime chief of staff, the clerk of the House of Representatives and director of the Democratic Party of Illinois — after Mapes is accused of sexual harassment and bullying. Madigan allies begin coordinating outreach to crisis communications firms to help "save the speaker." An investigation into the situation later describes a culture of bullying and harassment in the speaker's office, led by Mapes. It also finds that the speaker and his allies retaliated against Rep. Kelly Cassidy for speaking out against Madigan's office's handling of sexual assault allegations.

Solis asks for a state board position, June 2018

Chicago alderman-turned-FBI mole Danny Solis secretly records himself asking Madigan for help getting appointed to a lucrative state board position after he leaves office. In continued conversations about the board seat, Solis repeatedly says he'd keep directing clients to Madigan's law firm, which prosecutors later use as a basis for several bribery counts against Madigan. At trial, Solis says the request was made at the FBI's direction and he had no interest in a board seat.

Fourth alleged no-work contract, Aug. 2018

Newly retired Chicago Ald. Mike R. Zalewski begins receiving monthly checks from ComEd city lobbyist Jay Doherty. Prosecutors allege this final subcontractor is also part of the "stream of benefits" ComEd showers on Madigan in exchange for "official action" on bills pushed for or opposed by the utility.

FBI begins wiretapping McClain's cell phone April 2018

The FBI wiretaps McClain's cell phone for a total of nine months between April 2018 and March 2019. In intercepted calls, McClain describes himself as an "agent" of Madigan and talks to the speaker himself, along with many others. In a Feb. 2019 call, McClain offers advice to a Madigan staffer, saying: "Your client is Mike Madigan. It's not the Democratic Party... it's not anybody that hired you, it's not your mom and dad. The only person you care about is Mike Madigan."

Feds raid Madigan allies' homes, May 14, 2019

continued on page 8

Madigan

from page 7

Roughly 100 FBI agents execute coordinated searches on the homes and an office of at least eight Madigan allies. The raids include Mike McClain's home in Quincy, Jay Doherty's home and downtown Chicago office, several ComEd subcontractors and the home of Kevin Quinn.

FBI investigation details leak, June-Dec. 2019

News of the May 2019 FBI raids on Madigan allies begin leaking to the press in the summer of 2019, which continued intermittently through the rest of the year. In September, agents carry out very public raids on another set of political figures, including Democratic state Sen. Marty Sandoval's Capitol Office. Madigan's name showed up on subpoenas, among other items of interest.

"I'm not the target of anything", Oct. 29, 2019

As pressure mounts due to the ongoing FBI probe into ComEd, Madigan denies being the target of the investigation.

Madigan becomes "Public Official A" in bribery scheme, July 17, 2020

In a deferred prosecution agreement, utility giant Commonwealth Edison admits to attempting to influence "Public Official A" from 2011 to 2019. While not identified, that public official is described as "the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives and the longest serving member of the House of Representatives." Following the news, Gov. JB Pritzker says if the accusations were true "he's gonna have to resign." ComEd agrees to pay \$200 million as part of the deal. The same day, Madigan's state offices are compelled to produce any documents relating to ComEd, its parent company Exelon, AT&T Illinois, Walgreens, Rush University Medical Center, former Chicago Ald. Daniel Solis, Mike McClain, a parking lot in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood and any documents relating to hiring recommendations for at least five Madigan allies.

House forms special committee to investigate Madigan, Sept. 2020

In light of Madigan's alleged involvement in a bribery scheme with ComEd, the House forms a special committee to investigate the speaker. Top Madigan ally Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch leads the committee, which dissolved three months later. Welch calls the entire process a "stunt" initiated by Republicans.

'ComEd four' indicted, Nov. 18, 2020

Mike McClain, former ComEd CEO Anne Prammaggiore, former ComEd vice president John Hooker, and former ComEd lobbyist Jay Doherty are indicted for bribery and falsifying records relating to a scheme to influence Madigan.

Madigan suspends speaker reelection campaign, Jan. 11, 2021

During a grueling lame duck session in Springfield, made more difficult due to COVID-era social distancing conventions, Madigan announces he will suspend his campaign to remain speaker after an internal caucus vote showed him nine votes short of a majority. Opposition to Madigan serving a 19th term as speaker had been growing since the feds announced ComEd's DPA in the summer and was boosted by the ComEd Four indictments in November. COVID also means most House members had not seen Madigan since a brief session in May 2020, as the traditional fall veto session was also canceled.

Madigan passes speaker's gavel, Jan. 13, 2021

Emanuel "Chris" Welch becomes the state's first Black Speaker of the House. Welch, who'd supported Madigan as part of the Black Caucus' commitment to him, becomes the consensus candidate after other Madigan challengers drop out of the race. Welch's ascension coincides with the 50th anniversary of Madigan first taking the oath of office as a state representative.

Madigan resigns House seat, Feb. 18, 2021

"I leave office at peace with my decision and proud of the many contributions I've made to the state of Illinois, and I do so knowing I've made a difference," Madigan says in a statement announcing his resignation. In his farewell statement, he says he is "particularly proud" of increasing the diversity of the House Democratic caucus. Madigan also reflects on other parts of his career: strengthening workers' rights, raising the minimum wage, school funding reform, strengthening the state's ethics and campaign finance laws, legalizing same sex marriage, criminal justice reforms, expanding voting rights, keeping the White Sox in Chicago and impeaching Rod Blagojevich among others.

Madigan resigns state party chair, Feb. 22, 2021

After more than two decades, Madigan steps down as head of the Democratic Party of Illinois, which he used as a key lever of power. But he remains a member of the party's State Central Committee until the June 2022 primary election, when voters choose new committeepeople.

Madigan chief of staff indicted, May 26, 2021

Madigan's longtime chief of staff Tim Mapes is indicted for lying under oath to a federal grand jury as part of the investigation into his former boss. After Mapes was publicly accused of sexual harassment in June 2018, Madigan asks for his resignation from his three roles, which also included executive director of the state Democratic Party and clerk of the Illinois House.

Madigan indicted along with McClain, March 2, 2022

A federal grand jury in Chicago indicts Madigan on 22 counts of racketeering, bribery, extortion and wire fraud. The 106-page indictment outlines a nearly decadelong scheme in which Madigan allegedly uses his position to enhance his political power and financial well-being while also generating income for his political allies. Mike McClain is also indicted as a co-defendant on several of the charges. An additional count is added later that year. Both Madigan and McClain plead not guilty a week later.

Madigan leaves his law firm, March 2022

Over almost 50 years, Madigan & Getzendanner built a reputation for providing property tax appeals to the state's powerful. In September 2023, the firm is renamed to Holland Hicks Law.

AT&T exec charged with bribing Madigan Oct. 14, 2022

AT&T Illinois executive Paul La Schiazza is indicted for attempting to influence Madigan to support particular legislation by providing former Democratic state Rep. Eddie Acevedo with a no-work consulting contract. The company, meanwhile, agrees to pay a \$23 million fine as part of a deferred prosecution agreement similar to ComEd's.

ComEd Four convicted, May 2, 2023

After a seven-week trial, McClain is convicted along with three other ex-ComEd lobbyists and executives for their roles in bribing Madigan. But

their scheduled January 2024 sentencing hearings are delayed until after a Supreme Court ruling clarified federal bribery statutes. The four remain unsentenced while they seek a retrial in light of that decision.

Madigan gives up ward boss role, March 2024

In late 2023, 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn, a longtime Madigan ally, begins circulating petitions to take over the 13th Ward Committeeman role at the 2024 primary. Madigan retains the position through the March 2024 election, but the decision not to run ends Madigan's five-decade career in elected office.

Mapes convicted of perjury, attempted obstruction of justice, Aug. 25, 2023

After a three-week trial, a jury convicts Tim Mapes on charges of perjury and attempted obstruction of justice. Mapes is currently serving 30 months in federal prison for lying to a grand jury

Jury deadlocks in trial of former AT&T exec Sep. 19, 2024

The trial of former AT&T Illinois president Paul La Schiazza ends in a mistrial after a jury deadlocks on whether the executive bribed Madigan for the 2017 passage of a major law the telecom giant had lobbied for. Later, the judge declines to acquit him and schedules a retrial for June 2025.

Madigan's corruption trial begins Oct. 21, 2024

After two weeks of jury selection, opening statements kick off Madigan's federal corruption trial in Chicago. Despite estimates the trial would end before the holidays, closing arguments won't wrap up until Jan. 29 The jury hears from more than 60 witnesses, including FBI cooperators Fidel Marquez, who also testified against his former ComEd colleagues in the 2023 trial and ex-Chicago Ald. Danny Solis. Both men secretly videotaped McClain and Madigan. In addition to seeing those tapes, the jury hears more than 100 wiretapped phone calls and saw hundreds of emails and other documents. Most stunningly, Madigan himself takes the witness stand in his own defense in early January, opening him up to blistering cross-examination.

Madigan jury begins deliberating, Jan. 29, 2025

Eight women and four men are tasked with deciding the fate of the nation's longest serving statehouse leader.

Madigan is found guilty, Feb. 12, 2025

Madigan is convicted of 10 of the 23 charges against him, including three bribery counts related to ComEd providing no-work contracts to his allies and promising to help get Chicago alderman-turned-FBI-mole Danny Solis a lucrative state board position. Madigan is acquitted of seven counts and the jury deadlocks on six others. The jury also deadlocks on those same six charges as they pertain to Mike McClain.

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.

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates

We Are OPEN

Bring your plate number

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

419 S. State St. Bel.
815-544-2075

