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Belvidere Hit By Windstorm With Extensive Damage

Story on page 4



Illinois Joins Suit Against Trump Administration Orders Limiting Gender-Affirming Care

Raoul declines to give guidance to Illinois hospitals that have fallen in line with federal guidelines

Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Article Summary:

- Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and other Democratic attorneys general are suing the Trump administration over policies to limit gender-affirming care for youths.
- The lawsuit argues the policies violate states' 10th Amendment right to regulate health care.
- Many Illinois health care providers have

stopped providing gender-affirming care to comply with federal orders.

- Raoul declined to say whether health care providers should continue providing gender-affirming care while a federal judge considers the lawsuit.

This summary was written by the reporters and editors who worked on this story.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul is joining a multi-state lawsuit seeking to block the Trump administration from limiting gender-affirming care.

The lawsuit, filed in Massachusetts district court by 17 states, argues an executive order signed in January by President Donald Trump that directs federal agencies to take "appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving federal research and education grants end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children" violates states' 10th Amendment right to regulate medical care.

The order defines "children" as people under age 19, which the attorneys general say conflicts with many states such as Illinois, where people are generally considered adults when they turn 18. A separate executive order by the president established that the federal government only recognizes two genders.

It also seeks to block two Department of Justice orders that direct the DOJ to investigate and enforce legal action against doctors, hospitals and other medical professionals that provide gender-affirming care to youths.

The orders use "cruel, demeaning language" to "undermine the legitimacy" of medical care, California Attorney General Rob Bonta said at a news conference Friday.

"This administration is driving a wedge between patients and health care providers from providing patients the health care that they need," Raoul said.

Also troubling to the attorneys general is the prospect of criminal prosecution against doctors who provide care.

"The Department of Justice is diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from catching criminals and predators who are actually harming children," Raoul said. "How does any of this keep our children or our communities safer?"

Guidance to Illinois doctors

The orders have also caused Illinois health care providers to stop providing types of gender-affirming care, including University of Chicago Medical Center, UI Health, Rush, Northwestern Medicine and Lurie Children's Hospital

in Chicago.

Though Raoul said he opposes the Trump administration's policies and believes they are illegal, he declined to give legal advice about whether Illinois health care providers should continue following the federal directives while the lawsuit proceeds.

"I am not a health care administrator; I am not the head of a hospital that's being threatened with potential criminal investigation or prosecution or removal of funding that goes toward saving the lives of various patients," Raoul said. "And so I am not in the position of either advising what administrative decisions should be made at hospitals."

Raoul said his role is to "remove" legal threats against the state and its residents.


Medical providers that decide to stop providing gender-affirming care are likely not guilty of discrimination under Illinois law, Raoul said, "particularly if the federal government is threatening you with criminal prosecution." He added Illinois laws don't require doctors to provide a full range of gender-affirming care.

Illinois has numerous laws on the books establishing legal gender-affirming care, including protections for Illinois health care providers from prosecution and other disciplinary action in other states for giving legal health care to patients in Illinois that might be considered illegal in another state.

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.



- Peggye Bankson, 71, Harvard, July 26
- Doris Oncken, 104, Formerly of Belvidere, July 20
- Karen Page, 64, Garden Prairie, July 27
- Elaine Whaples, 90, Harvard, July 24
- Robert Bruce, 69, Belvidere, August 11
- Michael Effler, 59, Belvidere, August 10
- James "Jim" Mathews, 82, Harvard, August 4
- Ann Nolen, 81, Harvard, August 8
- Joyce Porter, 82, Belvidere, August 12



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Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.
Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.
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Judge Denies Ex-Speaker Madigan's Request to Remain Out of Prison During Appeal

As an Oct. 13 prison report date gets closer, Madigan hires experienced appellate team

Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Article Summary

• A judge has denied former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's motion to remain free as the legal appeal process plays out for both his corruption conviction and prison sentence.

• Madigan is due to report to a yet-to-be-named federal prison in mid-October after his February convictions on 10 corruption charges, including bribery.

• The former Democratic power player has hired a well-known team of appellate attorneys to handle his appeal, while those convicted of bribing him are also preparing to argue their case to higher court.

A federal judge on Friday denied former Illinois Speaker Michael Madigan's legal arguments that he should remain out of prison while his ap-

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Madigan

from page 2

peal of both his corruption convictions and 7-1/2 year sentence play out.

Madigan is scheduled to report to prison on Oct. 13, though the federal Bureau of Prisons has not yet assigned him a facility. The former speaker, whose 36-year reign in Springfield made him the longest-serving legislative leader in U.S. history, has already begun the appellate process, though his full arguments aren't due for another few weeks.

U.S. District Judge John Blakey, who presided over Madigan's lengthy trial this past fall and winter and sentenced Madigan to his lengthy prison term in June, wrote in a 44-page order Friday that the ex-speaker's "entire motion rides on routine, and meritless" objections.

"As such, he clings to false hope," Blakey wrote.

In February, a jury delivered a split verdict for Madigan, convicting him on 10 of 23 corruption-related charges, including bribery and wire fraud. The jury acquitted Madigan on seven counts and deadlocked on another six, but the 10 on which he was convicted involved electric utility Commonwealth Edison and dealings with Chicago alderman-turned-FBI mole Danny Solis, who introduced Madigan to high-powered real estate developers as potential clients for the speaker's property tax appeals firm.

Blakey wrote that Madigan's arguments to remain free during his appeal don't meet the high bar of raising "a substantial question of law or fact."

The ex-speaker recently hired a team of attorneys who have years of experience arguing at the U.S. Supreme Court. Madigan's legal strategy centers around the definition of "bribery," which

the high court last summer examined in a case that delayed the former speaker's case.

Some of those convicted of bribing Madigan, including former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore and long-time Springfield lobbyist and Madigan confidant Mike McClain, are also planning appeals on the same grounds.

Earlier this summer, Pramaggiore, McClain and the two other members of the so-called "ComEd Four" were sentenced to prison terms ranging from a year and a day to two years for their roles in orchestrating the bribery scheme.

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Which Republicans Are Seeking Statewide Office In 2026? So Far, Hardly Any

Politicians set to gather at State Fair this week, unofficially kicking off 2026 election season

Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Article Summary

- No Republican candidates have publicly announced they're running for three statewide offices and just two have announced plans to run for governor as Gov. JB Pritzker seeks a third term.

- Illinois GOP Chair Kathy Salvi says the One Big Beautiful Bill will be part of her party's pitch to voters in 2026.

continued on page 4

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Saturday, August 23, 2025
\$10 Advanced, \$20 Gate



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Straight Line Winds and Flash Flooding in Northern Illinois

Much of Belvidere without power for two days

On August 16–17, 2025, prolonged and intense thunderstorms affected Northeastern Illinois and the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area. Triggered by hot and humid conditions, multiple rounds of thunderstorms developed across the region, bringing damaging winds, large hail, and torrential rainfall that led to flash flooding in several communities.

Dangerous heat indices between 100°F and 105°F helped create a volatile atmosphere, supporting repeated thunderstorm development.

The first round of thunderstorms on the afternoon of August 16 delivered large hail and strong, damaging winds, primarily affecting northern and northeastern Illinois. Belvidere, Cary, Sugar Grove, Palatine, and Romeoville all reported concentrated areas of wind damage, with estimated gusts exceeding 70 mph.

Later, during the early morning hours of August 17—between approximately 2:00 AM and 3:30 AM—a second line of severe storms tracked from Algonquin, IL to St. John, IN, producing another swath of damaging winds ranging from 60 to 70 mph. The timing of this round made it particularly dangerous, occurring during a period when most residents were asleep and less likely to be aware of warnings.

As thunderstorms regenerated in the early morning hours of August 17, significant rainfall developed across the western and southern parts of the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Rainfall rates peaked between 2 and 4.5 inches per hour, overwhelming drainage systems and leading to localized flash flooding.

As of 1:00 PM Monday, 360 Belvidere residents were still without power.

Information provided by National Weather Service Chicago and ComEd.

Republicans

from page 3

• Both political parties will unofficially begin the 2026 campaign with rallies at the State Fair in Springfield this week.

This summary was written by the reporters and editors who worked on this story.

With U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, Comptroller Susana Mendoza and other members of Congress not seeking reelection in 2026, robust fields are growing in the Democratic primaries for the open seats.

Gov. JB Pritzker is seeking a rare third term and has been on the campaign trail for more than a month. Three high-profile Democrats are seeking to replace Durbin, sparking a flurry of state-level Democrats seeking to climb the political ladder.

But on the Republican side, it's a ghost town in primary races for statewide offices so far.

"We've been decimated to the point in Illinois where we don't have a strong bench," former Republican State Rep. Mark Batinick, now a political consultant, told Capitol News Illinois.

At this week's Illinois State Fair political days – long viewed as the unofficial start to election season in Illinois – the GOP's focus will largely be on Washington in the absence of prominent state-level candidates, according to the state party chair.

"We have an opportunity in Illinois not only because Pritzker is such a trainwreck, but also because so many great things are happening with the leadership of this Republican president," Illinois Republican Party Chair Kathy Salvi said in an interview.

But winning statewide elections has been a daunting task for Illinois Republicans since President Donald Trump first entered the national political stage in 2016. Two years later, in 2018, a "blue wave" swept the nation in Trump's first midterm election and Pritzker was elected governor. Since that year, Democrats seeking statewide offices have cruised to victory.

Thus far, just two lesser-known Republicans have expressed interest in challenging Pritzker in 2026. A similar group of lesser-known candidates is considering a U.S. Senate run, but there has been no news about anyone running for comptroller, treasurer or secretary of state.

It's still early in the election cycle — the petition gathering period began last week and runs through October — and Salvi said she expects there will be a Republican candidate in November for each statewide office.

GOP's 2026 message

The Illinois GOP isn't going to shy away from Trump, Salvi said, even though the party often tried to ignore his influence under her predecessor, Don Tracy, who is considering a run for statewide office.

Salvi said embracing the One Big Beautiful Bill will be a key part of her party's message in 2026 that she believes will resonate with voters. She encouraged voters to find common ground on areas they agree with Trump and ignore things they disagree with.

"Look at the success of this White House," Salvi said. "Go to the White House website every week, or more than that, and learn what's happening. And if there's something you don't like, then fine. Just don't talk about that. Look to what you do like. Find what we have in common."

That's a welcome strategy for the Illinois Freedom Caucus, a group of the General Assembly's most conservative lawmakers that has criticized the party for not embracing Trump in recent years.

Collin Moseley, the caucus' state director, said in an interview they want the party to support Trump-aligned candidates, but the Illinois party still has too many leaders who disassociate with Trump.

"I think that it's mostly being stifled by people who hate Donald Trump in our own party, people who are clinging with a death grip to hold our party further to the left instead of moving to the right to the issues that working families care about," Moseley said. "We are stuck in this old-fashioned way of campaigning and the old Republican Party that mostly has lost its way."

Salvi is also hoping to capitalize on Trump's performance in Illinois in 2024, in which he cut down 17-point losses in 2016 and 2020 to about 11 points, largely due to a falloff in Democratic votes. Meanwhile, Republicans did not lose seats in Springfield despite Democrats targeting several vulnerable districts.

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Republicans

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Pritzker beatable?

Pritzker is beatable, Batinick argued, citing the results of a poll released Thursday conducted by his polling firm and commissioned by the conservative Illinois Policy Institute where Batinick also works as a policy analyst. It found Pritzker's favorability rating was at 47%.

The poll conducted last month of 752 likely 2026 Illinois voters found 60% of voters say "high taxes" is a top issue for them, while 26% named "state governance" as a top issue. Batinick said Pritzker appears set to run on his record of governing the state, but also frequently discusses national issues.

"The issues that matter to Illinoisans aren't the issues that JB Pritzker is talking about right now," he said.

The primary race to challenge Pritzker is still taking shape with DuPage County Sheriff Jim Mendrick the most notable name seeking the office so far. Lake Forest businessman Joseph Severino, who has run for Congress as a Republican and independent, has announced his intention to run for governor, but has not filed a fundraising committee with the State Board of Elections.

Batinick said that politicians seeking to "climb the political ladder" benefit from running for office, but the risk of losing their current elected position is keeping Republicans from stepping into a race where their odds of winning are low in a state that leans left.

"Everybody has to give up what they got to run for something that they don't think they can win," he said. "They're looking at a Trump midterm; they're looking at a lack of money; they're looking at a lack of excitement at the top of the ticket for governor and senator to date."

Batinick thinks the right Republican candidate can beat Gov. JB Pritzker and overcome his spending power.

"A Republican candidate is going to have to work hard on the ground and we're going to have to band together to really match the money that he can just buy," Batinick said. "Republicans are going to have to do it with volunteers. It's possible, you just need somebody that is inspiring to the public."

Other offices

In the Senate race, four Republicans have filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission and are actively raising money.

Former Illinois Republican Party Chair Don Tracy is reportedly considering running for either governor or Senate and is expected to make an announcement soon. Ted Dabrowski, the president of conservative research site Wirepoints, is also considering running for governor.

Bob Fioretti, who has unsuccessfully run for several offices as a member of both parties, is reportedly circulating petitions to run for attorney general.

But even as petition-gathering begins, no other candidates are publicly known to be interested in running for other statewide offices. Notable names, including U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and former Illinois Republican National Committee-

man Richard Porter have declined to run for governor or Senate.

Candidate recruitment isn't the state party's role but rather turning out voters, said Salvi, an attorney from Mundelein who was the party's nominee for U.S. Senate in 2022.

Democrats' national focus

While Republicans head into the State Fair still in search of people to run for statewide office, Democrats have two primary elections for statewide offices and three crowded primaries for congressional seats in the Chicago area.

The primary for the open comptroller seat continues to expand. Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, announced on Monday she will run for the seat, joining Rep. Margaret Croke, D-Chicago, and Lake County Treasurer Holly Kim in the race as other Democrats also consider jumping in.

But even as some Democrats gear up to compete against each other, much of the party's focus this summer has been on national politics, including hosting Democrats in the Texas House who left their state to prevent a vote on redrawing Texas' congressional maps.

After the Illinois Democratic Party hosted Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin last week for one of several news conferences in the western suburbs with Texas Democrats, the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association hosted U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies at their annual brunch on Wednesday in Springfield as part of State Fair festivities.

"Illinoisans face unprecedented harm from Donald Trump and Elon Musk and I cannot think of a better national leader right now to talk to our party about how to meet this moment," association President Mark Guethle said in a statement.

Pritzker, who has put himself at the center of Texas' redistricting fight, also hold the governor's traditional event at the State Fair on Wednesday afternoon. Pritzker has continued trying to grow his national profile this summer amid speculation he plans to run for president in 2028, including with an appearance on Stephen Colbert's late-night show on CBS last week.

The Republicans hosted FOX News analyst Gianni Caldwell as their keynote speaker at the fair on Thursday.

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.

State Education Board To Vote on New Test Scoring System

Revised measurements meant to more accurately reflect student performance

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Article Summary

• Illinois has long had some of the most rigorous proficiency standards in the nation for student performance.

• The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking to bring them closer to other states, which will boost proficiency scores in the upcoming school year.

• Illinois' superintendent of education says the strict standards result in schools being unfairly labeled as needing interventions and students being inaccurately labeled as not on track for college or a career.

This summary was written by the reporters and editors who worked on the story.

Education officials in Illinois expect to see a marked increase this year in the percentage of students classified as proficient in reading, writing and math, along with a slight decline in proficiency rates in science.

continued on page 6

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY
IN RE ESTATE OF

Donald L. Robson, Deceased.

Case Number 2025 PR 30

INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATION NOTICE TO:

- [x] Creditors and Claimants
- [x] Unknown Heirs and Legatees

1. Notice is given of the death of Donald L. Robson, who died on October 17, 2024, a resident of 4000 Trillium Trail, Unit B, Poplar Grove IL 61065, Illinois.

2. The Representative for the estate and her address is: Marcia K. Robson, 4000 Trillium Trail, Unit B, Poplar Grove IL 61065.

3. The Attorney for the estate is: Dawn M. Weekly, LEGACY LAW FIRM, LLC, 410 E. Church St., Unit D, Sandwich, IL 60548.

4. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before February 12, 2026. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Boone County, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

5. On July 22, 2025, an Order Admitting the Will to Probate and/or Appointing the Representative was entered.

6. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the validity of the Will as provided under section 6-21 of the Probate Act (IL Rev. Stat. Ch. 110 ½, Par. 6-21).

7. Within 6 months after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to contest the validity of the Will as provided under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (IL Rev. Stat. Ch. 100 ½, Par. 8-1).

8. The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (IL Rev. Stat. Ch. 110 ½, Par. 28-4).

6088-956849

Published in Boone County Journal 8/12, 8/19/ & 26th, 2025 SW

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

No. 4243 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CAR DETAILING AND TINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ELITE PRECISION DETAILING LLC that its location is or will be 3198 BE VER CREEK LANE 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.

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JOSE IGNACIO HERNANDEZ 3198 BE VER CREEK LANE BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County 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: July 31, 2025
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 8/7, 8/12, 8/19/25 - P

Notice: Belvidere Seeks Bids for Fire Station Concrete Upgrades

The City of Belvidere Fire Department is requesting sealed bids for four concrete improvement projects at Stations 1 and 2. Work includes replacing concrete aprons at both stations, installing a new trench drain at Station 2, and refinishing Station 2's apparatus bay floor. Contractors may bid on individual projects or submit a bundled price. Proposals are due by 5 p.m., August 29, 2025, with bid opening on September 1 and an anticipated award on September 15.

For bid details please visit <https://www.belvidereil.gov/request-for-proposal/> or <https://www.belvidereil.gov/fire/>

For site visits, contact Fire Chief Shawn Schadle at sschadle@belviderefire.com.
Published in Boone County Journal 08/19/25

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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,

-v.- 2024FC70

KEVIN M RIVERA; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; CANDLEWICK LANE ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants.

105 LIVERPOOL DRIVE SOUTHEAST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 3/19/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on 10/2/2025 located at 601 N Main Street, Courthouse Steps, Belvidere, IL 61008, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

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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.

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Attorney File No. 23-16765IL

Case Number: 2024FC70

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6088-957111

Published in The Boone County Journal Aug 19, 26, Sept 2, 2025 SW

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

BOONE COUNTY B IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of JEFFREY DESECKI,, Deceased.

Case No. 2025PR45

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of: JEFFREY DESECKI of: BELVIDERE, IL

Letters of office were issued on: 08/01/2025 to:

Representative: ANGELA TRAPP
1226 WARREN AVENUE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Whose attorney is: FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.

19333 E. GRANT HWY
PO BOX 5
MARENGO, IL 60152

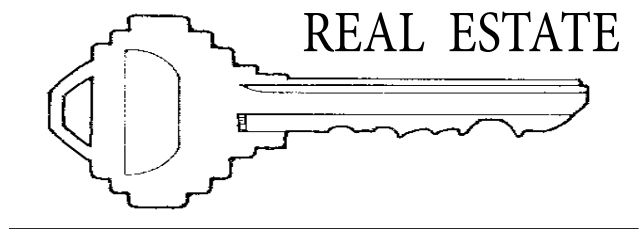
Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred.

Claims may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court at the Boone County Government Center, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Pamela Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Franks, Gerkin, Ponitz & Greeley, P.C.
File #21689.001
P.O. Box 5
Marengo, IL 60152
(815) 923-2107
pleadings@fgpglaw.com

Published in The Boone County Journal Aug 19, 26, Sept 2, 2025



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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,

-v.- 2024FC70

KEVIN M RIVERA; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; CANDLEWICK LANE ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants.

105 LIVERPOOL DRIVE SOUTHEAST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 3/19/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on 10/2/2025 located at 601 N Main Street, Courthouse Steps, Belvidere, IL 61008, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 105 LIVERPOOL DRIVE SOUTHEAST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-26-351-003

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$178,100.08

Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com, LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid.

The balance, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-16765IL.

Auction.com, LLC
100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60602 – 872-225-4985

You can also visit www.auction.com.

Attorney File No. 23-16765IL

Case Number: 2024FC70

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.

6088-957111

Published in The Boone County Journal Aug 19, 26, Sept 2, 2025 SW

New Testing from page 5

That's not because of any change in the way schools are teaching or how well students are learning, but rather a change in the way the state reports scores on the annual assessments students are given in those core subjects.

During a media briefing Tuesday, State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders said the new scoring system has been in development for about 18 months. Pending final approval by the State Board of Education, which is scheduled to vote Wednesday, the new grading system will be used in the 2025 report card that is due to be released this fall and will reflect scores from the tests students took this spring.

For years, those scores have been reported on the annual Illinois Report Card, which tells the public how students are performing overall, and which groups of students are falling behind. The scores are also used to hold schools accountable for improving student performance and bringing all demographic groups, including the most disadvantaged, up to proficiency.

But state officials have also complained for years that the way scores have been reported – and especially how scores are categorized as above or below the proficiency level – do not accurately reflect how well students are doing.

For example, recent report cards have shown that about two-thirds of Illinois high school graduates go on to enroll in a two- or four-year college within 12 months of graduation. But scores from the state assessments given each spring show fewer than half of them perform at grade level in English language arts, and even fewer are classified as proficient in math.

“Put simply, as currently designed, our proficiency rates do not reflect the reality of student progress,” Sanders said. “They’re misaligned with what it actually means to succeed in college and career.”

The inaccurate picture results from what are known as “cut scores” that divide students into different performance categories, Sanders said.

continued on page 7

New Testing

from page 6

Federal law requires states to administer assessments and to report publicly how students are performing on those tests. But states are given great latitude in deciding where to draw the dividing lines between proficient and nonproficient, Sanders said. For many years, Illinois has had some of the most rigorous proficiency standards in the nation.

The consequences of that kind of scoring system go beyond merely unflattering report cards that show low percentages of students performing at grade level, he said. It also results in schools being unfairly labeled as needing interventions to improve their performance, and students themselves being inaccurately labeled as not on track for college or a career.

Proposed new system

Under the proposed new system, student scores will be divided into four performance categories: below proficient, approaching proficient, proficient, and above proficient. And a new system of cut scores will be used to separate students into those four categories.

The new scoring system will apply to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, which covers English language arts and math in grades 3 through 8, as well as the Illinois Science Assessment, which is given to students in grades 5 and 8. It will also be used for the ACT exams, which will be used starting this year as the state assessment for students in 11th grade.

Sanders emphasized that because the state is establishing new performance categories and using new cut scores to define those categories, it will not be possible to compare proficiency rates under the new system with those of prior years.

“Proficiency rates in Illinois have been trending up, but on the 2025 report card, we will not be able to tell the magnitude of year-over-year improvement based on our proficiency data because 2025 sets a new baseline,” he said.

Instead, Sanders said, officials will compare future results with prior years using a metric called the Student Growth Percentile, which uses raw test scores to measure how much students have learned in a given year relative to their peers.

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.

DHS Secretary Noem Defends ICE Tactics in Second Illinois Visit

State lawmaker files bill seeking to ban federal agents from wearing masks in Illinois

By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Article Summary:

- Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem made her second visit to Illinois Friday to call on the state to end “sanctuary” immigration laws.

- Rep. Barbara Hernandez filed a bill in

Springfield to ban federal law enforcement from covering their faces while in the field.

- Noem said federal agents have seen a massive increase in assaults against them, and supervisors decide what situations require officers to conceal their identity.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem made her second visit of the year to Illinois on Friday to condemn the state’s immigration laws and defend the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement efforts.

At a news conference in west suburban Lombard, Noem highlighted four individuals arrested in Illinois and deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement while arguing Illinois has given safe harbor to violent criminals. She also defended controversial tactics federal officers have used to arrest people.

“These individuals would still be out on our streets today, committing crimes and attacking people and harming them and hurting our children, if Gov. (JB) Pritzker and (Chicago) Mayor (Brandon) Johnson had their way,” Noem said of the four deported people pictured behind her while standing in front of a table filled with confiscated guns, drugs and cash.

Noem said people in Illinois – a state with 1.8 million foreign-born residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau – should focus on the needs of “American citizens” and “make them the priority, because they’re the ones who invested in this country.”

While Noem touted the thousands of people who have been deported since President Donald Trump took office in January, ICE’s methods for detaining people have generated controversy. Videos have gone viral on social media showing masked federal agents without uniforms surprising people as the agents jumped out of unmarked cars.

Noem defended agents using masks, claiming federal agents have seen a 1,000% increase in assaults against them in recent months. She also said agents do identify themselves with either something they are wearing or verbally.

“ICE is always wearing something that identifies them, who they are and what operation they’re out on,” Noem said. “I would say that they wear masks at times to protect their identities from dangerous situations. With the leadership teams, we leave that up to them to discern what’s necessary in certain situations.”

Illinois lawmaker seeks regulations on ICE’s attire

Some Illinois Democrats are seeking to ban federal agents from wearing masks in many cases. Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora, filed House Bill 4086 in July that would prohibit law enforcement officers operating in Illinois from wearing masks while interacting with the public with exceptions for surgical masks for medical reasons and masks to protect police from smoke or gas.

It would also require officers to wear something identifying their name or badge number as well as the police agency they work for. The bill makes an exception for undercover officers.

“What the federal government’s doing is not in a line of duty where chemicals are going to be around or anything,” Hernandez said in an interview. “To my knowledge, it’s just people getting arrested at homes, at stores, at parking lots, so why should they hide who they are?”

She acknowledged Noem’s concerns about officers’ safety but argued that police officers have a public-facing job and should identify themselves when they’re working with the public.

“I want to be supportive of officers overall, however, these are officers that have been told to deport families, to spread fear, to do a lot of illegals actions – in a way they’re law enforcement and they’re not following certain laws either by not having a search warrant,” Hernandez said.

But Hernandez acknowledged the Illinois Attorney General’s Office has shared with her that her bill is likely unconstitutional as state laws cannot regulate the federal government.

“I know that this is something that my community wants to see and even though if (federal regulation) gets removed from the bill itself, we want to make sure people are aware of this; we want people to be sure that we are fighting for this,” Hernandez said.

Sanctuary policies

Noem’s first visit earlier this year to Springfield was met with protests as she visited a Homeland Security detention facility and invoked the death of local activist Emma Shafer, despite objection from Shafer’s parents.

During her Springfield visit, Noem, alongside Republican state legislators, called on Pritzker to end the state’s “sanctuary” policies. She repeated her demands Friday.

“Kristi Noem is trying to make an example out of us because we refuse to join her in kissing the dirt under Trump’s shoes,” Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said during a news conference Friday. “And I’m sure it only infuriates her more that the law is simply on our side.”

State law does not protect people in Illinois from deportation. Federal officers under Noem’s leadership can still make arrests and deport people in Illinois. Under the 2017 TRUST Act signed by Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, Illinois law enforcement is prohibited from arresting a person based solely on their immigration status and in most cases, cannot assist immigration officials with detaining people based on immigration status, according to the Illinois Attorney General’s office.

Noem said ICE has issued more than 1,600 detainers – a request to hold someone in local custody for ICE to pick up and process for deportation – in recent months, but only 8% have been fulfilled.

“Anybody who serves in law enforcement would say they’re used to partners,” Noem said. “They’re used to being able to call up a local law enforcement officer, a sheriff, a highway patrol officer, and say, ‘Hey, do you have any information on this individual that is a murderer that’s been cited in your city?’ That’s not happening in Illinois.”

Jeffries Says Working-Class Focus is Key to Democrats Retaking U.S. House

U.S. House Minority Leader was keynote speaker at annual Democratic county chairs brunch

By Peter Hancock *Capitol News Illinois*

Article Summary

• U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, was the keynote speaker at the state's largest annual downstate gathering of Democrats on Wednesday. Jeffries is poised to become U.S. House speaker if Democrats retake the chamber in 2026.

• He said President Donald Trump is a threat to American democracy and that Democrats can win back Congress if they stand up for middle class values.

• But that will be a challenge for the party, which has its lowest approval rating in history, according to recent polling.

This summary was written by the reporters and editors who worked on the story.

The man who hopes to be the next speaker of the U.S. House told an audience of Illinois Democrats Wednesday that President Donald Trump is a threat to American democracy and that Democrats can win back control of Congress if they stand up for middle class values.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, the current House minority leader, was the keynote speaker at the annual breakfast of the Illinois County Chairs' Association, Illinois Democrats' largest annual event, which coincides with the party's day at the Illinois State Fair.

"The first six months of the Trump administration have been a debacle," Jeffries said after rattling off a list of controversial actions Trump has taken since resuming office in January, from canceling funding for medical research to mass firings of federal workers. "America is better than this. We're better than this."

Wednesday's events served as an unofficial starting point of the 2026 campaign. In federal races, Democrats hope to gain enough seats to win control of the House, which would enable them to block most of Trump's political agenda for the remainder of his term.

Democrats are currently the dominant party in Illinois, where they hold all state constitutional offices, supermajorities in both chambers of the General Assembly, both U.S. Senate seats and 14 of the state's 17 seats in the U.S. House.

But they are currently in the opposite position at the federal level, where Republicans hold the White House and slim majorities in both chambers of Congress.

Those majorities, however, have been enough to push through legislation that enacts much of Trump's domestic policy agenda, which includes deep cuts to federal spending on social programs such as Medicaid, Head Start and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also

known as SNAP, along with a package of large tax cuts that mainly benefit upper-income taxpayers.

"They're stealing food from the mouths of children, veterans and seniors, and all of this is being done so they can enact massive tax breaks for their billionaire donors who don't need it," Jeffries said. "This is what House Republicans have done."

To win control of the House, Democrats need a net gain of at least three seats in the 2026 elections. But making even small gains has become increasingly difficult in recent years as states have drawn congressional district maps in ways intended to heavily favor one part or the other.

Out of the 220 House seats currently held by Republicans, the Cook Political Report rates only eight as "toss ups" while nine are rated as leaning Republican. Meanwhile, 10 Democratic seats are rated as toss ups and 12 others are listed in the leaning category.

In addition, the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature, acting at Trump's request, is currently attempting to redraw its maps in a way that would give the GOP an advantage in five more congressional seats. But Texas Democrats have so far thwarted that effort by fleeing the state to prevent the Texas House from mustering a quorum, an action that Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has actively supported.

Unfavorable ratings

Democrats also face another obstacle to

reclaiming a majority in the House – the party's own unfavorable rating among American voters.

A Gallup poll in July showed that while Democrats hold a slight lead over Republicans in party affiliation, their favorability rating had fallen to 34%, its lowest point in more than 30 years. And exit polls from the 2024 election showed Trump winning a slight majority among lower-income voters while pulling in support from 45% of those in union households – demographic groups that have traditionally made up a big part of the Democratic Party's base.

Asked about the party's unfavorable rating at a separate event in Springfield Tuesday, Jeffries said Trump's own approval rating has been falling as well.

"Donald Trump is more unpopular at this period of time than any president in American history, and he started out on January 20 more popular than he had ever been in his 10 years on the public scene," he said. "The one big, ugly bill, which is now law, is deeply unpopular."

But speaking to the Democratic County Chairs' Association Wednesday, Jeffries sounded a message that was clearly aimed at winning back working-class voters.

"As Democrats, we believe in rewarding hard work, that when you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to live a comfortable life," he said. "Can I break that down for you? Good paying job, good housing, good health care, a good education for your children and a good retirement."



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