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## Gun Laws, Scholarship Tax Credits, Nuclear Energy – But No New Spending – On Table For Veto Session

*Lawmakers return to consider governor's vetoes, new legislation in year's final session*

By Jerry Nowicki, Peter Hancock, Hannah Meisel & Andrew Adams

When lawmakers return to the Capitol next week for their annual fall veto session, they have a full agenda, including a handful of vetoes from Gov. JB Pritzker to consider overriding, in addition to deciding whether to revive a private school scholarship program.

But additional state spending is unlikely to be on their agenda, according to recent comments from both the governor and House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch.

The prospect of a supplemental spending plan had been floated in recent months after the state ended the previous fiscal year with a surplus of about \$700 million and revenues have continued to meet projections in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

New Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson had hoped the state might allocate more funding to help the city house some of the 18,500 migrants who have been bussed to Illinois from southern U.S. border states such as Florida and Texas in the past year.

But Welch indicated last week that no such funding package would materialize in the veto session, answering a reporter’s inquiry about whether Johnson had requested the additional funding in a recent meeting between the two.

“At that time, there was no request made (from Johnson), specifically because I think I made it clear that we were not expecting to do a supplemental budget in veto session,” Welch said.

The veto session runs Oct. 24 to 26 and Nov. 7 to 9.

### Invest in Kids Act

While Welch poured cold water on the prospect of a supplemental spending plan, advocates for a state private school scholarship program are hoping lawmakers can come to an agreement on keeping the program alive.

The Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program was created by lawmakers in 2017 as part of a bipartisan compromise that ushered in a complete overhaul of the way Illinois funds its public schools.

An initiative of school choice advocates, the program provides a 75 percent income tax credit for contributions made to scholarship funds for private schools. In other words, someone who contributes \$100 to such a scholarship fund can deduct \$75 directly off the amount they owe in



Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz visiting Belvidere’s Trick or Treat event



As far as the eye could see a dream come true at the Chamber of Commerce Halloween event

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# Controversial Pipeline Canceled Amid Safety Concerns, Regulatory Pushback

Other projects still on the table as advocates, industry groups debate regulatory reform

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Navigator CO2, a Nebraska-based company specializing in carbon capture and sequestration, announced Friday it is canceling plans to build a 1,300-mile carbon dioxide pipeline that would have run through central Illinois.

The plan included several hundred miles of pipeline in Illinois which terminated at

sequestration sites designed to store the greenhouse gas underground.

The company, which pulled its permit application at the Illinois Commerce Commission less than two weeks ago, said the cancellation was due to the “unpredictable nature” of the regulatory processes involved in permitting such a project.

The company recently had its permit denied in South Dakota and faced regulatory uncertainty in Iowa before ultimately withdrawing their application in that state.

“We are disappointed that we will not be able to provide services to our customers and thank them for their continued support.” Navigator CO2 CEO Matt Vining said in a news release.

The project was met with significant pushback from environmentalists and landowners in Illinois, who shared concerns about safety and the company’s request to use eminent domain to obtain land or usage rights if necessary.

Much of the work to oppose the project was organized through the Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines, which helped form a separate group to intervene in the state’s regulatory proceeding, attracting landowners and several county governments to its cause.

“This is, I think, the result of successful organizing,” Pam Richart, the coalition’s president, told Capitol News Illinois. “While we’re happy to hear it, there are a lot of federal tax dollars on the table for carbon sequestration.”

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, known as the bipartisan infrastructure bill when it went through Congress, allocated \$12 billion in funding for carbon capture, utilization and storage projects.

Richart said available federal funding would continue to incentivize companies to propose similar projects. Illinois’ unique geology makes it a natural candidate for carbon sequestration.

“If it’s not Navigator, it’s going to be someone else,” she said.

Richart said her group will devote more resources to combating other similar projects and advocate for state-level regulation of the carbon sequestration sector.

Currently, state regulators are considering a separate proposal from Wolf Carbon Solutions and Archer Daniels Midland Co. to build a pipeline that would transport carbon dioxide created as a byproduct of ethanol production and store it underground in central Illinois.

That project has also been met with pushback from Richart’s group and others, leading some to

call for state-level reform.

This spring, lawmakers introduced competing bills – one backed by industry groups and another by environmental advocates – that would create a framework for regulating the safety of this kind of project. Those bills were never called for a vote.

While Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, told Capitol News last week that this subject was unlikely to come up in the upcoming two-week veto session, stakeholders continue to meet and negotiate with the hope of creating a bill that could become law in the future.

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## Quidnunc



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## OBITUARIES

- Jack Ellis, 16, Harvard, October 18
- Shirley Jacobson, 62, Belvidere, October 19
- Arnold “Arnie” Meier, 89, Cherry Valley, Oct. 22
- Thomas Moss, 88, Poplar Grove, October 18
- Frank Neuman, 72, Marengo, October 14
- Donald “Frog” Nolen, 82, October 19
- Harry Smith, 85, Belvidere, October 16
- Dale “Ponytail Dale” Strobbe, 76, Belvidere, Oct. 17

Suzanne Somers, 76, Palm Springs CA, Oct 15



Map of proposed pipeline

# Assault Weapon Registration Period Remains Open as Illinois State Police Seeks Further Input

Agency agreed to further hearings at request of state rulemaking committee

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

People who own certain guns and other items now prohibited under the state’s assault weapons ban still need to register them with the Illinois State Police. But ISP says it plans to hold additional public hearings about that process and may refine the rules before they become permanent next year.

“We are happy to address all questions and comments submitted to ISP and will be doing so in the weeks to come,” ISP said in a statement this week.

Illinois lawmakers passed an assault weapons ban during a special lame duck session in January. It came in response to a mass shooting at an Independence Day parade last summer in Highland Park.

The law prohibits the purchase, sale, possession or manufacture of a long list of firearms defined as “assault weapons” as well as large-capacity magazines and certain kinds of ammunition.

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# Pritzker Proposes Creation of New Standalone Early Childhood Agency

*New entity would coordinate child care, preschool, early interventions*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Vowing to make Illinois the top state in the nation for child care accessibility, Gov. JB Pritzker unveiled a plan Tuesday to consolidate all the state’s early childhood programs and funding into one new state agency.

“Early Childhood program governance has to be unified in its focus on serving children and families, easing the burden on providers and promoting equity,” Pritzker said at a news conference in Chicago. “Other states

like Colorado, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Georgia, among others, have already created a unified state agency solely dedicated to early childhood. It’s time for Illinois to do the same.”

Currently, the state’s early childhood services are spread across three state agencies. The Illinois State Board of Education administers early childhood block grants, which help fund preschool programs in areas with limited access to them. The Department of Human

Services administers programs that subsidize the cost of child care services, home visits and early intervention services for lower-income families. And the Department of Children and Family Services is in charge of licensing day care providers.

“Anybody, as a parent, who has tried to go through the system of getting everything that you need – from home visiting, to early intervention services, to childcare, to preschool, some accessing all four of those things – knows that it is an impossible bureaucracy to try to access all of those things,” Pritzker said. “I mean ... it’s at least a half-time job to just do those things, to find those services. And we need to make it so much easier.”

Pritzker made the announcement on the opening day of the General Assembly’s fall veto session. To start the multiyear process, he signed an executive order to reorganize the functions but

said he will work with lawmakers on legislation to formalize the process in the spring.

In the meantime, he named Ann Whalen to serve as transition director for the consolidation process. She has worked the last two years as policy director for the education advocacy group Advance Illinois and previously worked in the U.S. Department of Education during the Obama administration.

Pritzker also announced he is forming an external advisory committee that will gather input from stakeholders in preparation of the consolidation proposal. That committee will be chaired by Bela Moté, CEO of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning, one of the largest early childhood and youth development organizations in Chicago.

Pritzker said the idea for the consolidation grew out of an Early Childhood Funding Commission he established in 2019 to study and make

*Continued on page 5*



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### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Boone County Fire Protection District No. 2 for 2023 will be held on November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boone County FPD No. 2 Fire Station, 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Brian Kunce, Fire Chief, 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, (815) 544-3336.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$1,094,341.01.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$3,047,000. This represents a 178.4% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$0.00. This represents a 0.0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$1,094,341.01.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$3,047,000. This represents a 178.4% increase over the previous year.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE NORTH BOONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the North Boone Fire Protection District No. 3 for 2023 will be held on November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Boone FPD No. 3 Fire Station, 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact E.J. Dilonardo, Fire Chief, 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065, (815) 765-3366.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$837,824.88.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$1,449,195. This represents a 72.97% increase over the previous year.

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### Veto Session

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state income taxes. The program has been capped at a collective maximum of \$75 million per year for the tax breaks.

Without legislative action, however, that program will sunset at the end of this year.

Supporters of the program argue that it provides children from lower-income families an opportunity to attend private or parochial schools that would otherwise be accessible only to wealthier families. But critics argue that it's a back-door way of sending public tax dollars to private schools at the expense of public schools that are already underfunded.

In recent days, behind-the-scenes discussions have taken place between advocates and legislative staff on possible changes to the program that would satisfy critics, according to sources familiar with the talks. Those include reducing the maximum amount of tax credits available and incentivizing scholarship funds to target students from the most disadvantaged areas of the state.

Asked about the program's chances at an unrelated event Thursday, Pritzker said he'd be willing to sign an extension of the program "in whatever form."

"I mean, I can't imagine it would show up in some form that I would be unwilling to," he said. "But again, the reality is that the legislature needs to go through this process."

In response Friday morning, the heads of the state's two largest teachers' unions issued a scathing statement accusing Pritzker of siding with "anti-public education Republican governors."

"Illinois cannot afford to support two school systems – one, a public system where schools are held accountable, educate ALL students, and exist for the common good, and a second that does none of this," the union presidents said.

#### Legislative staff unions

Another issue likely to come up during veto session is a change to the state's labor laws that would allow certain legislative staffers to unionize.

Last year, a group of employees in Welch's office formed the Illinois Legislative Staff Association in an attempt to establish a union. Current state law, however, specifically exempts legislative staff from the categories of public employees who are allowed to unionize.

But organizers of the unionization effort pointed to the passage last year of a state constitutional amendment that declares employees in Illinois have a "fundamental right" to organize and engage in collective bargaining. They also noted that Welch was a vocal supporter of that amendment.

In response, Welch introduced House Bill 4148, which would eliminate the exemption for most legislative staff and allow them to unionize. Welch has said he intends to push for the bill's passage during the veto session, although Senate President Don Harmon's office has said only that it would give the measure a thorough review if it clears the House.

Read more: Welch introduces bill to allow legislative staff to unionize

#### Domestic violence firearm protections

Domestic violence advocates and a group of Democratic lawmakers are reviving a proposal left on the cutting room floor when the spring session ended in May. The bill would clarify existing law that mandates guns be taken away from an alleged abuser after a judge grants a certain type of domestic violence order of protection against them.

The revamped measure has been dubbed "Karina's Bill" for Karina Gonzalez, a Chicago woman whose husband allegedly shot to her death in July just weeks after she secured an order of protection against him.

Read more: Advocates push for guns to be taken from domestic abusers when order of protection served

Firearm Owner's Identification, or FOID, cards are automatically suspended for the duration of an order of protection, whether for domestic violence or other reasons. But current law allows those who've been hit with orders of protection to transfer their guns to anyone with a valid FOID card, including to someone who lives in the same residence.

Current law also is unclear on how law enforcement should confiscate guns from alleged abusers whose domestic violence orders of protection include the "firearm remedy" – one of 18 additional requests victims can make to the court when filing for a protective order. The bill would clarify that law enforcement should seize the firearms within 48 hours of a judge granting such an order. Under the proposal, the judge would also be explicitly empowered to issue a warrant for officers to seize the guns at the same time they serve the order of protection.

Earlier this month, the bill's co-sponsors said they're still working out details on process – including where local law enforcement would store temporarily confiscated guns – with the Illinois State Police and other stakeholders.

#### Nuclear moratorium

In a move that pleased environmental groups, Pritzker this summer vetoed Senate Bill 76, which would have lifted a nearly 40-year moratorium on new nuclear power station construction. The bill would have only allowed companies to build "advanced" nuclear reactors as defined by federal law.

The bill initially passed with bipartisan majorities in the House, 84-22-3, and Senate, 36-14.

But while Pritzker said he saw potential in some new nuclear technology such as small modular reactors to be built in the state, he wrote that the bill contains "no regulatory protections for the health and safety of Illinois residents who would live and work around these new reactors."

Read more: Nuclear option: Illinois grapples with the future of nuclear power

The moratorium on all new nuclear construction has been in place since the 1980s, passed in light of concerns over the storage and disposal of nuclear fuel. The moratorium was set to remain in effect until the federal government designates a method of disposing nuclear waste — something it has never done.

Bill sponsor Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, filed a new version of the proposal on Wednesday that she said would "clearly address the governor's stated reasons for his veto."

The new bill contains identical

language to her original version of SB 76 before it was amended as part of negotiations this spring. Rezin told Capitol News Illinois she supports an override vote but filed her new bill in case legislative leaders choose not to call it.

"Either way, this issue needs to be resolved before we leave Springfield in November," Rezin said in an email statement.

Read more: Pritzker vetoes bill that would have allowed new nuclear construction

#### Right of first refusal

Pritzker also issued an amendatory veto on another piece of energy legislation, nixing a controversial provision in a broader bill that would grant existing electric utilities in downstate Illinois the "right of first refusal" for transmission line construction until the end of 2024.

An amendatory veto changes only certain portions of a bill, giving lawmakers the opportunity to accept or override the changes, or to let the bill die entirely.

The change would mean that for new long-distance power lines, established companies like Ameren Illinois or municipal utilities would be asked if they wanted to build the project before other companies, circumventing a federally outlined competitive bidding process.

The bill passed through the General Assembly with slim, bipartisan margins, 63-32-2 in the House and 41-9-1 in the Senate. But in his veto message to lawmakers, Pritzker said the proposal would "eliminate competition and raise costs for rate payers."

The grid operator for downstate Illinois, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, has estimated the cost for its current round of transmission line projects in the region to be between \$20 and \$30 billion.

Corey Stone, a representative of IBEW 51 and vocal advocate for the provision, told Capitol News Illinois this week that he is worried out-of-state companies may bid on transmission line projects and not use Illinois' unionized workers.

"We're trying to maintain the status quo," Stone said.

Read more: Pritzker vetoes measure granting Ameren authority over transmission line construction

#### Other measures and vetoes

Pritzker also vetoed a handful of other measures this summer that lawmakers may take up next

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## Veto Session

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week along with other standalone bills.

Delta-8, other hemp regulations: Democrats are once again attempting to regulate delta-8 THC – a cannabis-derived synthetic drug that’s exploded in popularity over the last few years – and similar hemp-derived products.

Delta-8 purportedly causes a milder high than the effects most THC users would be used to from the delta-9-THC found in most marijuana or cannabis products. But because it’s unregulated federally, delta-8 products accessible to the casual consumer may contain contaminants including heavy metals – and reports of users getting sick are on the rise.

Leaders in Illinois’ four-year-old recreational cannabis industry are split on whether they want the substance banned or merely regulated. But State Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, is pushing for the strict regulation, licensing and taxation of delta-8 in order to prevent incentivizing “bad actors” on the “black market.” He filed his proposed regulations in House Bill 4161 earlier this month after failing to pass it in a broader bill this spring.

Read more: Cannabis regulatory reform bill fails to advance in spring legislative session

Elected Chicago school board: For nearly three decades, Chicago’s school board has been appointed by the city’s mayor, rather than elected. But next November, that’s supposed to change after a 2021 state law sought to phase back in electing board members.

But in the last two years since Democrats in Springfield passed the elected school board law, negotiations on drawing electoral maps have proven difficult. They punted on their spring deadline to approve the districts but could try to hammer out an agreement during veto session.

Ten members on the 21-member board are slated to be chosen in next November’s general election, and the board will run as a hybrid elected-appointed model for two years until the next 11 are elected in 2026 – including one president elected citywide.

A contract ‘they cannot execute’: Pritzker also vetoed a narrowly passed bill that would have required the Illinois State Board of Education to sign a master contract to offer religious dietary options as part of school lunches. House Bill 3643 passed 63-34 in the House, which is short of the three-fifths majority needed to override a veto.

In his veto message, Pritzker called the bill “well-intentioned,” but said it would force ISBE to enter a contract “they cannot execute,” and the General Assembly also did not provide funding for such a contract.

Nursing home tax breaks: House Bill 2507 made several property tax changes, many of which Pritzker said he supports, including creating property tax relief for surviving spouses of first responders.

But in a message announcing his amendatory veto, Pritzker said he would strike a provision that “gives nursing home operators in Cook County a property tax break which passes that cost on to suburban Cook County homeowners and small businesses,” particularly in the south suburbs.

Potential for corruption ‘too great’: House Bill 2878 also received an amendatory veto. That wide-ranging bill included language governing public-private partnerships entered into by the Illinois Toll Highway Authority and the Department of

Transportation. But it also would have allowed counties and other units of government to engage in such partnerships. That would have allowed municipalities to skirt “transparency and anti-corruption requirements established in state statute,” the governor wrote.

“The potential in this bill for opacity and corruption is too great,” Pritzker wrote.

‘Irreconcilable drafting errors’: The governor issued a full veto of Senate Bill 1515, a measure pertaining to workplace privacy protections. The governor wrote that he vetoed the bill “at the request of the sponsors and advocates,” making it an unlikely candidate for an override vote. Pritzker did note he’d work with lawmakers and advocates on a new bill to correct “irreconcilable drafting errors” in the original measure.

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## Assault Weapons

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But the law also says that people who already owned those items before it took effect are allowed to keep them, as long as they register them with the state police before Jan. 1, 2024.

Last month, ISP published temporary rules spelling out how people were to register those items and it began taking online registrations starting Oct. 1.

As of Wednesday, according to ISP, 1,050 individuals had completed disclosures through that system. Those included disclosures of 2,060 firearms, 1,125 accessories and 17 ammunition supplies.

But many more people have filed questions and comments, saying the rules are vague and hard to understand and that it’s not clear which items are covered by the rules, and which are not.

Another source of confusion is the fact that the entire law is under challenge in federal court. Although one judge in the Southern District of Illinois ruled the law is unconstitutional, two other judges in the Northern District ruled that it is not. All of those cases are now pending before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which has not yet issued a ruling.

Those temporary rules came up for review Tuesday at the General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR, a bipartisan panel that exercises oversight of the administrative rulemaking process.

“As a committee, we’ve received many, many questions on this topic as members of JCAR, and we could really literally be here all day and night going through each one of these questions, seeking answers from the Illinois State Police,” JCAR co-chair Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, said during the meeting.

Republicans on the panel made a motion to file a formal objection to the temporary rules, a move that would not have prevented them from remaining in effect but would have required ISP to file a formal response. But that motion failed on a tied 5-5 vote.

But members of JCAR did unanimously agree to another motion calling on ISP to provide answers to all the questions that the committee has received from the public and to hold additional public hearings on the proposed rules – suggestions that ISP accepted.

In a statement, ISP said it has already scheduled one additional hearing, set for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, in the Stratton state office building in Springfield.

“ISP is committed to transparency with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and the public,” the agency said. “We appreciate JCAR working with us to allow the emergency rule to remain in effect as ISP works to address the concerns raised within our statutory authority.”

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## Prizker

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recommendations on ways to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for children birth to age five.

Among that group’s recommendations was a call to consolidate all early childhood programs into a single new agency.

Last spring, state lawmakers approved a budget for the current fiscal year that included a \$250 million increase in funding for early childhood programs. That initiative, which Pritzker called Smart Start Illinois, included a \$75 million increase in early childhood block grants; \$130 million to stabilize wages for child care workers; a \$40 million increase for early intervention programs; and \$5 million to expand the IDHS home visiting program.

Other investments the state is making in early childhood programs include \$100 million in capital funding to build new preschools and day care centers and expand existing ones; \$70 million for the Child Care Assistance Program; \$12 million in funding for scholarships and apprenticeships to grow the child care workforce; and \$1.6 million to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders said those investments will pay dividends as the children receiving those services advance through school and into adulthood.

“The research is unequivocal that funding high-quality early learning is one of the best investments we can make as a state,” he said. “Increasing access to preschool leads to stronger social, economic and life outcomes for all students.”

Capitol News Illinois reporter Andrew Adams contributed to this story.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

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**In the Matter of: K. ROBERT BLIETZ, Decedent. 2023PR42  
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILLAND CLAIMS**

NOTICE is given of the death of K. Robert Blietz, on May 29, 2023. Letters of Office were issued on September 6, 2023, to William Blietz, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before May 10, 2023, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 400 West State Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26/ Nov 2, 9, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff(s),  
vs. Case No. 23 FC 65**

**JUSTIN MCCAY, AURORA BATTAGLIA, UNKNOWN OWNERS,  
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: JUSTIN MCCAY, AURORA BATTAGLIA, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT 6 (EXCEPTING THE NORTHERLY 31 FEET THEREOF) AND LOT 5 OF JACKSON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 5, 1957, IN BOOK 4 OF PLATS, PAGES 28 AND 29, IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Tax Number: 05-26-305-055  
commonly known as 731 RICHARDSON ST BELVIDERE IL 61008; and which said Real Estate Mortgage was made by JUSTIN MCCAY AND AURORA BATTAGLIA, and recorded in the Office of the Boone County Recorder as Document Number 2022R03096; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said named Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Circuit Court of Boone County, located at 601 N MAIN ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008, on or before November 20, 2023, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808  
Timothy R. Yucell - ARDC #6192172  
Greg Elsnic - ARDC #6242847  
Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724  
Andrew Chu - ARDC #6285924  
175 North Franklin St. Suite 201  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 357-1125  
Pleadings@nevellaw.com  
KP  
# 23-02078  
13231071  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 19, 26; Nov 2, 2023.

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATIONS  
NOTICE**

To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning on November 6th, 2023 nominations will be accepted for the two year term of the office of Director of the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 211 North Appleton Road, Belvidere IL 61008 during our normal business hours of 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on December 15th, 2023.  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26, 2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:  
E-LEARNING PROGRAM RENEWAL**

The Board of Education of North Boone CUSD 200 will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Office located at 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065.

The purpose of said hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed E-Learning Program renewal which, if approved, will permit students' instruction to be received electronically while students are not physically present in lieu of the District's scheduled emergency days. This program is allowed under Public Act 101-0012. Notification of this hearing is provided to families and is posted in the newspaper more than 10 days prior to the scheduled Public Hearing. If approved, the E-Learning Program will be implemented for a three-year term. A copy of the proposed E-Learning Program renewal is available for viewing at the North Boone District Office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NORTH BOONE CUSD 200  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26, 2023

The following amount must be paid no later than 5 p.m. November 2, 2023.

FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER ONLY, accepted by APPOINTMENT at :

Danndi Storage  
13537 IL Rte. 76  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Or the contents of the below listed units, located at 13511 Harvest Way, Poplar Grove, IL.,  
will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on or any day after November 3, 2023.

Jackie Lamb - Unit #75 - Amount due \$1161.12 plus advertising  
Ashley Bakken - Unit #93 - Amount due \$772.12 plus advertising  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 10/19, 26

The following amount must be paid no later than 5p.m., October 27, 2023.

FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER, accepted by APPOINTMENT at:

Belvidere Boone Self Storage  
6276 Logan Ave.  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
Or the contents of the below units, located at 6252 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on or any day after October 28, 2023:

Crehan James - Unit 66 - Amount due \$780.00 plus advertising.  
Toby Roush - Unit 18 - Amount due \$775.00 plus advertising.  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct.19, 2023, and Oct.26,

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Board of Education of North Boone Community Unit School District #200 has a seat available on the Board of Education for a term ending April, 2025. Legal qualifications include:

- 1.) Be a United States citizen;
- 2.) Be at least 18 years of age;
- 3.) Be a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the appointment;
- 4.) Be a registered voter;
- 5.) Not a child sex offender;
- 6.) Not hold another incompatible public office;
- 7.) Not have a prohibited interest in any contract with the District;
- 8.) Not be a school trustee;
- 9.) Not hold certain types of prohibited State or Federal employment; and
- 10.) Candidate resides in Caledonia, Leroy, or Manchester Township.

Such persons may be ineligible for Board of Education membership by reason of other public office held or certain types of state or federal employment.

Interested persons should submit the following:  
1.) Letter of interest indicating why they would like to be considered for the vacancy on the Board of Education; and  
2.) Resume outlining the qualities they would bring to the Board of Education.

Please submit letter and resume to Mr. Brian Haselhorst, Secretary, Board of Education, North Boone Community Unit School District #200, 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065.

The deadline for receiving letters is November 17, 2023.  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

**Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff,  
vs. 22 FC 31  
GERALD L. POWELL, JR.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND  
NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s),  
NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT EIGHTEEN (18) AS DESIGNATED UPON KARR FARM SUBDIVISION PLAT NO. 3, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE 17 AS DOCUMENT NO. 76-3907 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 2769 Karr Road, Belvidere, IL 61008.  
P.I.N. 07-09-202-001.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.  
For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
13231748  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26; Nov 2, 9, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY,  
601 NORTH MAIN STREET, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
**ESTATE of Kathryn Larys, DECEASED. 23 PR 55**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Larry Larys, 2203 Ivy Lane, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Craig Hoffman, Mack, Tragos & Hoffman, Ltd, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 815, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before April 26, 2024, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Craig Hoffman  
Mack, Tragos & Hoffman, Ltd (43549)  
53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 815  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312)242-2454  
13231806  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26; Nov 2, 9, 2023

BELVIDERE FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION  
CITY OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
**NOTICE**

**AMENDMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-5, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of the City of Belvidere, Illinois, has amended its Rules and Regulations regarding the selection of applicants for the position of Police Officer pursuant to Belvidere Ordinance #646H, and the selection of applicants for the position of Firefighter pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6.3. The amendments will become effective on November 6, 2023. Copies of the amended Rules and Regulations may be viewed in the City Attorney's Office, City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or obtained from Roberta L. Holzwarth, Attorney to the Commission, 800 N. Church Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103.

Dated: October 26, 2023  
Roberta L. Holzwarth, Esq.  
800 North Church Street  
Rockford, IL 61103  
815-962-7071  
4886-7519-8344, v. 1  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26, 2023

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE, IN PROBATE

**In the Matter of the Estate of: DIXIE L. TIMMERMAN, Decedent.  
2023PR51**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILLAND CLAIMS**

NOTICE is given of the death of Dixie L. Timmerman on August 3, 2023. Letters of Office were issued on October 17, 2023, to Michele M. Pearson and Ronald S. Timmerman, Co-Executors, who are the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before May 10, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 400 West State Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26; Nov 2, 9, 2023

# ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4170 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PAINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MBC PAINTING that its location is or will be 418 E. PERRY STREET, in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-319-9206  
MARIO D BARRADAS, 418 E. Perry St., 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: October 09, 2023.  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 10/12,19,26 (P)



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## Mid-Season Turnaround Boosts Pumpkin Production

By Daniel Grant  
FarmWeek

Results of pumpkin harvest so far in Illinois, the nation's leading producer of canned pumpkins, point to an ample supply of the fall and holiday favorite.

This, despite drought conditions in May and June that returned to many areas in August and threatened both the commercial and ornamental pumpkin crops in many areas of the state.

"With the drought we were in, we were a week or two from losing a lot (of the pumpkin crop)," John Ackerman, owner/operator of Ackerman Family Farms in Morton, told FarmWeek. "But we got rain in late June, and it made all the difference. We feel very blessed."

Ackerman grew about 160 varieties of ornamental pumpkins this year. He also previously raised canning pumpkins.

"We are having a good harvest," he said. "A few varieties didn't handle the drought well, but the vast majority came in above expectations."

David Uhlman, a farmer from Tremont, grew food-grade pumpkins this season under contract for Nestle Libby's in Morton. The company's plant in Morton, the "pumpkin capital of the world," produces about 85% of canned pumpkins nationwide each year.

"Overall, for the hot weather and lack of rain, we've got a lot to be thankful for. There are many blessings out here," Uhlman told FarmWeek. "We had a couple fields (of commercial pumpkins). The rain made a difference this year in the tonnage of pumpkins harvested."

One of Uhlman's pumpkin fields averaged about 21.5 tons per acre while another that received more timely showers made about 32 tons per acre.

"I'm pretty pleased. Good weather continues for harvest, so a lot (of the pumpkin crop) is harvested already," he said.

All pumpkins produced by Nestle Libby's, including the Dickinson pumpkin variety Libby's special seed were bred from, are a variety of squash belonging to the Cucurbitaceae family or gourd family (which also includes melons and cucumbers), according to the company's website.

Libby's famously uses nothing but 100% pumpkin in its canned products that appear on grocery shelves across the nation.

"I've heard the yields are average to slightly above average (for the lighter-colored, food-grade pumpkins, not to be confused with ornamental varieties or Jack-o-lanterns)," Ackerman said.

"Pumpkins like it dry and, even though it was exceptionally dry, some spots caught very timely rains," he continued. "I've heard of no processing pumpkin fields that are a disaster."

Elsewhere, Steve Buxton, who runs Buxton's Garden Farm & Flower Shop near Sullivan with his wife, Paula, also reported quality crops of both ornamental and processing pumpkins in his area.

"Commercial and ornamental pumpkins look excellent," Buxton said. "I know there are some areas that didn't have good luck with pumpkins. But we got rain late and sometimes pumpkins respond to that."

The market helps distribute ornamental pumpkins around the state as farmers who have a bountiful crop often sell a portion of it to farmers and markets in areas that experienced a short crop. Most pumpkin farms and local markets, therefore, should have an ample supply this season.

But Walsh said he's not giving up his push to grant utilities a right of first refusal. Come spring, he said he hopes to persuade ratepayers, lawmakers and the public about what he sees as the benefits of such a policy.

"We're looking at doing a full education swing in the spring; introduce a bill that puts [JN1] the state of Illinois as a right of first refusal state – for the whole state with no sunset," Walsh said.

This is a major shift away from the original proposal, which Walsh said was intended to study how to effectively implement a right of first refusal policy. That provision was limited only to the grid operator for downstate Illinois – the Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator – and contained a sunset for the end of 2024.

Representatives of Ameren Illinois, which would have gained a lucrative first crack at constructing new transmission lines, said they were concerned about other companies underbidding in order to be selected for a project, then running over cost and behind schedule.

"Once these projects are put out for bid and a company wins that, they may, in fact, then gain a monopoly with limited state oversight and the competitive benefits never materialize for consumers," Matthew Tomc, Ameren's vice president of regulatory affairs, said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Ameren's president sent an appeal to lawmakers to override the veto.

Beyond the controversy surrounding the right of first refusal, transmission line construction has become a front line in the fight over climate change in recent years, particularly regarding who will profit from and regulate new construction.

This is because as new energy sources like solar or wind farms come online, they need new lines to deliver their power to the grid.

The International Energy Agency, an intergovernmental advisory group based in Paris, released a report this month that found the world will need to build or replace around 50 million miles of grid by 2040 to meet clean energy goals, which is roughly equivalent to replacing the entire current global grid. That report also found grids are becoming a "bottleneck" in the transition to zero-emission electricity systems.

In Illinois and its region, this means that billions of dollars of construction are on the line. MISO estimated its current round of transmission line projects, which is the second of four upcoming, would cost \$20 to \$30 billion.

Pritzker, in his veto message, noted that there are \$3.6 billion of planned transmission projects in the Ameren service territory.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.*

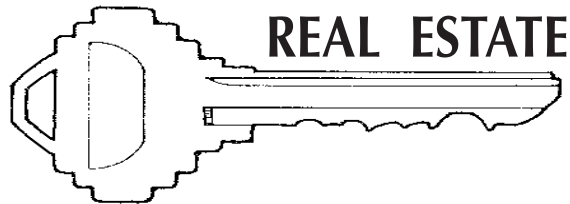
### STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4171 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a consulting business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of CONSULTING BY DEMAND that its location is or will be 1800 DOC WOLF DRIVE #1541, BELVIDERE, IL 61008, in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-347-4747

Ross Blumenthal, 2021 Chamberlain Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008  
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: October 18, 2023

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 10/26, 11/2, 11/9 - P



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff,  
vs. 22 FC 31  
GERALD L. POWELL, JR.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,  
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 2769 Karr Road, Belvidere, IL 61008.  
P.I.N. 07-09-202-001.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
13231748

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 26; Nov 2, 9, 2023

## Proponents Drop Push To Give Downstate Utilities Dibs on New Transmission Lines

*Sponsor said he'll propose broader policy in spring legislative session*

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

With billions of dollars of construction projects on the line, Ameren Illinois and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have been vying to secure first rights on new electricity transmission line construction in downstate Illinois.

But after Gov. JB Pritzker issued an amendatory veto to a bill that would have granted downstate utilities the right of first refusal for such projects, those advocates are abandoning their efforts – for now.

At a news conference Wednesday, Rep. Larry Walsh Jr., D-Elwood – the chair of the House Public Utilities Committee and sponsor of the vetoed bill – conceded the fight over House Bill 3445.

"We're not going to carry or try to override the veto," Walsh told reporters.

Walsh and advocates for the policy faced an uphill battle. The bill passed 41-9 in the Senate and 63-32 in the House. That's fewer than the 71 votes needed in the House to buck the governor's veto.

And in the months since it passed in May, several advocacy groups have come out against the policy, citing potential consumer and environmental implications. These groups include environmental groups like the Sierra Club of Illinois and Illinois Climate Jobs Coalition, as well as the conservative group Americans for Prosperity.

These concerns were echoed by Pritzker, who wrote in his veto message that the provision would "eliminate competition and raise costs for rate payers."

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