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FREE

Illinois Democrats Focused on Trump As They Seek Third Sweep of Statewide Offices

Cloud of ethics issues forces Democrats to answer questions about trust in the party

Ben Szalinski & Brenden Moore
Capitol News Illinois

Though hundreds of Republican candidates will appear on the ballot in Illinois in November, the state's Democrats are focused on a common opponent: President Donald Trump.

The party's leaders gathered in Springfield on Wednesday for their annual Democrat Day at the Illinois State Fair and at a brunch with county party leaders where they attempted to draw contrasts between themselves and Republicans. Amid their various names for the country's leader — such as the “Cheeto president” whose agenda is a “river of sewage” — Democrats patted themselves on the back as a model of governing success.

While the sense of urgency in confronting Trump and national Republicans was unmistakable, there was little evidence Democrats fear being dislodged as the state's dominant party. After a March primary election that featured several high-profile contests, the statewide general election campaign has largely been a sleepy affair. This was reflected in the focus of the speeches Democrats delivered to party faithful.

“We are only 19 months into Donald Trump's term and what he and his MAGA Republicans are doing to this nation is disgraceful,” Gov. JB Pritzker said.

Pritzker and running mate Christian Mitchell invoked the names of their Republican opponents, Darren Bailey and Aaron Del Mar, respectively, only a handful of times. Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, didn't utter her GOP opponent Don Tracy's name once. And none of the other statewide Democratic elected officials mentioned the names of the little-known Republicans running against them.

It's a reflection of the sheer dominance Democrats have built in Illinois, which Sen. Tammy Duckworth referred to as the “rebar” in the Midwestern blue wall. The party holds all statewide offices, supermajorities in the state legislature and 14 of 17 congressional seats.

And if anyone needed a reminder of the advantage Democrats have, Pritzker last week cut a \$65 million check to his campaign fund, which will support his bid for a third term and help Democrats up and down the ticket. Bailey, who will rally with Republicans

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2026 Illinois State Fair Queen Krista Phillips

‘Miles of Smiles’ is State

State Fair's theme in celebration of Route 66. Fair will run from Aug. 13-23 in Springfield

Jerry Nowicki *Capitol News Illinois*

The 2026 butter cow invites Illinois State Fairgoers to “Take a Spin on Route 66” in honor of the Mother Road's centennial.

The grand marshal for the fair's Twilight Parade this year is Route 66, and the fair's theme is “Miles of Smiles” as a send-up to the Mother Road. This year's cow is accompanied by a girl eating ice cream. A companion sculpture shows a dog and a scooter “heading out on a Route 66 adventure,” per Gov. JB Pritzker.

Route 66 was established in 1926, beginning in downtown Chicago and ending in Santa Monica, California. The Mother Road was also commemorated elsewhere on the fairgrounds via the “Route 66 Experience,” a self-guided educational exhibit located at Gate 2.

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Trump Barely Mentioned, Illinois Republicans Focus on Their Enemy: Pritzker

GOP officeholders, candidates lay blame for high prices, taxes on Democrats

Brenden Moore *Capitol News Illinois*

President Donald Trump has been the dominant political force within the Republican Party for more than a decade.

But as Illinois GOP faithful gathered Thursday in Springfield for their annual day at the Illinois State Fair, their party's national leader was barely mentioned. Instead, the GOP candidates were laser-focused on Gov. JB Pritzker and Democrats who hold all statewide offices and supermajorities in the General Assembly.

“Everywhere we go, we hear the same thing: Illinois is too damn expensive, and it's time to change it,” said Darren Bailey, the Republican gubernatorial nominee. “Property taxes, they're crushing homeowners. Electric bills are exploding. Groceries, insurance, gas, childcare — they all cost more. Everything costs more under JB Pritzker. After nearly eight years in office, the excuses are over.”

It was a stark contrast to Democrats Day at the fairgrounds on Wednesday, where Pritzker and other statewide elected officials focused their ire on Trump while barely mentioning their underdog Republican opponents.

On Republican Day, Trump's name was conspicuously absent, with GOP leaders blaming the state's Democrats for soaring energy costs, high property taxes and other affordability concerns on voters' minds. Unlike the previous day, there was no mention of the impact of Trump's tariff regime and the war with Iran on the price of consumer goods and gasoline.

“We need to stop looking at Washington and start looking at Springfield,” said Aaron Del Mar, Bailey's running mate.

‘Common sense vs. Communism’

Illinois Republicans are in their worst electoral position in a generation. They're locked out of all statewide offices, relegated to superminority status in the General Assembly and hold just three of 17 congressional seats.

Trump registered his best electoral performance in Illinois in 2024, but the closer margin didn't come because he received substantially more votes. Instead, many Democratic voters apparently stayed home rather than casting a

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The butter cow will remain on display in the Dairy Building throughout the fair, which opens at 7 a.m. Thursday, with the annual Twilight Parade scheduled for 5:30 p.m. that day. The fair runs through Aug. 23 from 7 a.m. until midnight each day.

The sculpture is made of 800 pounds of unsalted butter spread across a wire frame. As was the case in previous years, much of the butter is "recycled," meaning it is reused each year, rather than discarded. It was sculpted once again by Iowan Sarah Pratt..

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Donald Allen, 74, Belvidere, August 6
Edward Buhl, 98, Belvidere, August 14
Barbara Duff, 83, Belvidere, August 14
Lois Eickstadt, 99, Marengo, August 12
Shirley Haffner-Chase, 95, from of Harvard, August 5
Tammy Isom, 66, Harvard, August 6
Anita "Jennifer" McClenthen, 87, Belvidere, August 11
Carole Moore, 84, Belvidere, August 18
Wayne Sliger, 90, Belvidere, August 4
Brenda Weaver, 67, Belvidere, August 16



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Transportation Overhaul Taking Shape With Toll Increase, New Board Appointees

Toll hike part of deal with labor leaders to boost public transportation funding in Chicago

Ben Szalinski & Brenden Moore
Capitol News Illinois

A recently passed state law is beginning to reshape Illinois' transportation landscape, as drivers on state tollways will see rate hikes and a new oversight board is taking shape.

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority on Wednesday approved the first toll rate increase in 15 years.

And Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday announced his appointments to the new Northern Illinois Transit Authority board, which will replace the Regional Transportation Authority next month as the body overseeing the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra commuter rail and Pace Suburban Bus.

Toll hike approved

The Tollway Board approved rate hikes for all vehicles on Wednesday that will take effect Jan. 1. Passenger vehicles will pay 45 cents more when passing through each toll while truckers will pay on average 30% more. Tolls will increase based on inflation every two years going forward without further approval from the board.

Toll rates vary depending on toll road, type of vehicle and whether the car has an I-PASS, but generally range from 45 cents to \$3 for passenger vehicles under the current rates. Even with the increase, the Tollway claimed in a news release the average per-mile cost is still 5 cents below the national average.

The hike will fund a \$26.5 billion capital program that includes major projects across the tollway system, which stretches as far west as Rockford and Dixon.

"Nearly 1.7 million drivers rely on this system every day, and our responsibility extends well beyond the next construction season," Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse said in a statement. "We know where congestion is growing, and we know how our infrastructure ages. Driving Connections gives us a responsible path to meet those needs and keep Northern Illinois moving for the next generation."

Public transit overhaul

The toll hike was permitted by legislation passed last fall to reform and fund public transportation throughout the state, but especially in the Chicago area.

While the bill redirected Road Fund money away from road construction projects to public transportation, it also allowed the Tollway to substantially raise revenue to fund a new capital plan. It was part of a deal between lawmakers and labor unions to find a funding source for public transportation without substantially reducing road

work in the state.

Marc Poulos from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 told lawmakers last year the increase could boost Tollway funding by \$1 billion annually.

Gov. JB Pritzker defended the toll increase following a political rally at the State Fair. He touted measures he's approved to lower costs and blamed Republican policies at the national level for raising the price of gas and groceries.

"We want to make sure that our roads are pothole-free, that we're making sure to build more so that we can build our economy across the state of Illinois," Pritzker told reporters.

Pritzker's Republican opponent, Darren Bailey, slammed the toll hike during Republican events around the fair on Thursday and called for abolishing tolls entirely, though he did not specify a funding source for future road construction.

"What do you think happens to all the everyday prices of every item that is trucked into Chicago, into Illinois, all across the country?" Bailey's running mate, Aaron Del Mar, told reporters. "That price raises up. So you can't talk about affordability at the same time as you're raising taxes."

Among other projects, the Tollway plan includes reconstruction of the I-88/I-355 interchange outside the Tollway's Downers Grove headquarters, a new interchange on I-294 at Irving Park Road south of O'Hare Airport, parking and employee access off I-490 on the west side of O'Hare, and resurfacing, bridge repairs and technology upgrades throughout the system.

Tollway officials argued these projects, while creating headaches for drivers initially, pay off later by reducing congestion. The Jane Addams Expressway expansion completed nearly a decade ago reduced travel times by 25 minutes, according to the Tollway.

Transit board taking shape

NITA's 20-member board will be comprised of five members each appointed by Pritzker, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, as well as one each by

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OP-ED

A Dire Disconnect: Unhinged Path Unprecedented In US History

Christopher Guerin

Formerly from Belvidere living in Fort Wayne, IN

My town appears relatively well-balanced politically.

The newspaper is center-left and gets both left-wing and right-wing letters and op-eds from readers. The marches are "No Kings." Republicans hold a majority of offices. The mayor is a Democrat. Respect of each side for the other is our political bedrock.

All voices are heard and who prevails is never preordained. I'm proud to live with these people.

But what are we to say when deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller says the goal is to expel 30 million immigrants — 3,000 per day? He's not just talking about criminals and those illegal immigrants who've tried to skirt our laws.

He's talking about — and both he and the President have been clear — he's talking about non-white people, whether they are criminals or refugees or simply here, however they got here. (Why else would Donald Trump carve out exceptions solely for white South African refugees?)

ICE is an outrider of the federal government, pursuing Miller's goals without regard for the rule of law.

Under the pledge to expel only criminals, the government is employing masked muscle to arrest, and if need be kill, immigrants who have perpetrated no crime greater than wanting to live the life of an American. (The argument that all they want is to milk our social programs is unproven. In fact, immigrants pay billions in taxes.)

Far-right Republicans and white nationalists fear they will be in a minority in two to three decades. ICE is one of their attempts to fight that.

What was shamefully done to Haitians and Syrians seeking asylum from persecution is another disgusting attempt. And racism having been so violently yanked out of the closet by Trump is part of the same effort.

He means for us all to hate the fact that we had a Black President and ffirst Lady.

The list of alarming, if not frightening, initiatives of this government is almost beyond conceiving.

Federal entities from the national parks to the Smithsonian must no longer recognize slavery or the genocide of Native Americans. (My house in Colorado Springs was on Custer Street; I guess Custer must have won at Little Big Horn after all.)

Qualified women and Blacks are cut from promotion candidacy for general officer by Pete Hegseth, a former talking head for Fox News.

The best gauge of what Trump wants us to hate is his pet boogeymen: "Dumbocrats," DEI, birth-right tourism, immigrants, immigrant fraud, Antifa (an organization that doesn't exist), election fraud, social program fraud, fake news, CNN, NATO, Joe Biden, Barack Obama, sanctuary cities, windmills, "libtards" and Haitians eating our dogs and cats.

He even vilifies Congress, the Fed and the Supreme Court when it suits him.

Now Trump is rolling out his lamest boogeyman yet: communism. Just because New York's new mayor, Zohran Mamdani, is a Democratic Socialist with an agenda to help the poor, you can now look under your bed, Trump implies, to find a Communist hiding there.

When will the nightmare end?

When, if ever, will Trump stop thinking like a narcissistic entertainer and start acting like a President? When will he find dignity and honor within?

Trump has undermined the complex of international relationships that have ensured world peace since the '50s. Numerous experts have said that pursuit of Greenland could result in the collapse of NATO.

He's chosen an unnecessary war with Iran and hasn't won anything except economic distress for Americans and the world, and death for our soldiers and Iranian civilians.

As he does, we should go on and on about his grievances over the 2020 election, including pardons of those who attacked the Capitol, and his persecution of those who tried to hold the guilty accountable? We should, in part, because five people died that day, and four more

officers committed suicide shortly thereafter.

In Indiana, his disenfranchisement of the poor has resulted in the decimation of school lunches and medical care, all to allow the richest of the rich to pay less in taxes.

Trump acts as if each travesty he perpetrates should be considered political entertainment to be enjoyed by his base.

Are you OK with this? Is this what you want, what you voted for? Do you want more of it?

Shame? Dishonor? Racism? Sexism? Disrespect? Inflation at the pump and in the grocery store? Corruption? Defiance of the law and violation of the Constitution?

Maybe, like Richard Nixon and Vietnam, like George W. Bush and Iraq, it will all go away.

But how much damage will be done, has been done already, and how long will it take for the United States to recover?

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Democrats

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at the fairgrounds on Thursday, had just \$127,990 in the bank at the end of June and has reported just \$115,000 in contributions since.

Though Pritzker, speaking to reporters after the rally at the fairgrounds, suggested state Democrats wouldn't be complacent despite the party having swept statewide offices in both 2018 and 2022.

"We're fighting it out in every district, so it's not a one-party state," Pritzker said. "We got battles going on toward the general election, and we'll see who wins. But I'm very proud of the fact that Democrats actually represent the working people of the state and are standing up for their rights and making sure that we're putting money in their pockets and lowering costs for them."

'Don't toy with Illinois'

Democrats running for statewide office couldn't wait to share with supporters what they've done to fight Trump during their tenure.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul touted his office's legal tussles with the Trump Administration, including its successful efforts to beat back the President's attempt to deploy the National Guard to the streets of Chicago.

"Some may say 'Don't mess with Texas,' but we went all the way to the Supreme Court to tell Donald Trump, 'Don't toy with Illinois,'" Raoul said.

Minutes later, Duckworth told Raoul that "if you want to put that on a T-shirt and say 'Don't f---ing toy with Illinois,' I'll buy a dozen of them." It was one of two expletives Illinois' soon-to-be senior senator deployed.

Though he's unpopular in the state, Trump had his best performance in Illinois of his three campaigns in 2024. While he didn't substantially receive more votes, many Democratic voters appeared to skip over Kamala Harris on the ballot. Democratic Party Chair Lisa Hernandez said her party isn't taking the state's dark blue leanings for granted.

"We're doing all we can to bring back the trust of the vote, based on what we saw in the last election," Hernandez told Capitol News Illinois.

With Trump the focal point of Democratic campaigns, Pritzker argued there's no daylight between the president and Bailey, who Trump endorsed four years ago but hasn't so far this year.

"This is the government that Darren Bailey rooted for," Pritzker said. "This is the vision that he and his Illinois Republicans want to impose on working families across Illinois. I think it's instructive for us to put side-by-side two visions of Illinois."

Pritzker got high praise from one prominent national politician on Wednesday: Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who keynoted the breakfast.

"JB Pritzker stood up and delivered a message directly to Donald Trump," Warren said. "He said, 'You come for my people, you come through me.' And I thought that is leadership. JB Pritzker was showing some old school loyalty to the people of Illinois and showing that Democrats, or at least some Democrats, don't back down from bullies."

Fight over affordability

Democrats argued Trump's Republican Party

has only made life worse for Americans through "wars of choice" that have driven up gas and grocery prices.

"At a time when Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans and his entire freak show are demonstrating how the government can be distorted to satisfy the greed of the wealthy and the greed of Donald Trump's own pockets, while robbing working families blind, Illinois Democrats are showing what it means to truly fight for the people," Pritzker told supporters at the fair.

But as Democrats bashed Trump for rising prices, the Illinois Tollway on Wednesday morning approved a 57% increase on cars and 30% on trucks beginning next year. It will increase by inflation every two years after that without further public hearings or board votes. The rate increase will fund a capital program for the Tollway and was permitted by the transit reform bill lawmakers approved last year.

"We want to make sure that our roads are pothole-free, that we're making sure to build more so that we can build our economy across the state of Illinois," Pritzker told reporters.

Bailey has suggested eliminating tolls, but Pritzker said that would only cause more downstate communities to foot the bill for Chicago area expressways. More broadly, Bailey has tried to say Pritzker's criticism of Trump on cost-of-living issues rings hollow as Illinois has implemented dozens of new taxes during his governorship.

"We feel great about our record and that shows that we are deeply focused on the people of Illinois and will continue to be through Nov. 3," Mitchell told Capitol News Illinois.

Ethics issues

Republicans are hoping to derail Democrats' electoral hopes by focusing on a series of alleged ethical lapses unearthed this summer.

Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana, has pleaded not guilty to federal charges that she orchestrated a scheme to receive illegal cash kickbacks from her own campaign account and from local nonprofits for which she helped secure state grant funding.

House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, didn't attend any of the Democrat Day festivities on Wednesday.

He is under scrutiny for his handling of sexual harassment allegations against disgraced ex-Rep. Harry Benton, D-Plainfield, who resigned in July after a Legislative Inspector General report found he engaged in "a pattern and practice of inappropriate sexual conduct" that began soon after he took office in 2023.

Welch's office knew about an allegation against Benton but did not address it for several months. Welch then subsequently spent \$1.4 million in support of Benton's reelection in 2024.

A *Chicago Tribune* report also highlighted Welch's behavior on social media, which included reacting to a former staffer's Instagram photos with heart eyes and inviting her to a bar through an encrypted messaging app.

As Welch made the rounds to a series of fundraisers and receptions in downtown Springfield on Tuesday, mobile billboards circled the block airing an Illinois House Republican message

highlighting posts Welch has liked on social media. Other billboards tied newly appointed Rep. Jessica Dixon Heitman, D-Plainfield, and Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, both in relatively competitive districts, to Welch.

Hernandez acknowledged the incidents could undermine trust with voters.

"I believe that the speaker is doing all he can and I think he is putting himself out there and doing what he (can) to put in place what we have learned based on the current incidents that we have to do better," she said.

But other Democrats dismissed the notion that they will be punished at the ballot box for the ethical lapses.

"I mean, Republicans are always going to find something to run on where they are going after individual candidates for, you know, reasons that are outside of their control," said Rep. Margaret Croke, D-Chicago, the party's nominee for comptroller, referring to the Heitman and Stuart billboards. "But no, I think that we just have to continue to run on the things that people are hearing about right now: affordability, healthcare, education. And if we continue that message, we'll be successful in November."

Mitchell echoed those sentiments.

"Obviously those ethics issues should be dealt with," Mitchell, a former representative, said. "Sounds like the House is trying to do that. We want to focus on the issues facing the voters in November, and when we do that, I think we'll win."

Looking ahead

With Democrats heavily favored in all statewide contests, many are already looking ahead to the Chicago mayoral election next February.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and Comptroller Susana Mendoza are among several declared candidates challenging incumbent Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Mendoza ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 2019. She received criticism that year for seemingly having her eye on the Chicago City Hall while running for reelection as comptroller in 2018. This time, Mendoza opted against seeking reelection to her statewide office to focus on the mayor's race.

Giannoulias, on the other hand, is running for reelection and mayor simultaneously, for which Mendoza took a not-so-subtle jab, saying that voters "deserve a candidate who's going to be all in the position that they're asking you to support them for."

Giannoulias told reporters at the fairgrounds that he didn't hear Mendoza's remark, adding that his current role is "the best job in government" but that he wants to be "part of the solution" to the issues plaguing the state's largest city.

"And as I've said, when you're applying for a job, when you're interviewing for a job, which is what you do when you run for mayor, you don't quit the job you're in while you're interviewing for the next one," Giannoulias said.

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Republicans

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ballot for Kamala Harris.

The president's unpopularity has proven an anchor to Republicans running down ballot, particularly in the Chicago suburbs. Compounding that is the collapse of the party's fundraising base, which was heavily dependent upon a handful of wealthy donors like former Gov. Bruce Rauner and venture capitalist Ken Griffin.

The former stopped funding the Illinois GOP after a landslide election loss to Pritzker in 2018 and the latter bolted Illinois for Florida after his favored candidate in the 2022 GOP gubernatorial primary came in third place to Bailey.

Over the past decade, the party has cycled through four different chairmen, each tasked with building back a fundraising apparatus and desperately trying to encourage supporters skeptical of vote-by-mail to bank their votes. They've also had to mend intraparty feuds.

Illinois Republican Party Chairman Bob Grogan, who defeated incumbent Kathy Salvi for the statewide party post earlier this year, joked to reporters that he "probably has the second-hardest job in the world" after Trump.

"Look, it was never going to be an easy year," Grogan said of 2026. "It's Illinois. We always have an uphill fight. But I'll say this: If you actually think that the polls are the end-all, be-all, talk to President Hillary Clinton."

While Trump's shock victory in 2016 defied polling, Illinois Republicans haven't had a similar night in more than a decade. The last statewide races the party won were in 2014, when Rauner defeated incumbent Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn and Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka was reelected. They haven't won a federal race since Mark Kirk's 2010 victory over Democrat Alexi Giannoulias for U.S. Senate.

But Grogan said he sees an opening to win over new voters due to Democratic policies he cast as extreme. Or, to put it another way: "It's common sense versus communism," he said.

"We won the Cold War, but we lost the war in the universities, where communism was kept in a petri dish just to be regrown here in some of the youth," Grogan said.

Voter fatigue with Pritzker, who's seeking a third term, will win out over Trump's continued unpopularity in Illinois, Grogan said.

"We've had some long-term trends that we're trying to reverse," Grogan said. "Donald Trump's not on the ballot. I got asked if Speaker Welch is the next Mike Madigan. Here's the thing: As the Republican Party, we were a one-trick pony. We just ripped on Mike Madigan. Deserved, but that was our campaign strategy. You know what? The Democrats, they're a one-trick pony. All they do is rip on Donald Trump. He's not on the ballot either."

Focusing on Illinois

Bailey openly embraced Trump when he was running for governor in 2022. He accepted the president's endorsement at a rally just outside of Quincy days before the primary election. At that rally, the farmer-turned-politician from southern Illinois promised to "roll the red carpet out for

him because Illinois will be ready for President Trump."

But Pritzker smoked Bailey that fall and, two years later, Trump lost the state by an 11-percentage-point margin to Harris. In his rematch with Pritzker, Bailey is singing a different tune. He made no mention of Trump in his prepared remarks and sought to avoid politically tough subjects like abortion rights.

"I am committed to staying focused on what unites us instead of divides us," Bailey said. "We know that's affordability, that's safety, and that's education. I will not be legislating nor restricting abortion. I've made that statement before, and I will stick with that."

Bailey said Trump "has nothing to do with the problems that Illinois is having right now" while pledging to work with whoever is president.

"They've been winning elections," Bailey said of Democrats. "I think this election cycle is going to be different because people are waking up because Illinois is too expensive, and there's only one party and one person that that gets pointed back to, and that is JB Pritzker and the Democrat leadership in Springfield."

Other Republican candidates echoed Bailey.

"Donald Trump didn't raise the budget by 40% here in the state of Illinois, and I guess my question to the people of this state would be: Is your life 40% better? And it's not," said Bryan Drew, the GOP nominee for comptroller, referring to the not-adjusted-for-inflation climb in state spending under Pritzker.

While not openly embracing Trump, Republicans did not walk away from him.

Don Tracy, the party's nominee for U.S. Senate, told reporters that he "would certainly welcome the endorsement of the President of the United States." He also said he would have supported former Trump personal attorney and now-Attorney General Todd Blanche's nomination.

Rhonda Belford, the Illinois national GOP committeewoman, told party officials that she recently had a meeting at the White House that included a private audience with Trump in the Oval Office.

"When he found out who I was, he said, 'Oh, you got to get rid of JB Pritzker,'" Belford recalled. "I said, 'We're trying.'"

The \$65 million elephant

But to dislodge Pritzker, Republicans will have to overcome a vast financial disadvantage. The governor, a billionaire self-funder, last week cut a \$65 million check to his campaign fund, which will support his bid for a third term and help Democrats up and down the ticket. Bailey, on the other hand, has just a few hundred thousand in his account.

Republicans running for statewide office, the General Assembly and Congress also face similar fundraising disparities, which will impede their ability to purchase advertising and support campaign operations. And candidates in non-statewide races must grapple with gerrymandered legislative and congressional maps drawn to lock in Democratic power in Springfield and send a disproportionately Democratic delegation to

Washington.

But party leaders said money and district leans aren't the only decider of races, pointing to the defense of state House and Senate seats in 2024 against better-funded Democratic challengers.

"Democrats may have the money, they may have the map, but they don't own the voters," said House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna. "We may not be able to outspend them, especially with Sugar Daddy in office," an apparent reference to the deep-pocketed Pritzker, "but we can outwork them."

Del Mar said Pritzker's spending is because "he knows a fight is coming to him."

"If you think you're going to win by 30 points, you don't put \$65 million in your account," Del Mar said.

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In Illinois, Warren Urges Democrats to Unite Behind All Party Nominees

Massachusetts senator delivers keynote in event honoring retiring Sen. Dick Durbin

Peter Hancock

Capitol News Illinois

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren urged Illinois Democrats on Wednesday to unite behind all of the party's nominees in the upcoming midterm elections so they can win control of Congress and block Republican President Donald Trump from advancing his agenda.

And to show she was serious, she announced she is putting \$500,000 into the party's coordinated campaign funds to elect Democrats to the U.S. House and Senate, plus another \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee to strengthen the party's internal infrastructure.

"It is time to stop the handwringing and to invest in a key part of our Democratic infrastructure," Warren, D-Massachusetts, told an audience of more than 2,000 Democrats gathered in Springfield. "And I am asking others to join me and do the same."

Warren was the keynote speaker at the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association brunch, an annual event that coincides with Governor's Day at the Illinois State Fair. The focus of this year's event was to celebrate Illinois' retiring Sen. Dick Durbin while also showcasing the party's slate of candidates in the November election.

But her speech came at the same time internal friction has been rising within the party as a new generation of young, left-leaning and self-identified socialist candidates have been rising to prominence

continued on page 8

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF MARJORIE P. BROWN, Deceased.
No.: 2026 PR 145

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of: MARJORIE P. BROWN of Rockton,
Illinois Letters of Office were issued on: 07/10/2026
Representative: FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.
19333 East Grant Highway
P.O. Box 5
Marengo, IL 60152

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of that 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 Winnebago County Courthouse, 400 West State Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101, or with the representative or both.

Copies of claims field with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to her attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Thomas A. Klein
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Christopher T. Marx – ARDC#: 6291152
FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Independent Co-Executors
19333 East Grant Highway
P.O. Box 5
Marengo, IL 60152
(815) 923-2107
pleadings@fgpglaw.com
Published in the Boone County Journal August 13, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff

vs.
KELLEY WILLIAMSON COMPANY; ILLINOIS BANK & TRUST; MCAM PROPERTIES, LLC, a Wisconsin limited liability company; JANESVILLE ACQUISITION, INC., d/b/a Bobcat of Rockford; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants
Case #: 2026 ED 3
Condemnation
Parcel #: 2192011TE-A
2192011TE-B
Job #: R-92-019-20
JURY DEMAND

PUBLICATION NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants, that this case has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County against you and other defendants, asking for Judgment as to the determination of just compensation for certain real property legally described in Exhibit A and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your appearance in this case in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, within 30 days of the date of this publication, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff

By: /s/ Jeremiah Lewellen
Special Assistant Attorney General
Jeremiah Lewellen (ARDC: 6306437)
Special Assistant Attorneys General
CONKLIN & CONKLIN, LLC
125 S. Wacker Dr., Ste. 300
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel.: (312) 341-9500
JLewellen@conklinlawyers.com

EXHIBIT A
Owner Kelley Williamson Company
Route FAP 525 (US 20)
County Boone
Job No. R-92-019-20
Parcel No. 2192001 1TE
P.I.N. No. 07-05-100-028
Section (6.15.14)R&HBR
Station 57+50.00
Station 55+22.83

EASEMENT
21920011TE-A
That part of Lot 1 as designated on the Huntwood Business Park, being a subdivision of part of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 5, Township 43 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone County, Illinois as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois on April 6, 1999 in envelope number 213A as Document Number 1999R03308, with bearings and grid distances referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone NAO 83(2011). with a combined scale factor of 0.99997273, described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of said Lot 1; thence South 00 degrees 06 minutes 54 seconds West, on the east line of said Lot 1, a distance of 10.56 feet; thence South 89 degrees 55 minutes 30 seconds West, 47.34 feet; thence North 86 degrees 14 minutes 26 seconds West, 125.83 feet to the north line of said Lot 1 and the southerly right of way line of US 20; thence northeasterly on said

north line of Lot 1 and said southerly right of way line, 102.71 feet on a curve to the right, having a radius of 4,634.47 feet, the chord of said curve bears North 88 degrees 57 minutes 27 seconds East, 102. 70 feet; thence North 89 degrees 35 minutes 33 seconds East on said north line of Lot 1 and said southerly right of way line, 70.24 feel to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.0269 acre, more or less (area based on ground distances). 2192001 HE-B That part of Lots 1 and 2 as designated on the Huntwood Business Park. being a subdivision of part of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 5, Township 43 North. Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone County, Illinois, as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Boone County. Illinois on April 6, 1999 in envelope number 213A as Document Number 1999R03308, with bearings and grid distances referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone NAO 83(2011), with a combined scale factor of 0.99997273, described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of said Lot 1; thence South 00 degrees 10 minutes 59 seconds West, on the west line of said Lot 1, a distance of 209.18 feet to the Point of Beginning. From said Point of Beginning; thence South 89 degrees 18 minutes 08 seconds East. 23.59 feet; thence South 00 degrees 41 minutes 52 seconds West, 85.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 18 minutes 08 seconds West, 22.83 feet to the west line of said Lot 2; thence North 00 degrees 10 minutes 59 seconds East, on the west line of said Lot and Lot 1, a distance of 85.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, conlainin9 0.0453 acre, more or less (area based on ground distances). Said Parcels 21920011TE-A and 2192001 HE-B contain a total of 0.0722 acre, more or less (area based on ground distances).
Published in The Boone County Journal August 13, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff

vs.
GERALD C. COLE; AUDREY COLE; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case #: 2026 ED 4
Condemnation
Parcel #: 20513005TE
Job #: R-92-005-13
JURY DEMAND

PUBLICATION NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants, that this case has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County against you and other defendants, asking for Judgment as to the determination of just compensation for certain real property legally described in Exhibit A and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your appearance in this case in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, within 30 days of the date of this publication, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff

By: /s/ Jeremiah Lewellen
Special Assistant Attorney General
Jeremiah Lewellen (ARDC: 6306437)
Special Assistant Attorneys General
CONKLIN & CONKLIN, LLC
125 S. Wacker Dr., Ste. 300
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel.: (312) 341-9500
JLewellen@conklinlawyers.com

EXHIBIT A
Owner Gerald C. Cole and Audrey Cole, husband and wife, as joint tenants
Route F.A.P. 517 (US Bus Rte 20)
County Boone County
Job No. R-92-005-13
Parcel No. 20513005TE
P.I.N. No. 05-19-276-011
Section L-R-1
Station 56+20.85
Station 56+32.37

EASEMENT
That part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone County, State of Illinois, with bearings and grid distances referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone NAD 83 (2011 ADJ), with a combined factor of 0.9999985, described as follows: Commencing at a mag spike at the East Quarter corner of said Section 19 per Monument Record recorded June 25, 2020, as Document Number 2020R03495 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County; thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 35 seconds East, on the east line of said Northeast Quarter, 191.48 feet to a perpendicular line; thence North 89 degrees 22 minutes 25 seconds West, 60.00 feet to the existing westerly right of way line of Olsen Avenue as described in the Final Judgment Order recorded July 20, 1994 as Case No. 92-ED-1 in said Recorder's Office and the Point of Beginning. From said Point of Beginning; thence North 89 degrees 22 minutes 19 seconds West, 10.82 feet; thence North 00 degrees 39 minutes 14 seconds East, 45.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 22 minutes 19 seconds East, 10.80 feet to said existing westerly right of way line; thence South 00 degrees 37 minutes 35 seconds West, on said right of way line, 45.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.0112 acre, more or less (area based on ground distances).
Published in The Boone County Journal August 13, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST MID BANK & TRUST, N.A. Plaintiff,
-v- 2025 FC 30
MICHAEL J. SCHMIDT, Defendant
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 10, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on September 15, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT TEN (10) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, BEING A PART OF OUTLOT "D" OF STARR'S THIRD ADDITION AND PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE 3RD P.M., THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN BOOK 5 OF PLATS ON PAGE 21 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

Commonly known as 652 W. 8TH STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Property Index No. 05-35-408-001
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$32,058.15.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are adm

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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

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

For information, contact Andrew Weiss, QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 141 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD SUITE 1575, CHICAGO, IL, 60604 (904) 354-5500. Please refer to file number IL-008916-25.

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

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

Andrew Weiss
QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A.
141 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD SUITE 1575
CHICAGO IL, 60604
904-354-5500
E-Mail: andrew.weiss@qpwbaw.com
Attorney File No. IL-008916-25
Attorney ARDC No. 6284233
Case Number: 2025 FC 30
TJSC#: 46-1557

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2025 FC 30
6088-968076

Published in the Boone County Journal August 13, 18, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, for and on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff

Parcel # 21920014TE
Job # R-92-005-13
CPG Investors, LLC; BMO Harris Bank, N.A.;
v. Case # 2026ED
US Small Business Administration; St. Charles Bank and Trust Company; Washington State Bank; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.
JURY DEMAND

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Non-Record Claimants and Unknown Owners, defendants in the above entitled suit, that the above named plaintiff has filed its Complaint in said Court in the Law Division thereof, for condemnation pursuant to the eminent domain laws of the State of Illinois, of the lands and premises in the Complaint

situated in Kankakee County, State of Illinois, to wit:
Owner CPG Investors, LLC
Route FAP 525 (US 20)
County Boone
Job No. R-92-019-20
Parcel No. 21920014TE
P.I.N. No. 05-32-300-026
Section (6, 15, 14) R&HBR
Station 80+19.80
Station 82+68.97
EASEMENT

That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone

County, Illinois, with bearings and grid distances referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone NAD 83(2011), with a combined scale factor of 0.99997273, described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 40 seconds West on the south line of said Southwest Quarter, 46.19 feet to the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 5 Township 43 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone County; thence South 89 degrees 34 minutes 05 seconds West on the north line of said Northwest Quarter, 203.81 feet, thence North 00 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East, 101.43 feet to the north right of way line of US 20, being the south line of a tract of land described in the Warranty Deed to 2009 Properties, LLC as recorded on July 18, 2013 as Document Number 2013R05714 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, being the Point of Beginning.

From said Point of Beginning; thence continuing North 00 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East on the west line of said 2009 Properties tract, 227.39 feet; thence North 89 degrees 00 minutes 36 seconds East, 40.56 feet, thence South 00 degrees 54 minutes 34 seconds East, 210.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes 10 seconds East, 85.88 feet to an existing building; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 41 seconds East, along said building, 10.12 feet; thence North 89 degrees 23 minutes 21 seconds East, along said building, 104.61 feet; thence North 71 degrees 29 minutes 25 seconds East, 15.27 feet to the east line of said 2009 Properties tract; thence South 00 degrees 18 minutes 27 seconds West on said east line, 13.19 feet to the north right of way line of US 20 and the south line of said 2009 Properties tract; thence South 89 degrees 34 minutes 05 seconds West on said north right of way line and said south line of said 2009 Properties tract, 250.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.2841 acres, more or less (area based on ground distances).

PIN:05-32-300-026; that summons was duly noticed out of the said Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending. The said Complaint is for the ascertaining of the just compensation to be paid to the owner: CPG Investors, LLC; BMO Harris Bank, N.A.; US Small Business Administration; St. Charles Bank and Trust Company; Washington State Bank; CAI Customs Alloys, Inc.; Rockford Local Development Corporation; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Generally, for the fee taking and temporary easement acquisitions to the above described real property sought to be acquired for the purposes of widening a public highway

Now, therefore, unless you the said above named defendants, unknown owners and non-record claimants file your appearance in the said suit, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Law Division, Boone County Courthouse, Boone, Illinois, on or before August 31, 2026, an order or default may be entered against you at any time after that day and judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Dated: Boone, Illinois

By: Clerk of the Circuit Court

Date:

Kwame Raoul, Attorney General, Vincent D. Pinelli, Special Assistant Attorney General Attorney for Plaintiff, 70 West Madison, Suite 4300, Chicago, IL 60602; Attorney No. 3122437

Published in Boone County Journal 8/13, 8/18, 8/25/26

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT COLUMBIA COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

BCG Equities, LLC
225 S. Executive Dr. Suite 200
Brookfield WI 53005
Plaintiff,
Case No.: 2026CV000186
Classification Code: 30301
The amount claimed is over \$10,000.
LELAND BISHOP
523 LOGAN AVE
BELVIDERE IL 61008
Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, To the person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 (forty) days after August 6, 2026, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 400 Dewitt Street, Portage, WI 53901 and to DLF Law Group, LLC (formerly Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC), the plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 225 S. Executive Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 (forty) days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2026.

DLF Law Group, LLC
(formerly DOBBERSTEIN LAW FIRM, LLC)
Attorneys for the plaintiff
by Tyler J. Glaser
Tyler J. Glaser
State Bar No. 1118674
MAILING ADDRESS:
225 S. Executive Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53005
(262) 641-3715
Published in the Boone County Journal August 13, 18, 25, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2026-05 to lease approximately 60 acres of tillable County-owned agricultural land for crop production under a cash rent lease.

Bid documents will be available on or after August 21st, 2026. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at https://www.boonecountyiil.gov/businesses/bids_rfp_s.php for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Friday, September 4th, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. Bids will be opened at 11 A.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.

Published in Boone County Journal 8/25/26

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4289 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ALIEN EYES that its location is or will be 1668 PARKSIDE DRIVE 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: 815-289-9545

COLIN J TOOHEY

1668 Parkside Drive
Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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 9, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 2026 - P

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

No. DBA4296 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a FARM STAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SCRAMBLE AND SPROUT that its location is or will be 152 N. CREEK ROAD in ROSCOE, IL 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: 815-243-0192

JEANIE MICHELLE RINALDI

152 N. CREEK ROAD
ROSCOE, ILLINOIS 61073

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: August 3, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 8/13, 8/18, 8/25/26 - P

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

No. DBA4297 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BAKING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of L.A. SWEETS that its location is or will be 1721 8TH AVENUE in BELVIDERE, IL 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: 815-721-9470

MARIA ELIZABETH ARELLANO

1721 8TH AVE
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: August 14, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 8/18, 8/25, 9/2/26 - P

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

No. DBA4298 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CUSTOM APPAREL PRINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BELVIDERE SIGNATURE CREATIONS that its location is or will be 226 ANDREWS DRIVE in BELVIDERE, IL 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: 815-721-9470

MARIA ELIZABETH ARELLANO

1721 8TH AVE
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

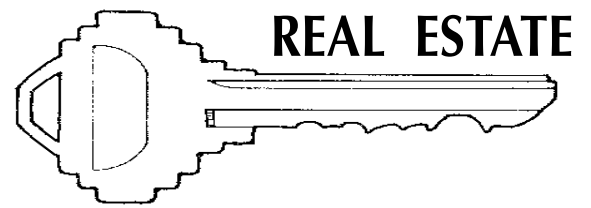
JOSE CAMARGO

1301 W 6TH ST
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: August 14, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 8/18, 8/25, 9/2/26 - P



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

FIRST MID BANK & TRUST, N.A. Plaintiff,

-v.- 2025 FC 30

MICHAEL J. SCHMIDT, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 10, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on September 15, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 652 W. 8TH STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-35-408-001

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$32,058.15.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are adm

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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

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

For information, contact Andrew Weiss, QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 141 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD SUITE 1575, CHICAGO, IL, 60604 (904) 354-5500. Please refer to file number IL-008916-25.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

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

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

Andrew Weiss

QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A.

141 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD SUITE 1575

CHICAGO IL, 60604

904-354-5500

E-Mail: andrew.weiss@qpwblaw.com

Attorney File No. IL-008916-25

Attorney ARDC No. 6284233

Case Number: 2025 FC 30

TJSC#: 46-1557

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2025 FC 30

6088-968076

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Transportation

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the county board chairs of Kane, Lake, McHenry, DuPage and Will counties.

The new board, which takes over Sept. 1, is designed to be a stronger version of the RTA, with broad authority to establish a universal fare system and coordinate schedules between the CTA, Metra and Pace. And under the new structure, several members of the larger NITA board will also serve on the three service agencies' boards — enough to form majorities on those boards to promote cooperation and alignment across the systems.

Pritzker's appointees to NITA are Bashir Qasim, Nedra Sims Fears, Nirali Shah, Rosa Ortiz and Vanessa Uribe. The governor also reappointed Neema Jha to the CTA board.

Qasim, who will also serve on Metra's board, is vice president of The Whole Group, where he advises large organizations on how to deploy artificial intelligence. He previously held senior roles at tech companies Aforza and Accenture, advising on technology and organizational strategy, according to the governor's office.

Sims Fears, who will also serve on the CTA's board, is the executive director of the Greater Chatham Initiative, which promotes investment and economic growth on Chicago's South Side. She previously worked in banking and community development financing at Fannie Mae, the city of Chicago and the Community Investment Corporation.

Ortiz, who will also serve on Pace's board, is an urban planner and the founder of 3e Studio, a planning and community development consulting firm. She's served on the CTA board since 2021 and was previously a deputy commissioner in the city of Chicago's Department of Housing and has held leadership positions in organizations like the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Uribe is an associate vice president at The Chicago Community Trust and previously worked as chief deputy in the Illinois Secretary of State's executive office and as chief of staff and deputy director of the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment within the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Uribe will only serve on NITA.

Jha, who will only serve on the CTA board, is a director at Charles River Associates, where she advises large organizations on technology infrastructure modernization. She's served on the board since 2021.

"My board members will play a critical role in modernizing Illinois' transit systems so we can continue to strengthen operations, make necessary upgrades, and better connect communities across our state," Pritzker said in a news release. "I am proud to appoint highly qualified, dedicated Illinoisans who will help advance this important work."

Pritzker's appointments are subject to approval by the Illinois Senate.

Johnson, Preckwinkle and collar county officials announced their picks for the boards of NITA and the three service agencies under its purview earlier this summer.

Unlike the RTA board, whose 15 appointed

members elected an outsider as chair, the NITA Board will elect one of its own members chair by a simple majority vote at its first meeting. The chair will be subject to Senate confirmation until 2030. Suburban lawmakers criticized the new structure during legislative debate for potentially allowing appointees who live in Cook County to outweigh suburban members.

Kirk Dillard, the RTA's chairman since 2014, was not appointed to the NITA board.

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.

Warren

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around the country by defeating establishment-backed candidates in contested primaries.

Rise of the left

Just a day earlier, Angie Nixon, a little-known Florida state legislator and member of the Democratic Socialists of America, scored an upset victory over the more moderate, establishment-backed candidate Alex Vindman to win that state's U.S. Senate primary.

And earlier this month, Abdul El-Sayed, a progressive candidate, edged out the more moderate U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens to win Michigan's Senate primary.

Warren, who is often identified with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, but whose message is usually more populist than socialist, admitted she has often been critical of party leaders for "meddling" in competitive primaries.

"I think it's wrong for the (party) to put a thumb on the scale when Democrats are choosing their nominee," she said. "I think it's wrong to line up with big money, to drown out grassroots candidates. Wrong, and it weakens us."

"But I know our job now," she continued. "Democrats must win the Senate, and I am 100% behind our Democratic nominees everywhere, and I am 100% behind getting them the resources they need to win with."

In his speech, Gov. JB Pritzker downplayed Democratic divisions.

"These days, it seems like the pundits and the naysayers want to stay in an endless loop of debate about the future of the Democratic Party to draw false and rigid divisions, to paint a picture of a fractured coalition," Pritzker said. "If there's a divide in the national Democratic Party that exists, it's the one between team fight and team cave. And in Illinois, we've made our choice. We're on team fight."

Still, the rise of self-identified socialist candidates has raised concern in some circles that the party may be shifting so far to the left that it is hurting its own chances to win in a general election, especially in a swing state like Michigan, which Trump narrowly won in 2024, or a conservative-leaning state like Florida,

which Trump won by 13 percentage points.

Leading Illinois Democrats said Wednesday they remain confident of the party's chances in November.

"I think Democrats are a big-tent party, and I think as many voices as we can get under the same umbrella is a good thing," U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth said in an interview later in the day at the state fairgrounds. "We don't want a homogenous party that is beholden to a single individual like the Republicans. I'm glad that we have diverse voices in our party so we can have many different perspectives."

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, who is running to succeed Durbin in the Senate, told reporters that she thinks Democrats still have a shot at winning control of the Senate.

"I think that it's still in play and everybody is going to focus on these races over the next 76 days," she said. We're going to make sure that we are electing Democrats up and down the ticket in our own state but I'm also going to do everything I can to help Democrats win across this country."

Honoring Durbin

Warren also took time to praise Durbin for his 30 years in the Senate, giving him credit for being an early supporter of legislation that would eventually bring her to national attention — creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

That agency was created in 2010 as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, a legislative response to the 2008 financial crisis. Warren was still a Harvard law professor at the time and had been a vocal advocate of forming a government agency to protect consumers from predatory lending practices.

"Dick Durbin was the original sponsor of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau," she said. "He fought to make that agency happen, and I will forever be grateful."

After the bill was signed into law, then-President Barack Obama named Warren to head a steering committee to get the new agency up and running. But she was not nominated to become the agency's first director.

In 2012, Warren was elected to the Senate from Massachusetts, defeating incumbent Republican Scott Brown. Brown had won the seat in a special election in 2010 following the death of Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Durbin received several rounds of applause and said he'd remain involved, quipping that once politics is "in the blood," it takes "embalming fluid" to get it out.

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