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# UAW Settles Strike With Stellantis

## *Terms include reopening Belvidere Assembly Plant*

By Charles Herbst

The United Auto Workers Union has settled its strike against Ford, Stellantis, and General Motors, winning a 25 percent pay raise, cost of living increases, and other benefits.

The agreement with Stellantis, owner of the currently shuttered Belvidere Assembly Plant, specifically requires Stellantis to reopen the plant and locate production of a yet-to-be-named vehicle at the facility.

The Stellantis agreement also calls for an electric vehicle (EV) battery plant at the site.

The contract also has a provision giving the union the right to strike over plant closures.

There is speculation that the vehicle would likely be a light truck, with an electric powertrain.

Reopening the Belvidere plant was a priority issue for the UAW, and local and state officials have been diligently pursuing either a resumption of vehicle manufacturing by Stellantis or another company.

Generous incentives have been offered to Stellantis by the State of Illinois, including the Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois Program (REV Act). Depending on the number of employees hired and the amount of capital investment, this could result in hundreds of millions of dollars in state tax credits.

Sources have said that it is likely that Stellantis will also establish a large Mopar parts depot at the site as well.

Pamela Lopez-Fettes, Executive Director of Growth Dimensions said, “We are excited with the deal negotiated between Stellantis and the UAW. This agreement will help to solidify a project in Belvidere that will bring thousands of jobs to the region. We appreciate all the time, efforts and contributions our region and state have provided over the last few years to strengthen the automotive industry in Boone County.”



*The body of a Jeep Cherokee being mounted on an assembled chassis at the Belvidere Assembly Plant.*

## **Foster Statement on Tentative Agreement Between UAW and Stellantis, Future of Belvidere Assembly Plant**

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) released the following statement after the UAW announced they reached a tentative agreement with Stellantis to end their strike and reopen the Belvidere Assembly Plant:

“The tentative contract agreement

announced by the UAW and Stellantis today, that promises a strong future for the Belvidere Assembly Plant in both vehicle and battery production, is an important milestone along a path involving months of hard work by negotiators on both sides, as well as state, local, and federal officials.

“It is a cause for celebration for Belvidere and the generations of workers who made their careers at the Assembly Plant. Under the Governor’s leadership, powerful state incentives have been assembled to help close the deal; local officials made sure that the site would accommodate Stellantis’ ambitious future plans for Belvidere; and the federal incentives for EV and battery production from Congress and

the Biden Administration will continue to be essential in ensuring the economic future of the Assembly Plant for generations to come.

“This milestone would not have been achieved without the incredible support for the Belvidere Plant from UAW workers throughout the country — the truest expression of the meaning of the words “union solidarity.”

“This is a big win for Illinois, and means that the iconic Belvidere Assembly Plant should remain the beating heart of the entire community, and that the workers who’ve been displaced since the idling can finally return to work with a bright future.”

Foster represents Belvidere as part of Illinois’ 11th Congressional District.

# Latest State School Report Card Shows Proficiency Gains, Persistent Gaps on Racial Lines

*Reading, math scores up; graduation rate at 13-year high*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Elementary and secondary students in Illinois showed consistent improvements in their reading and math scores while the state's high school graduation rate reached a 13-year high for the most recently concluded school year.

Those are some of the conclusions from the most recent annual statewide school report card, released Monday by the Illinois State Board of Education. The report includes data from the 2022-23 academic year, including results of the standardized tests that students took in the spring.

Although statewide average proficiency rates remained below pre-pandemic levels, the results showed improvement over the previous year across all demographic categories.

"Educators and families should be proud of the remarkable progress we see on the 2023 Illinois report card while remaining focused

on understanding and meeting the students' academic and social emotional needs at this phase of recovery," State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders said during a media briefing on the report.

Robin Steans, president of the education advocacy group Advance Illinois, agreed that the report was positive overall, but said it also contains some cautionary information, especially regarding racial achievement gaps and attendance rates.

"I think there is some legitimately encouraging news in the new state report card," she said in a separate interview. "I think there's also a lot of information that reminds us we've a lot of work to do still."

The annual report card offers a look at how well individual schools, districts and the state as a whole are performing across a wide range of indicators. In addition to student performance on standardized tests, the report also includes information about factors such as student demographics, graduation rates, college readiness, career and technical education, and school faculty.

Much of the public's attention, however, focuses on the standardized test scores, which are often seen as an indicator of how effectively schools are teaching the basics of reading, writing and math, and what kind of achievement gaps exist among different demographic groups.

34.6 percent.

That's still below the 37.4 percent proficiency rate recorded in the 2018 to 2019 school year – the last before the COVID-19 pandemic caused major interruptions the next few years. But last year's gain translates to roughly 39,000 more students than the year before who met or exceeded grade level standards in reading and writing.

And while it may seem problematic that only about one-third of all students are considered "proficient" in that subject, Sanders pointed out that Illinois has among the highest standards in the country for English language proficiency.

"So it's not possible to compare our proficiency rates to other states because it's like comparing apples to oranges," Sanders said.

Equally important, Sanders said, was the fact that there were year-over-year gains across all demographic groups, although significant gaps still exist between those groups.

For example, a significant gap still existed between Black and white students in English language arts proficiency. But on a percentage basis, Black students saw the biggest gains in proficiency rates, rising from 12.1 percent to 16.1 percent – a 33-percent increase.

Still, the gap between white and Black proficiency rates widened by more than a full percentage point, as did the gap between white and Hispanic students. White students had a proficiency rate of 44.9 percent compared to 22.2 percent of Hispanic students and 16.1 percent for Black students.

Sanders also emphasized that the low proficiency rates among Black students is more a

reflection on the state's education system than on the students themselves.

"We educate Black students disproportionately in underfunded 'Tier 1' school districts with more teacher vacancies, higher teacher and principal turnover, higher chronic absenteeism," he said, referring to Illinois' targeted system of education funding in which Tier 1 schools receive the least amount of money from their local property tax base.

"So our Black students in general have less access to supports, to the resources they need to learn at the rate to be on par with their peers," Sanders continued.

Math scores also improved in 2023, although the gains were less significant and the overall proficiency rate remained below pre-pandemic levels. White students scored proficiency rates of 35.6 percent, compared to 14.3

*Continued on page 3*



- Carol Binka, 81, Belvidere, October 27
- Richard Blunt, 80, Belvidere, October 22
- Patricia Emerson, 83, Belvidere, October 23
- Bo Ferguson, 33, Belvidere, October 22
- Kay Lindaas, 84, Belvidere October 23
- Nancy Lyman, 82, Harvard, October 25
- Patricia Murphy, 88, Belvidere, October 24

Matthew Perry, 54, Los Angeles, October 28



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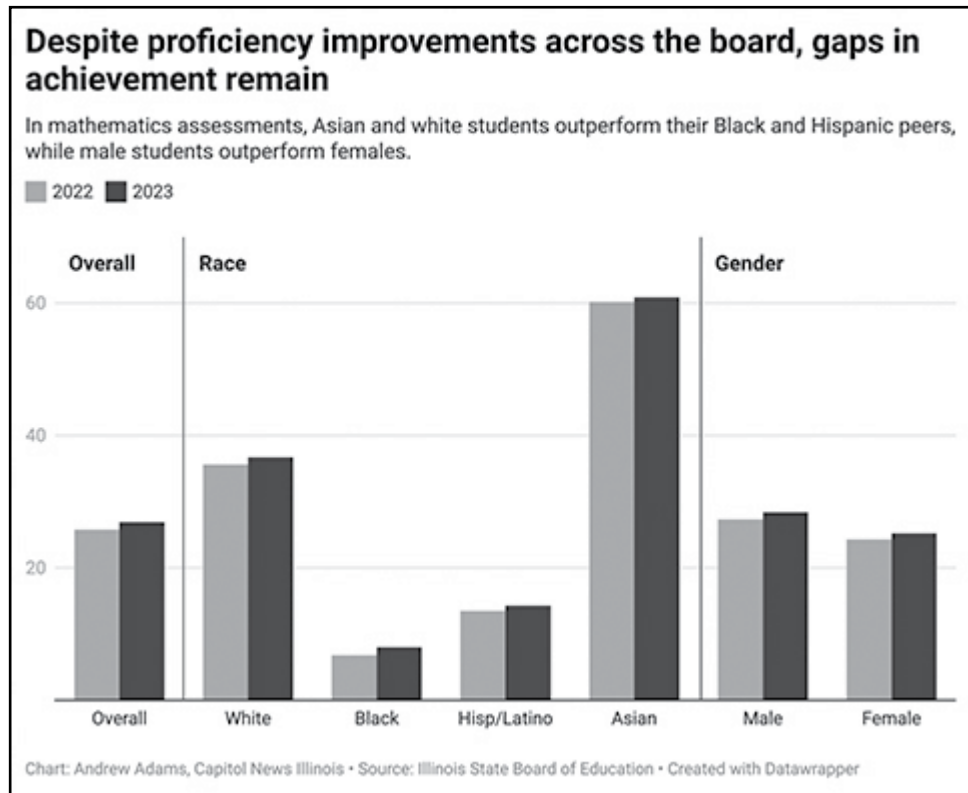
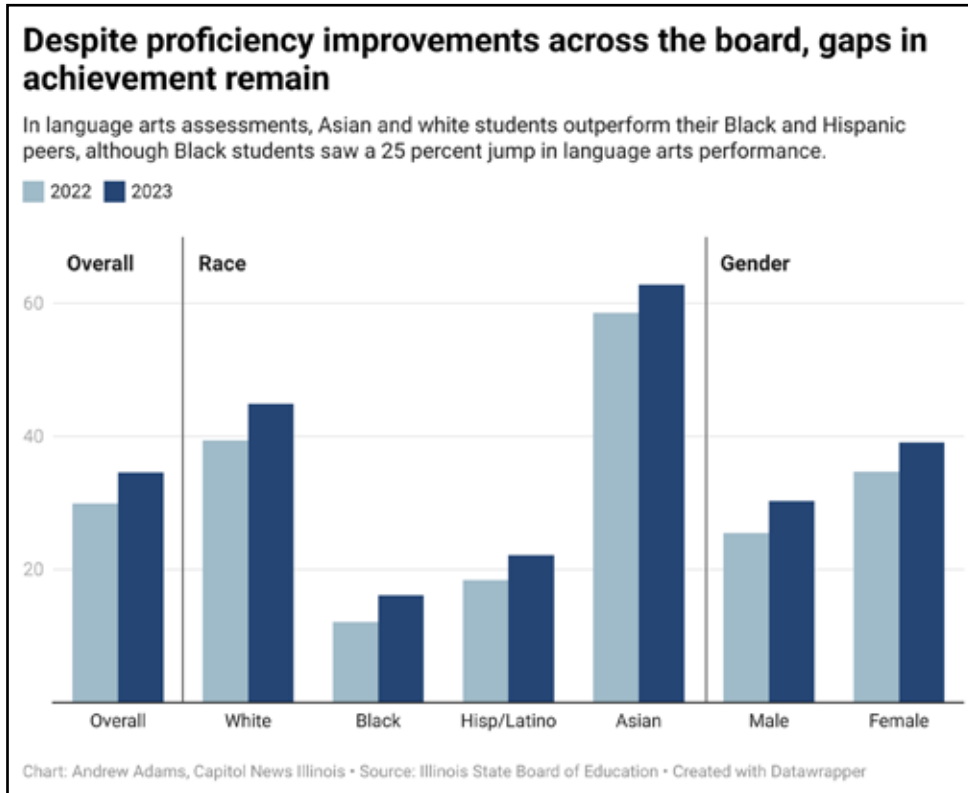
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**English and math**

Overall, the biggest area of improvement over the last year was in English language arts, where the proficiency rate rose from 29.9 percent to



## Report Card

from page 2

percent for Hispanic students and 8 percent for Black students.

The statewide proficiency rate rose by just over one percentage point, to 26.9 percent, while all demographic groups gained on their scores from the year prior. As with English language arts, Black students saw the biggest gain in proficiency rates, at 1.2 percentage points.

### College and career readiness

The report card also includes several indicators of how well students are progressing toward a successful completion of the preK-12 experience and how ready they will be to enter college or the workforce.

Among the most basic of those metrics is the percentage of ninth graders who are on track to graduate. That means at the end of their ninth-grade year, they have earned at least five full-year course credits and have received no more than one semester of an "F" in a core subject such as English, math, science, or social studies.

In 2023, 87.4 percent of ninth-graders were on track to graduate – up from 86.6 percent in 2022, and the same 86.6 percent in 2019.

According to ISBE, students who finish their ninth-grade year on track are nearly four times as likely to graduate from high school as those who are not on track.

Perhaps the most significant indicator, however, was growth in the state's high school graduation rate.

In 2023, the four-year graduation rate stood at 87.6 percent, the highest level recorded in at least 13 years. Black and Hispanic students also saw gains in graduation rates over that period.

ISBE did note, however, that the graduation rate was artificially inflated at 88 percent during the pandemic year of 2020 when emergency actions were taken to reduce graduation requirements by one semester.

### Chronic absenteeism

One area of concern reflected in the report card was the rate of chronic absenteeism among students, defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year, regardless of whether it's an excused or unexcused absence.

Last year, 28.7 percent of students were classified as chronically absent. That was down from just below 30 percent the year before, but it was still well above the pre-pandemic level of 17.5 percent.

The rate was even higher for minority and low-income students – 42.1 percent for Black students; 34.5 for Hispanic students; and 38.2 percent for students classified as low-income.

"This should be very concerning," Steans, of Advance Illinois, said. "As I am around the state, this is not lost on anybody. And I think there's a lot of energy and effort going into it, and rightly so. But we're just not back where we want to be, by a lot."

Overall, Sanders attributed improvements in the 2023 report card to increased funding for public schools, the result of the Evidence-Based Funding

formula that went into effect in 2018.

"State funding for education has increased by \$2.38 billion since the enactment of EBF, and we see the results in many of the metrics that you see today, but most especially in the four-year graduation rate for our students," he said.

Steans agreed, saying, "I think it is a reflection that funding is doing what it's meant to do."

She added that federal pandemic-related funds have also helped schools better educate students.

"I think both of those have been used by schools and districts to put in special supports for students, be they social and mental health supports, be it tutoring, after-school programming, be it bringing in more teachers or more reading specialist instructional coaches, things like that," she said. "I think both of those funding sources have really been helpful and made a difference."

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## Stadelman Reacts to Tentative Agreement Between Stellantis and UAW

### Press Release

State Senator Steve Stadelman expressed optimism Saturday after Stellantis and the United Auto Workers came to terms on a new contract that awaits union approval.

"I'm excited by today's UAW announcement of a labor deal that will reopen the Belvidere Assembly Plant to begin manufacturing a new truck product and expand operations to include a new battery plant," Stadelman said. "This is what I've been working with state and local leaders toward for two years -- securing the plant's future and saving the thousands of jobs that support families across Boone and Winnebago counties."

Stadelman sponsored and passed in 2021 the Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act in 2021, a historic stimulus package offering tax credits and other incentives to attract manufacturers of electric vehicles, batteries and other EV components and parts. More recent efforts included the creation of a \$400 million Large Business Attraction Fund to empower Illinois to become a global magnet for EV technology.

## Vella Reacts to Belvidere Assembly Plant News

### Press Release

State Rep. Dave Vella, D-Rockford, issued the following statement regarding a tentative deal between the UAW and automaker Stellantis that is expected to update and reopen the Belvidere Assembly Plant:

"I share in the enthusiasm of residents across our community as we look ahead to seeing the Belvidere Assembly Plant reopened and retooled to meet modern demands. This agreement is going to support thousands of quality jobs, and is a significant long-term investment that will benefit our entire region. I appreciate the advocacy from local workers, the UAW, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and area officials in helping to make this a reality.

"It's important that we continue to responsibly utilize state incentives to attract and retain developments that provide strong wages and can benefit our community for decades to come. This is a big win for our region."

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# OP-ED

## The Constitutional System Must Be Respected

By Bob Evans Rockford University

The worst offense being committed by House Republicans may be among the least noted. The abortive and discredited attempt to impeach President Biden is both the least justified and the most threatening to the Constitutional system

Republicans currently practice “performative politics”, seeking headlines instead of making policy by building governing coalitions. The goal is to obstruct rather than legislate. Their behavior, while shameful, is remediable. Most of their behavior is just that-behavioral. The situation is redeemable as long as these spoiled children can still feel shame.

But impeaching the President with no Constitutional justification threatens permanent damage to our Constitutional system. Republicans have held groundless impeachment hearings in an irresponsible display of rank partisanship. The exercise was embarrassing and discredited the entire effort. Driven by the lowest of motives, they sought to embarrass Biden while whitewashing the tarnish on Trump. They attempted a “bank shot”, trying to reduce the tarnish on Trump by splashing shame on Biden.

Most recently they have been distracted and consumed with their circular firing squad. This distraction, however, is temporary. Their passion simultaneously to destroy Biden and rehabilitate Trump still burns brightly as a motivation. They will resume their quest.

Let us return to the core of our indictment of Republican behavior. To pervert the basic Constitutional rules designed to dispense equal justice impartially threatens a mortal Constitutional blow. Remember that the statue of Justice always wears a blindfold in order to symbolize impartiality.

Further, the Constitutional impeachment clauses appear to forbid partisan retribution. Current efforts to impeach threaten permanent damage to our Constitutional system of justice. We can and must do better.

## America Recycles Day KNIB Can Help!

America Recycles Day is a National Program initiated by Keep America Beautiful and celebrated annually on November 15th. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (KNIB) is affiliated in the effort to end littering, improve recycling, and beautify communities.

America Recycles Day’s purpose is to encourage individuals to participate in a three-fold action plan designed to bolster community recycling efforts.

### [1] LEARN

Find out what materials are collected for recycling in my community.

### [2] ACT

Within the next month, reduce the amount of waste produced, recycle more, and buy products made with recycled content.

### [3] SHARE

In the next month, encourage one family member or one friend to do the same.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful accepts hard-to-recycle items including non-alkaline batteries, TVs, computers and electronics, appliances, metal furniture, extension cords and wires, shredded paper, books, outdoor grills, hot water heaters, and more. KNIB will even recycle your Christmas lights. a list of what items are accepted, can be found on the website: [www.KNIB.org](http://www.KNIB.org).

Items to be recycled can be dropped off at either Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful location during hours of operation:

#### Drop-Off Locations:

- 4665 Hydraulic Road in Rockford;  
Open Saturdays 9:00 A.M. - Noon and Tuesdays 2:00-5:00 P.M.
- 8409 North Second Street in Machesney Park;  
Open Saturdays 9:00 A.M. - Noon and Wednesdays 2:00-5:00 P.M.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful is a private nonprofit 501(c)3 educational environmental organization with the mission to improve our environment through education, public awareness and community involvement. KNIB’s vision is similar: to be regionally recognized for environmental stewardship by recycling, litter prevention and beautification through education

## Air Pollution Rule Change to Move Forward, Preventing Sanctions from Federal Government

*State oversight committee objected to process of how the change was proposed*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A proposed change in state air pollution regulations will move forward despite an objection from a legislative oversight committee, allowing the state to avoid federal sanctions that otherwise would go into effect next month.

The change, which came from the Illinois Pollution Control Board and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, repeals existing language that allowed factories, refineries, power plants and other facilities to exceed their emission limits during shutdowns, startups, and malfunctions.

The previous rules also gave the owners of those facilities a certain level of immunity from civil lawsuits for exceeding their emission limits during those events.

The change was necessary because of recent court decisions that prompted the U.S. EPA to change its interpretation of the federal Clean Air Act, a program that is largely administered and enforced by state and local governments.

Illinois was first informed about that change in 2015 and was told, along with many other state and local governments, to repeal those regulations and submit new state implementation plans, or SIPs. Illinois did not immediately act on that notice, however, and two years later, the then-new Trump administration put the change on hold.

The Trump administration issued new guidance in 2020 saying such provisions were permissible in some circumstances, but when Democrat Joe Biden came into office in 2021, his EPA administrators reversed course again. In January 2022, Illinois was told for a second time to submit a new SIP.

That notice, known as an “SIP call,” became

effective Feb. 11, 2022. From that date, Illinois and other jurisdictions subject to the SIP call had 18 months to come into compliance before the first set of sanctions would take effect – drastically stricter emission limits on new or significantly altered facilities.

After 24 months of noncompliance, the state’s access to federal highway funding would have been tightly restricted.

The process by which the state agencies proposed the changes, however, upset many industrial firms as well as lawmakers on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR, a 12-member bipartisan body that has oversight authority on administrative rules.

That’s because even though the agencies were told in January 2022 that they needed to make the change, they did not officially publish the rule change until November of that year, forcing them to use a “fast-track” approval process that greatly limited the time allowed for public comment and negotiations.

JCAR considered the proposed rule change at its monthly meeting in June but postponed the rulemaking for 45 days to give the regulated industries more time to discuss the issue with lawmakers, the agencies and U.S. EPA.

Meeting again Tuesday in Chicago, the committee voted to issue a formal objection to the rule change based on the agencies’ use of the fast-track approval process. That does not stop the rule change from going into effect, but it does require the agencies to submit a response within 90 days.

“Recognizing that while we can’t go back and address what’s already occurred, we are going to ensure that the steps are in place so that the next time there is a rule like this – which there will be because of the nature of our federal implemented programs – that we have a structure that doesn’t lend itself to that the type of concerns that brought us here last month,” IEPA deputy director James Jennings said in response to lawmakers’ questions at the hearing.

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## Foster Statement on House Speaker Election

Press Release

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) released the following statement after Congressman Mike Johnson (R-LA) was elected Speaker of the House:

"I'm greatly relieved that, after 22 days of self-induced paralysis, Republicans have been able to fulfill their constitutional duty of electing a Speaker.

"Speaker Johnson's first address to the House contained several positive items, including a commitment to decentralize power from the Speaker's office to rank-and-file Members. His full-throated support of Israel was welcome, but his complete failure to even mention support for our allies in Ukraine or address the growing need for humanitarian relief throughout the world was deeply troubling.

"It remains to be seen whether he will continue pressing to defund Social Security and advance other extreme proposals like a nationwide abortion ban. While my colleagues and I will continue to search for bipartisan common ground, I will stand against any effort to hurt working families and threaten women's reproductive rights."

## Foster Introduces Legislation to Lower Costs for Students

Press Release

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) announced the introduction of the No Cost Educational Resources Act, legislation to help ease the financial burden on our nation's students.

By allowing existing grants to go towards free, online educational resources, this bill would expand access to the academic materials that are critical for a successful education in college and beyond. This is especially helpful for students pursuing a STEM education, who tend to face steep cost barriers for up-to-date materials.

"As we continue to work to lower costs for hard-working Americans, it's essential that we also address the rising costs that are creating barriers to higher education," said Foster. "This bill would directly help students save money by providing no-cost resources like textbooks, which are often too expensive for students to afford and not always covered by financial aid. These resources are especially important as our economy becomes increasingly STEM-based and will provide STEM students with the up-to-date materials they need to learn and fuel innovation."

## LaHood Receives Affordable Housing Tax Credit Award

Press Release

The Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition (AHTCC) today awarded Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) with the organization's 2023 Affordable Housing Champion Award, which honors members of Congress who exhibit outstanding leadership in the U.S. House and Senate toward the advancement of policies that expand affordable housing through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit).

"Affordable housing is vital for families throughout our country and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit continues to be an important tool to drive investment in the affordable rental housing market," said LaHood. "I am honored to receive the 2023 Affordable House Champion Award and look forward to continue growing support for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which will help expand our housing supply, strengthen communities, and support economic development in Illinois and across America."

"We are honored to present the 2023 Affordable Housing Champion Award to Congressman Darin LaHood, a champion of affordable housing in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. LaHood has maintained a steadfast commitment to helping families across the country find relief from the financial burdens created by the high cost and scarcity of housing," said AHTCC Chief Executive Officer Emily Cadik. "As the affordable housing crisis continues to impact rural, suburban, and urban areas alike, we are grateful to Congressman LaHood for championing the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act and galvanizing bipartisan support for this critically needed legislation.

"The shortage of affordable housing remains one of the most critical challenges facing our country today," added Ryan Sfredo, President of the AHTCC Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Red Stone Equity Partners. "We need leaders like Congressman LaHood who are willing to work across the aisle to find meaningful and impactful solutions to address the housing crisis playing out all across America."

Rep. LaHood, a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, is the lead sponsor of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) of 2023 (H.R. 3238). This bipartisan legislation to expand and strengthen the Housing Credit, the nation's primary tool for financing the development and preservation of affordable rental housing, has gained the support of more than one-third of Congress – 174 Representatives and 30 Senators – balanced evenly between Republicans and Democrats. The bill includes provisions to expand access to and use of the Housing Credit that would finance nearly 2 million more affordable rental homes than otherwise possible.

Past recipients of the Affordable Housing

Champion Award have included Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), former Senate Finance Committee Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), the late Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and former Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH).

## Harvest, Wheat Planting Running Ahead of Average Pace

By Daniel Grant  
FarmWeek

Illinois farmers continue to cut soybeans at a furious pace between rain showers.

Soybean harvest was 61% complete statewide as of Oct. 15, which was 8 percentage points ahead of the average pace, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Illinois field office.

"We completed beans before the rain (the first half of the month)," said Megan Dwyer, a fourth-generation farmer from Henry County and director of conservation and nutrient stewardship for the Illinois Corn Growers Association. "Corn has been off to a slow start, but a lot of farmers got in the field (Oct. 16). I think there will be a strong push."

Corn harvest was 52% complete as of Oct. 15 statewide, which is spot on with the average pace.

Meanwhile, farmers planted nearly half of the winter wheat crop (47%) in the state as of the same date, which was 2 points ahead of the average pace and 11 points ahead of last year's pace.

"I finished wheat planting and fertilizing and am looking forward to the green-up in those fields as the season comes to a close," said Marshall Newhouse, FarmWeek CropWatcher from Boone County.

The weather pattern for remaining fieldwork could shift for the week ahead with a possibility of warmer and wetter conditions.

"We've had some cooler conditions and even some frost across the state," John Baranick, DTN ag meteorologist, told the RFD Radio Network. "But (this) week we're going to pump up the heat."

An active storm track could also set up over the central U.S. and delay fieldwork in some areas.

"Whether or not that makes it into Illinois much is still to be determined," Baranick said.

As farmers continue to harvest corn, stalk quality remains a key consideration. They should plan to harvest fields with any potential issues as soon as possible to avoid potential lodging problems.

Overall, late-season plant health is critical to a smooth harvest and maximizing yield potential, according to Jeff Morey, AgriGold agronomist. It's not something that just "happens." Keeping your corn crop healthy all the way to harvest takes planning, hybrid selection, fertility management and fungicide.

"It's an investment that pays off, especially in challenging years," Morey said. In years when drought and heat stress the crop, he has witnessed a 10- to 20-bushel-an-acre advantage.

Continued on Page 7

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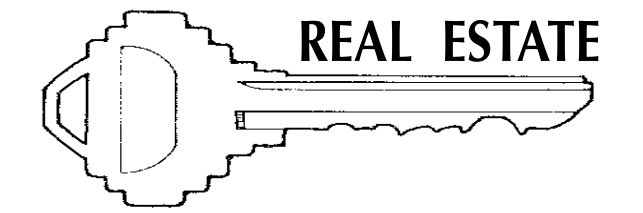
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No. DBA4171 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a consulting business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of CONSULTING BY DEMAND that its location is or will be 1800 DOC WOLF DRIVE #1541, BELVIDERE, IL 61008, in Belvidere 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

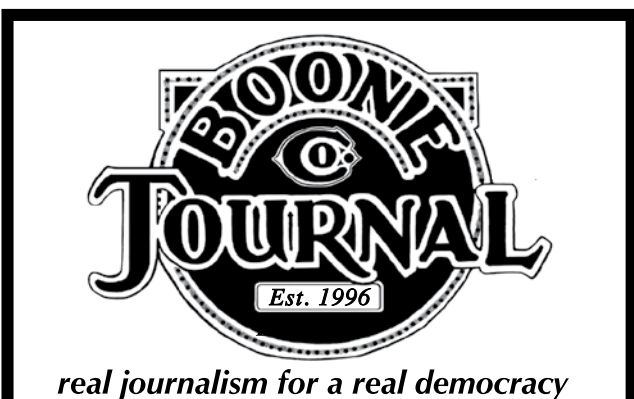


IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
**Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff,**  
vs. **22 FC 31**  
**GERALD L. POWELL, JR.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND**  
**NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant 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

## Harvest from page 5

Plant health should influence farmers' corn hybrid decisions for next season.  
"Farmers with a lot of acres to combine need that corn plant standing well into October. They should look for genetics with good late-season plant health, stalk quality and standability," Morey advises.  
"A fungicide application is a must for hybrids with lower plant health ratings and on disease-prone acres," he said.  
"You'll also want to make sure you have good fertility, including getting nitrogen into those plants when they need it."  
Morey encourages farmers to keep a notepad handy throughout harvest.  
"Keep a record of how products fared in terms of plant health," he said. "When harvest wraps up, talk with your agronomist and see if your experience matched what they heard from other farmers. Then use that to make decisions that work well for your farm next season."

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*



# OP-ED

## Transforming Pretrial Justice for People, Systems and Communities

By *Alison Shames*  
Director, Center for Effective Public Policy

Last week, we marked the first 30 days of the Pretrial Fairness Act, which is transforming pretrial justice in Illinois. When the law was enacted one month ago, it made history by eliminating money bonds. Instead of the arbitrary practice of wealth-based detention, Illinois put in place sensible legal standards for intentional pretrial release and detention decisions based on the law and evidence.

Plenty of work still lies ahead, but we should acknowledge those whose efforts during the past two years helped ensure that the implementation of the law would positively impact people, systems, and communities. More than 100 people throughout the state participated in the Pretrial Implementation Task Force. They represented law enforcement, courts, state's attorneys, public defenders, pretrial services, victims'/survivors' rights advocates, and other community and justice system stakeholder groups — and dedicated countless hours to lay the groundwork for the law's success.

While the state's elimination of financial release conditions has generated the most attention, the Pretrial Fairness Act upended decades of questionable practices and operations. But what is remarkable about the law — especially regarding its potential impact nationwide — is that it reconnected pretrial practices with foundational American legal principles.

More than 30 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court was unequivocal in declaring that "In our society, liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception."

But this explicit statement was overlooked during decades of outdated practices, including the default setting of financial conditions of release (commonly referred to as "money bond"), which led to pretrial decisions that were neither careful nor limited. These practices undermined the presumption of innocence. Instead, financial conditions resulted in the detention of people without access to money — and the release of others, even if they posed a danger to community safety or of willful flight from prosecution.

By abandoning the arbitrary use of financial conditions, Illinois has adopted a commonsense legal framework that honors and operates con-

sistently with the presumption of innocence and liberty.

In this respect, while remarkable, the Pretrial Fairness Act isn't groundbreaking. It follows other states and jurisdictions that have moved away from financial conditions of release and toward reasoned, evidence-based, and legally justified decisions about who should be detained, who should be released, and under what conditions.

With the new law, Illinois joins New Jersey, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia in requiring substantive hearings to determine who should be detained and ensures that courts are taking the time necessary for decision makers to review each case and its circumstances properly. Where these reforms have been implemented, data and research show that they are working: The majority of people attend their court hearings and remain arrest-free.

The Pretrial Fairness Act's accomplishments go beyond its alignment with foundational pretrial legal principles. The new law requires a comprehensive collection of relevant data to be analyzed and shared with justice system professionals and the public. Reliable data is essential for reviewing pretrial outcomes and measuring how a system performs as a whole; it will also contribute to more constructive and evidence-based discussions about the impacts the new law has on people, communities, and the court system.

Because the new law is complex and comprehensive, it required counties to do something that many justice systems don't naturally do: work together across disciplines and functions. System stakeholders and community members collaborated in a well-structured process that helped them identify and better understand the changes they needed to make to their pretrial practices. This requires removing the traditional barriers in the criminal legal system that can divide system stakeholders from the community members they serve. These collaborations should continue and include representatives from all agencies with pretrial responsibilities and directly impacted people, victims and survivors, and their families.

The people working in the state's criminal legal systems — judges, state's attorneys, defense counsel, law enforcement, court clerks, pretrial services officers, and many others — deserve recognition for their extraordinary efforts to uphold the letter as well as the spirit of the new law. Change is never easy. But the Pretrial Fairness Act puts Illinois on the path to upholding foundational legal principles and the integrity of its system of justice. This important undertaking is off to a positive start.

*Ms. Shames is a director at the Center for Effective Public Policy, where she co-directs the national initiative Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research and served as a technical assistance advisor to the Illinois Pretrial Implementation Task Force.*

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