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## Milwaukee Dealers Represent Stellantis, Others at Show



2024 Jeep Wrangler Plug-in Hybrid



2024 BMW x5



2024 RAM Laramie 4 x 4 Crew Cab with Cummins Turbo Diesel Engine

By Charles Herbst

Given the decision by Stellantis to skip North American auto shows this year, five Wisconsin car dealers pooled their resources and are exhibiting twelve Stellantis vehicles at this week's Milwaukee Auto Show. The show is at the Baird Center in Downtown Milwaukee and runs through this Sunday.

Vehicles on display include a Chrysler Pacifica, several Jeeps, two RAM trucks and a Dodge Challenger. There were no Stellantis vehicles on display at the Chicago Auto Show, which is the nation's largest.

Stellantis' move follows that of several smaller companies who, in recent years, have started skipping auto shows.

Milwaukee's Umansky Motor Cars has Mercedes, Porsche, and BMW vehicles on display. Mercedes and BMW North America stopped attending the auto shows several years ago. Umansky is also a Volkswagen dealer, and is supported by a large Volkswagen corporate exhibit.

In addition to Volkswagen, Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Nissan, Kia, Mazda, Honda, and Subaru all have large corporate-sponsored exhibits. Ford is offering a simulator, with free rides for members of the public to try out and enjoy. There is even a McLaren on display.

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## Pritzker Proposes Tax Increases on Corporations And Eliminate Grocery Sales Tax

*Governor's budget fills previously projected deficit with changes to tax code*

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker on Wednesday proposed growing state spending by over \$2 billion in the upcoming fiscal year while making a handful of corporate, sports wagering and other tax changes to pay for the increase.

Pritzker's plan, laid out to lawmakers during his annual budget address, does not alter or increase state income tax rates. But it would more than double the tax rate paid by sportsbooks on gross revenues and extend an existing cap on operating losses businesses can claim on taxes.

Those two changes would raise about \$726 million in revenue, erasing much of what had been projected as an \$891 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year.

In total, Pritzker's budget anticipates \$52.9 billion in general revenue and \$52.7 billion in spending for the state's main discretionary spending account in the fiscal year that begins July 1. The proposal now goes to lawmakers, beginning the annual negotiating process that generally concludes in May.

"Now, I expect that some of you will want to spend more, and some of you will claim you want to spend less," Pritzker said in his speech to lawmakers in the House chamber. "Know this: I am always open to good ideas that members of both parties have to more efficiently and effectively fulfill our obligations."

The governor's budget office is also projecting current-year revenues will come in \$199 million above previous estimates. The state expects the current fiscal year to end with \$52.2 billion in total revenues, far outpacing the \$50.4 billion in authorized spending in last year's budget.

Continued on page 4



# With Budget Proposal and Fiery Address, Pritzker Paints Himself As Progressive Pragmatist

*Governor's spending plan advances progressive-backed policies in tight fiscal landscape*

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

In delivering his annual State of the State and budget address on Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker cast his administration as both progressive and pragmatic – a balance he's worked to strike as his national profile has grown.

Some elements of the governor's proposed spending plan, like using \$10 million in state funds to eliminate \$1 billion worth of Illinoisans' medical debt, are hardline progressive ideas. Others, including a goal to achieve "universal preschool" by 2027, fit in with a more traditional liberal platform.

But Pritzker has also defined his success in traditional economic terms, putting particular stock into how New York City-based credit

ratings agencies view Illinois' finances, while also positioning Illinois as a hub for emerging technologies like electric vehicles and quantum computing.

As Illinois faces an influx of migrants from the southern U.S. border Pritzker has leaned into a leadership style that prioritizes progressive ideals while projecting an image of fiscal responsibility.

"We didn't ask for this manufactured crisis," Pritzker said Wednesday in making good on his promise to propose another \$182 million toward the state's migrant response. "But we must deal with it all the same."

Both approaches were on display during his hourlong speech Wednesday as he blasted Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has so far sent about 35,000 migrants to Chicago since his administration began bussing asylum-seekers in 2022. He also blasted former President Donald Trump while again criticizing President Joe Biden for not providing a more coordinated migrant response.

"Children, pregnant women, and the elderly have been sent here in the dead of night, left far from our designated welcome centers, in freezing temperatures, wearing flip flops and T-shirts," Pritzker said. "Think about that the next time a politician from Texas wants to lecture you about being a good Christian."

### Progressive proposals

The governor was met with big applause from Democrats in laying out his proposed "Healthcare Consumer Access and Protection Act," which would, in part, ban "prior authorization" requirements for mental health treatment.

Pritzker characterized the practice of prior authorization as a way for insurance companies to deny the care that doctors have prescribed.

Additionally, the governor's plan would ban the sale of limited duration health coverage plans in Illinois – the sort of plans, Pritzker said, that often don't comport to the most basic coverage requirements in the Affordable Care Act, like pre-existing conditions. Twelve other states have banned what the governor called "junk insurance."

"Now I know how hard the insurance industry will fight me on this. But let me be perfectly clear: I am willing to spend serious political capital and put my shoulder to the wheel to get this done," he said, after telling the story of a state employee whose insurance denied coverage for open heart surgery.

Pritzker is also proposing spending \$10 million in state funds to buy Illinoisans' past-due medical debt that's been sent to collections. Partnering with national nonprofit RIP Medical Debt, which buys debt for pennies on the dollar on the same market that collections agencies purchase the rights to the debts, the governor said Illinois could "relieve nearly \$1 billion in medical debt for the first cohort of 340,000 Illinoisans."

The governor spent time noting two key places he said Illinois fails its Black citizens: maternal mortality and disproportionate rates of homelessness.

To combat Black maternal mortality rates, Pritzker proposed helping more community-based reproductive health centers to open, citing Illinois' first freestanding nonprofit birthing center in Berwyn as a model.

"Black women in our state are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women," he said.

Pritzker proposed spending an additional \$50 million on the state's "Home Illinois" program launched in 2021, in part to "attack the root causes of housing insecurity for Black Illinoisans." He cited a statistic that Black people make up 61 percent of Illinois' homeless population despite only being 14 percent of the state's general population.


Additionally, the governor proposed a \$1 million pilot program for free diapers for low-income families as well as a \$5 million increased investment in an existing home visit program "for our most vulnerable families" with babies in their first year.

His budget also includes \$12 million to create a child tax credit for families with children under three with incomes below a certain threshold. Though that proposal received applause during the speech, the funding is far below the \$300 million advocates have been pushing for in their own proposal for a child tax credit.

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## OBITUARIES

- Dorothy Anderson, 97, Belvidere, February 22
- Robert "Bobby" Coon, 92, Cherry Val, Feb. 23
- Dollie Cornelius, 93, Belvidere, February 20
- Theodore Grenberg, 98, Belvidere, February 23
- Karen Henegar, 86, Belvidere, February 25
- Eldon Kline, 80, Belvidere, February 21
- Jason Kruckenberg, 57, Capron, February 26
- Spencer Morris, 87, Belvidere, February 16
- Judith Nation, 80, Belvidere, February 25
- Patricia Piskie, 81, Belvidere, February 26
- Patricia Sprecher, 85, Cherry Valley, February 21
- Tommie "Tom" Spurlin, 78, Poplar Gr., Feb. 23
- Elmer "Bob" Vickery, 74, Harvard, February 21
- Karen Wiles, 87, Cherry Valley, February 22



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Publisher/Editor	David C. Larson
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Photography	Susan Moran

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

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**THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL**

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# THE STATEHOUSE ROUNDUP

## Analysis

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Among the successes Pritzker pointed to on Wednesday, perhaps the most salient is his claim that Illinois' new "Smart Start" early childhood program – proposed last year in the governor's second inaugural address – had exceeded its first-year goals.

The program aimed to create 5,000 new preschool seats last year, but ended up creating 5,823, Pritzker said – a 15 percent overperformance.

"As a result, right now we have over 82,000 publicly-funded preschool classroom seats – the highest number in our state's history," Pritzker said. "Staying on the Smart Start plan, we will achieve universal preschool by 2027."

Echoing his 2022 election-year call for a temporary pause on the state's 1 percent tax on groceries, Pritzker on Wednesday proposed nixing the grocery tax altogether.

"It's one more regressive tax we just don't need," he said. "If it reduces inflation for families from 4 percent to 3 percent, even if it only puts a few hundred bucks back in families' pockets, it's the right thing to do."

But local governments, which receive that grocery tax money, were sharply critical of the plan.

### Fiscal focus

Even while proposing a series of progressive expenditures, the governor also sought to cast himself as a pragmatist when it comes to state finances. The state has seen strong revenue performances in the past few years as the nation's post-pandemic economic recovery has surpassed expectations and avoided a recession.

But in November, the governor's own economic forecasting office predicted a nearly \$900 million deficit in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

"Our FY25 budget proposal makes some hard choices," Pritzker said Wednesday. "I wish we had big surpluses to work with this year to take on every one of the very real challenges we face."

The governor stressed that the state treated federal COVID-era stimulus money as "one-time revenue" instead of windfalls that were built into year-over-year spending. As a result "we are not facing the budgetary challenges that other big states are this year," he said. Pritzker noted that California is facing a deficit in the tens of billions of dollars.

Illinois' once-paltry "rainy day" fund now has \$2 billion socked away, the governor noted, and the state has paid off high-interest debt during his five years in office.

To mitigate Illinois' previously projected deficit, Pritzker is proposing to more than double the tax rate paid by sportsbooks on profits – a change that would bring in an estimated \$200 million annually. He also proposed extending an existing cap on operating losses that businesses can claim on taxes, which could help generate more than \$500 million, the governor's office claims.

Another revenue generator proposed by the governor: raising \$101 million by capping a sales tax credit retailers are allowed to claim. But business groups on Wednesday signaled they'd put up a fight.

In his first few months in office in 2019, Pritzker used his fresh political capital to muscle a \$15 minimum wage ramp through the legislature – a long-fought-for progressive policy goal – followed closely by a trip to New York City to meet with executives at the influential big three

## Vella Praises Governor's Address Calling for a Balanced Approach

State Rep. Dave Vella, D-Rockford, issued the following statement Wednesday after Gov. J.B. Pritzker gave his annual budget address:

"As we begin budget discussions, we have to take a balanced approach that prioritizes our schools, public safety and essential services that residents of all ages depend on. In recent years, Illinois has chosen a more responsible budget path that has better respected taxpayers, secured multiple credit rating upgrades and strengthened our ability to handle challenges facing working families. We have to build on this, and continue to invest in our infrastructure and economic development that will help our community for years to come. I look forward to engaging area stakeholders and will closely review the governor's proposal."

credit ratings agencies.

When Pritzker took office, Illinois' credit ratings were hovering around "junk" status after a two-year budget impasse under his predecessor, Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner. And though Illinois suffered a final credit downgrade in the early months of COVID, the state has since received nine upgrades.

The governor on Wednesday held those upgrades in high regard.

"My one line in the sand is that I will only sign a budget that is responsibly balanced and that does not diminish or derail the improving credit standing we have achieved for the last five years," he said.

Even after those nine upgrades, Illinois' credit ratings are still among the lowest in the nation due to decades of downgrades that preceded the budget impasse. Credit rating agencies consistently cite Illinois' long-term unfunded pension liabilities as one driving factor.

To that end, on Wednesday Pritzker proposed changing a pension payment "ramp" put in place in the mid-1990s. Under the so-called "Edgar ramp," named after former GOP Gov. Jim Edgar, Illinois has been on a path to fund its five state pension systems 90 percent by 2045.

But Pritzker believes it's more fiscally prudent to aim for 100 percent funding in the systems by 2048. The administration also suggested redirecting money currently paying down old debt to pensions once the debts are retired in the next decade.

Less than two hours after his speech, one bond house signaled its approval.

"Importantly, the pension proposals are long-

## Syverson Says Pritzker is Asks for Higher Taxes to Pay for Fiscal Crisis He Created

State Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley) says Gov. JB Pritzker is asking Illinoisans for an extra \$1.1 billion in taxes in the coming year to help pay for a fiscal crisis of his own making – supporting thousands of noncitizens the Governor invited to Illinois.

Pritzker delivered his annual State of the State/Budget Address to a joint session of legislators Feb. 21 in the House of Representatives.

"The Governor has proposed a record-breaking \$53 billion budget that requires another \$1.1 billion in new taxes, which is not so coincidentally the amount of costs associated with the huge influx of noncitizens to Illinois," Syverson said. "The Governor continues to focus on free healthcare, housing, and social services for noncitizens. That is wrong. Our priority should be Illinois families."

Sen. Syverson says programs for noncitizens are growing at unsustainable levels.

term in nature with the biggest changes coming in 2030 and later," said a statement from Eric Kim, head of state government ratings at Fitch Ratings, noting the plan "could help reduce risks associated with the state's pension obligations and improve credit quality."

Pritzker, who used his inherited wealth to build venture capital businesses before running for governor, has also styled himself as an executive who welcomes businesses and fosters new and emerging technologies.

After signing a major renewable energy law in 2021, Pritzker set his sights on making Illinois a hub for electric vehicle manufacturing. Once every few months he makes public announcements with tech industry leaders in one of his pet project areas that's earmarked for about \$500 million in funding from the state's infrastructure budget: quantum computing.

On Wednesday, the governor also nodded to a data center tax credit he signed during his first year in office with Republican support.

"Thanks to our bipartisan tax credit legislation, Illinois is now the world's fourth largest data center market," he said, also noting the state set records for film and TV production revenue, as well as hotel industry revenue in fiscal year 2023.

Though Republicans and the business

*Continued on page 5*



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## Congressman Foster

Press Releases

### Foster Earns “A” Rating for Fighting to Get Big Money Out of Politics, Protect the Right to Vote

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) released the following statement after earning an “A” on the 2024 End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund legislative scorecard, which grades Members of Congress on their support for voting rights and anti-corruption measures Congress has considered in the past year and a half.

“I am proud to receive an ‘A’ on the End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund legislative scorecard,” said Congressman Foster. “We have a responsibility to safeguard American democracy for future generations and that means protecting the right to vote, cracking down on corruption, bolstering ethics rules, and finally ending the era of special interest money in our politics.”

“Congressman Bill Foster has been a leader in the fight to safeguard our democracy, expand voting rights, and get Big Money out of our politics to ensure that the voices of the American people are heard in Congress,” said End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund President Tiffany Muller. “Congressman Foster’s strong record on these critical issues has earned him an ‘A’ on our 2024 legislative scorecard and we look forward to continuing to work with him to pass these reforms into law.”

### Foster Introduces Legislation to Simplify Tax Filing

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced the Autofill Act. This legislation would create a voluntary tax filing program to allow individuals to use a secure IRS website to download a tax form automatically populated with information the IRS already collects from employers, the Social Security Administration, and financial institutions. The information from the populated tax forms would be available as both a printable document and a computer-readable file compatible with existing tax preparation software. It would be the next step in convenience for the IRS Free-File System, and would be available at all income levels.

“Our tax code is complicated enough – we ought to make it easier for taxpayers to access the information the IRS already has on file,” said Foster. “This common-sense solution would help bring our tax filing process into the 21st century and save millions of Americans time and money.”

This legislation is cosponsored by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).

### Foster Named to House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) issued the following statement after being appointed to the bipartisan House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence:

“It’s an honor to be appointed to the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence. As a PhD physicist who first programmed neural networks at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in the 1990s, I’ve been tracking the exponential growth of this technology for decades – and the time is ripe for Congress to take action.

“I’m looking forward to building on the work we did in the last Congress when I served as Chair of the Financial Services Committee’s Artificial Intelligence Task Force. The proliferation of AI in recent years has made it clear that it will impact every aspect of our society – from identity security to workforce development and beyond. We need to ensure our nation is able to both harness the potential of AI and protect against any dangers it might pose.

“I’m grateful to Leader Jeffries for bringing this issue to the forefront of the Congressional agenda, and I’m ready to get to work with my colleagues to forge a bipartisan path forward on meaningful AI policy,” said Congressman Foster.

“I am thrilled to have Bill Foster on board because of the deep technical competence he brings to the wide spectrum of areas that will be touched by AI,” said Congressman Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Chair of the Task Force. “I also appreciate Bill’s thoughtful and bipartisan approach to the issues we worked together on as Chair and Ranking Member of the Science Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee during the last Congress.”

## Budget

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When including a proposed \$1.2 billion supplemental spending plan for the current year, next year’s budget proposal would spend about \$750 million more than the current year.

### Revenue changes

Pritzker’s spending plan calls for a total of about \$1 billion in revenue he proposes generating in the upcoming fiscal year through changes in the tax code or state operations.

That includes \$526 million by extending a cap on the amount of net operating losses that corporations can claim on taxes. Lawmakers created a \$100,000 cap on such deductions in 2020, but it was set to expire in the 2025 tax year.

The proposal seeks to extend it while expanding the claimable losses to \$500,000. The governor’s office estimated that over 90 percent of losses claimed by corporations will not be impacted.

Another major change would increase the sports gambling tax to 35 percent from 15 percent. That tax is applied to the total profits collected by sportsbooks and will bring in about \$200 million, according to the governor’s office.

Since sports gambling revenues were originally earmarked for infrastructure projects, the governor’s office proposes dedicating the first 15 percent for that purpose while allocating the rest to the general revenue fund.

Other revenue changes include raising \$101 million by capping a sales tax credit retailers are allowed to claim. Retailers receive a discount of 1.75 percent of the sales tax they collect as reimbursement for their efforts in collecting them. The governor’s change would allow retailers to claim a maximum of \$1,000 per month. The change would generate another \$85 million for local governments as well.

That proposal drew rebuke from groups such as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

The governor’s office also proposed freeing up another \$175 million in the general revenue fund by transferring some payments to public transit agencies to the road fund, which is separate from the state’s main discretionary spending account.

Since the road fund generally goes to infrastructure projects, that proposal was especially panned by the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, which is made up of several union, infrastructure and business groups.

The governor also proposed permanently eliminating the state’s 1 percent grocery tax. His office didn’t give further details, but when a one-year reprieve from the tax was passed in 2022, the state estimated it would save Illinois shoppers about \$400 million. Because local governments receive those tax revenues, the state reimbursed them over two fiscal years. But neither the governor nor any budget documents outlined such a plan Wednesday.

This year’s budget proposal leaves in place a statutory inflationary increase to the state’s standard deduction for the 2024 tax year but limits its increase. According to budget documents, the standard deduction – a specific dollar amount used to reduce a taxpayer’s adjusted gross income – will be capped at \$2,550 as proposed by the governor. Capping the inflationary growth at one year instead of two would create \$93 million in revenue, according to budget documents.

Republicans generally criticized the budget for relying on the revenue proposals which are not yet

contained in law, criticizing the governor for taxing businesses to provide the revenues for his new spending proposals.

### Education, human services funding

As he has done in previous years, Pritzker called for sizeable increases in education funding. But those proposed increases are substantially smaller than many advocates had hoped.

“Every single year I have been governor, we have increased our investments in education, because a quality education is the foundation of a good life and the cornerstone of a strong society,” Pritzker said.

For Pre-K-12 education, Pritzker proposed a roughly \$450 million increase, or about 4.3 percent above current year spending. That’s about \$200 million less than the Illinois State Board of Education had requested.

Read more: State education board to seek \$653M increase in upcoming budget year

Included in Pritzker’s plan is a \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding, a program enacted in 2017 that adds new state money each year to the funding formula, focusing that money on the districts that need it most.

His plan also includes an additional \$150 million to fund the second year of his “Smart Start Illinois” initiative to expand access to early childhood education. That program helped add more than 5,800 preschool seats in Illinois in its first year, with a goal of increasing by 20,000 over four years.

The budget proposal also includes an additional \$10 million for career and technical education programs, as well as \$13 million to fund a new state agency for early childhood department.

Noticeably absent from his proposal, however, is the \$35 million that ISBE had requested for educational programs that target new migrant students and their families who have been arriving in Illinois.

For higher education, Pritzker’s proposed budget calls for a 2 percent increase, or \$30.6 million, in operating expenses for public universities and community colleges, significantly less than the 5 percent increase the Illinois Board of Higher Education had requested.

Pritzker also proposed a \$10 million increase in the Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, the state’s basic needs-based financial aid program. That would bring the total amount available under that program to \$711 million. IBHE had requested a \$50 million increase.

Funding for homeless prevention programs would grow to \$250 million under the plan, a \$50 million increase. Funding for the state’s Department of Children and Family Services is slated to increase by \$76 million, a sum that will allow the department hire an additional 392 positions aimed at reducing caseloads.

### Migrant, noncitizen programs

Pritzker had previously said he would ask lawmakers to dedicate \$182 million to address the influx of migrants from border states, particularly Texas. That sum was included in his proposal.

“I won’t pretend any of this is easy, but it would be irresponsible to do anything but come here, lay out the scope of the challenge, tell you what I think we need to do, and then work with you to make it happen,” Pritzker said of the state’s migrant response.

The governor’s office is proposing to cut \$110 million in general revenue funding for a pair of health care programs for noncitizens that became a lightning rod last year amid quickly rising costs. But when combined with other funding sources, including a \$100 million federal match for emergency services, the total grows to \$629 million, outpacing last year’s general revenue allocation of \$550 million.

The Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors and Adults programs provide state-funded health care to low-income noncitizens who are in Illinois without legal permission or who have green cards and are on a waiting period. That group is separate from many of the migrants being flown or bused to Illinois from

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## Budget

from page 4

Texas. Individuals seeking asylum in the U.S. more likely qualify for other preexisting state or federal benefits.

Amid controversy last year as cost estimates continued to rise, lawmakers allocated \$550 million in general revenue to the programs and gave Pritzker the authority to cap enrollment and put other cost-saving measures in place, including copays.

Read more: Copays take effect for immigrant health programs as cost estimates continue to decline

The Healthy Illinois Coalition – a group of health care and immigrant advocates – issued a statement applauding the funding proposal.

“We recognize the real fiscal challenges facing the state, but urge both the General Assembly and the governor to pass a FY25 budget that fully funds the existing HBIA and HBIS programs as they currently exist in statute, with no caps and no copays,” Healthy Illinois Campaign Director Tovia Siegel said in a statement.

The programs remain a contention for Republicans including Senate Minority Leader John Curran, of Downers Grove, who referred to Pritzker’s policies as making Illinois a “noncitizen welfare state.”

In December, the state’s Department of Healthcare and Family Services, which oversees the programs, projected their total cost for the current year – including revenues outside of the general revenue fund – at about \$773 million. That estimate, however, had been on a general downward trajectory over several months.

### Pension changes

The spending plan includes fully funding the state’s \$10.1 billion required pension payment in the upcoming fiscal year. But the governor also proposed altering the state’s so-called “pension ramp” in a way his administration hopes will be viewed positively by credit ratings agencies.

The proposal includes increasing the target funding percentage for pension funds to 100 percent, up from 90 percent, while adding another three years for the ramp to reach that point. The fully funded goal would be moved to fiscal year 2048, from FY 2045.

It would also call for increasing pension payments in 2030 and 2033 when outstanding general obligation debts are retired.

Eric Kim, head of state government ratings at Fitch Ratings, issued a statement Wednesday noting the plan “could help reduce risks associated with the state’s pension obligations and improve credit quality.”

“Ultimately, any rating implications will be based on Fitch’s review of the enacted budget and any related legislation, which could look materially different than the Governor’s proposals,” he said in the statement.

## Analysis

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community have deemed Illinois overregulated and stifling to industry, Pritzker has been pushing to change that narrative.

“In fact, on average, a new business moved to Illinois or expanded here every single day last year,” he said Wednesday.

### Migrants and a national lens

The governor rose to Democratic political prominence during the early months of COVID-19 as a foil to Trump’s response to the pandemic. But with a president of the same party occupying the White House, Pritzker has walked a fine line criticizing Joe Biden’s response to a different national issue: an influx of migrants from the southern border.

Pritzker, a leading Biden surrogate who fought to bring this summer’s Democratic National Convention to Chicago, has repeatedly called on the White House to be more involved in coordinating migrants and make the asylum and work permitting application process easier and less costly.

He’s also taken on an adversarial role to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, the progressive elected to the office last year, showing public frustration with Johnson’s disorganized response to the thousands of migrants bused in from Texas.

In November, Pritzker made state funding available for a 2,000-bed shelter in the city – something that has yet to come to fruition.

And last week, Pritzker – alongside Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle – bypassed the mayor in announcing a joint \$250 million funding plan aimed at keeping shelters open through the end of 2024.

The governor, who’d been discussed by national media as a potential presidential candidate in 2024 – and is still mentioned as an option for 2028 – broadened the scope of his speech Wednesday to national politics when talking about the state’s migrant response.

Pritzker called out congressional Republicans who suddenly walked away from negotiations on federal immigration reform earlier this month, accusing the GOP of backing out “because Donald Trump told them to, and they’re afraid of him.”

He further criticized Republicans who “find it hard to put country over party” and predicted GOP members would be “looking for a microphone” after his speech “so they can start yelling about sanctuary cities and immigrants taking our tax dollars.”

And he urged the press to ask those same GOP members whether they supported the federal immigration bill before Trump tanked its chances.

“We don’t have any clear idea how long Governor Abbott intends to hold the nation hostage, but his political stunt will eventually come to an end,” Pritzker said, mentioning a \$5 million set-aside in his budget proposal to plan for shelter conversions when the flow of migrants finally does slow.

The governor ended the migrant-focused portion of his speech with a challenge to legislative leaders who’ll spend the next few months crafting a budget.

“I won’t pretend any of this is easy, but it would be irresponsible to do anything but come here, lay out the scope of the challenge, tell you what I think we need to do, and then work with you to make it happen,” he said.

*Andrew Adams contributed.*

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

## Ahead of Pritzker’s Budget GOP Pressures Of Last Year Intensify

*Noncitizen health care costs derailed bipartisan budget hopes in Senate last year*

*By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

Republicans in the Illinois Senate indicated Tuesday that their sticking point for budget negotiations this year will be the same as it was last year – state spending on programs for noncitizens and recent arrivals from the country’s southern border.

In what’s been a rarity over the past five years, Senate Republicans were in on budget negotiations with their Democratic counterparts last year until the legislative session neared its end. But when the final budget bill materialized in the waning days of May, no Republican supported it.

One of the main reasons given was that the budget contained hundreds of millions of dollars in

spending for state-funded health care programs for noncitizens, while a \$75 million tax credit program for private school scholarship donors was allowed to expire.

“We need a budget that prioritizes Illinois citizens,” Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, said when asked what would have to change this year for the budget to receive Republican votes.

Because Democrats hold supermajorities in both the House and Senate, Republican votes aren’t necessarily needed to pass a new spending plan.

Still, Curran said he’d like to engage with Democrats to the same extent his caucus did during his first year as its leader.

“Ultimately, at the end of the day, we were not able to come to an agreement with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle but we came close and we’re going to continue that process,” he added.

But many of the realities that derailed a bipartisan budget last year remain in place and have become even more critical.

Illinois’ current-year budget includes \$550 million in state-funded health care to low-income noncitizens who are in Illinois without legal permission or who have green cards and are on a waiting period. That group is separate from many of the migrants being flown or bused to Illinois from Texas – if the individuals are seeking asylum in the U.S., they more likely qualify for other preexisting state or federal benefits.

To date, more than 40,000 migrants have been relocated to the Chicago area from Texas, although some have moved on from Illinois. As of Tuesday, the city of Chicago counted 12,478 migrants in shelters and 16 awaiting placement.

Pritzker last week announced he’d propose spending another \$182 million in state money to address the influx of migrants. That’s in addition to about \$660 million the governor’s office has calculated it has already allocated to emergency services related to migrants.

In total, the noncitizen health care funding, combined with Pritzker’s estimates for migrant response spending, equates to about 3 percent of the state’s \$50.4 billion current-year general revenue budget.

S&P Global Ratings – one of the nation’s three major credit rating agencies – issued a report last week stating that “If this issue remains significant enough for long enough, the increase in costs and social service requirements could affect states’ and local governments’ credit quality.”

The state’s nine credit ratings upgrades during Pritzker’s tenure have been a frequent point of pride for the governor. He has also frequently touted increased funding for K-12 education, Illinois State Police operations, early childhood education, higher education, general human services funding and more. His budget proposals have grown from allocating about \$39 billion in his first year in office to more than \$50 billion for the current year.

But in November, Pritzker’s budgeting office projected a revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2025 at \$891 million unless the state controls spending or increases revenues. That’s accompanied by a current-year projected budget surplus of \$1.4 billion, however, which could create leeway for the fiscal year that begins July 1 – although the budget office also identified another \$969 million in “spending pressures.”

Pritzker’s set to balance those funding pressures with other spending asks from some Democratic lawmakers that include pushes for a new \$300 child tax credit, as well as additional funding for existing programs addressing early childhood education, homelessness, food insecurity and more.

In a Feb. 8 news conference at the Capitol, House Republican leader Tony McCombie, of Savanna, laid out her caucus’ priorities. They included fully funding education and pensions, opposing new taxes, reducing the estate tax and restoring an inflationary adjustment to the state’s standard

*Continued on Page 8*





Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning at 5/8" iron pin in the Southerly line of a public road designated as Logan Avenue, 68.14 rods Easterly of the intersection of the West line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 36 with the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, as measured along the Southerly line of Logan Avenue, said point also being the Northwest corner of the premises conveyed by Eduardo Cabello, Jr. and Mary Sue Cabello to John C. Woodruff by Warranty Deed recorded March 1, 1994 as Document No. 1994R01813 in Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois; thence South 74 degrees 18 minutes 55 seconds East along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, a distance of 65.95 feet; thence South 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds West, a distance of 2.21 feet; thence North 74 degrees 01 minutes 01 seconds West, a distance of 65.95 feet to a point in the West line of said premises so conveyed; thence North 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds East along the West line of said premises so conveyed, a distance of 1.87 feet to the point of beginning. FURTHER EXCEPTING a parcel of land being part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36 Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing at a 5/8" iron pin in the Southerly line of a public road designated as Logan Avenue, 68.14 rods Easterly of the intersection of the West line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 36 with the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, as measured along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, said point also being the Northwest corner of the premises conveyed by Eduardo Cabello, Jr. and Mary Sue Cabello to John C. Woodruff by Warranty Deed recorded March 1, 1994 as Document No. 1994R01813 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois; thence South 74 degrees 18 minutes 55 seconds East along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, a distance of 65.95 feet to the point of beginning for the hereinafter described parcel of land; thence South 74 degrees 18 minutes 55 seconds East along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, a distance of 66.29 feet to the Northeast corner of said premises conveyed by Eduardo Cabello, Jr. and Mary Sue Cabello to John C. Woodruff; thence South 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds West along the East line of said premises so conveyed; a distance of 2.56 feet; thence North 74 degrees 01 minutes 01 seconds West, a distance of 66.28 feet; thence North 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds East along the West line of said premises so conveyed a distance of 2.21 feet the point of beginning; all being situated in the City of Belvidere, County of Boone and State of Illinois.

COMMON ADDRESSES: 1007 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 and 1011 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

PINS: 05-36-206-061 (1007 Logan Avenue) and 05-36-206-062 (1011 Logan Avenue)

And for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, the said above-named Defendants, file your Answer to the Complaint of said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse in the City of Belvidere, Illinois, on or before the 30th day of March 2024, default may be entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Pamela Coduto, Circuit Clerk of the Circuit Court, 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois

PREPARED BY:

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jallen@aghlaw.com

Cassandra M. Crandall ARDC 6335736

ccrandall@aghlaw.com

ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC

839 N. Perryville Rd. Suite 200

Rockford, Illinois 61107

PH: (815) 265-6464

FAX: (815) 321-4242

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, March 7, 14, 2024

2024 Election Results

The 2024 election of Directors for the Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District Board was a general election held Wednesday February 14, 2024 at the District Office. Todd Aves, Aaron Brahmstedt, and Jack Ratcliffe were elected for two year terms and will take office on the first Monday in March.

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the 2024 ADA Ramp & 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement program in Belvidere, IL will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 9:00 AM local time, on Thursday, March 14, 2024 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained, by any qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the 2024 Tree Work Program in Belvidere, Illinois will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 9:00 AM local time, on Thursday, March 14, 2024 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained, by any qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any technicalities.

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the 2024 Mowing Program of Water Department and Public Works Sites in Belvidere, Illinois will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 9:00 AM local time, on Thursday, March 14, 2024 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained, by any qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any technicalities.

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the 2024 Landscape Maintenance of various City facilities in the City of Belvidere will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 9:00 A.M. local time on Thursday, March 14, 2024 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained, by any qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY

DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT): VANAH CARNAGIO

Case No. 2024-MR-4

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: VANAH CARNAGIO to the new name of VANAH SERRANO. The court date will be held on March 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3

Published in the Boone County Journal - 02/29, 03/07, 03/14 (P)



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

No. DBA4185 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RACECARS business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MAX KAHLER RACING that its location is or will be 1013 IL ROUTE 173, in Caledonia, 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: 815-701-6990  
Maximilian Richard Kahler, 1013 IL Route 173, Caledonia, Illinois 61011

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: February 14, 2024

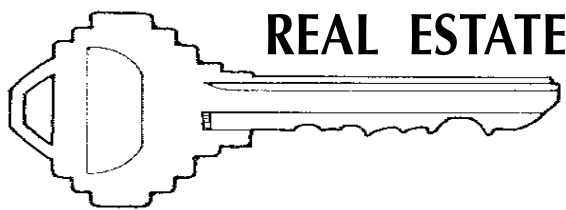
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 2/22, 2/29, 3/7 - P

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

No. DBA4186 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ALWAYS GREAT LANDSCAPING that its location is or will be 3040 Popsie 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: 815-566-9379  
Rigoberto Rico, 3040 Popsie Drive, 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: February 22, 2024

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 2/29, 3/7, 3/14 - P



IN THE COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff, -v.- 23 FC 66

JEREMY OWEN, Defendants.

11669 Russellville Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 1/3/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 1:00 PM on 4/10/2024 located at 601 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 11669 Russellville Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Property Index No. 06-04-100-008

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$351,778.63

Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC, No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(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.

For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-16194IL.

Auction.com LLC  
100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985

You can also visit www.auction.com.

Attorney File No. 23-16194IL

Case Number: 23 FC 66

NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

6088-940108

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 29, March 7, 14, 2024 SW

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

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

-v.- 2023 FC 73

BERNARD W. SPENCER et al Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 25, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 153 COLUMBIA ST NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-352-007

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 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 admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

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.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100

BURR RIDGE IL, 60527

630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-23-06055

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2023 FC 73

TJSC#: 43-4549

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 # 2023 FC 73

13238653

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 22, 29, March 7

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**GOP** from page 5

exemption that was temporarily paused last year.

Like the Senate GOP, one of McCombie's priorities included "prioritizing services for Illinois citizens."

"Number one, President Biden, secure the border," she said when asked about the state's migrant response. "That's number one. And now we have to put a moratorium on asylum seekers coming to Illinois. We - okay, they're here. We have to take care of what is here today. But we do not have the services that can accommodate this influx of folks coming here."

Pritzker can't control the flow of migrants from Texas - that state's governor, Republican Greg Abbott, has stated he would relocate individuals who cross the border to "welcoming" or "sanctuary" states.

But Senate Republicans on Tuesday said Pritzker should change his tone.

"Stop the invitation," Curran said. "Roll back the policies that have created the noncitizen welfare state, move away from your national stage presence trying to proclaim Illinois to be the most welcoming state in the nation."

Pritzker, however, says he views the state's response as a humanitarian issue.

"With thousands of asylum seekers continuing to come to Chicago in desperate need of support and with Congress continuing to refuse to act - it is clear the state, county, and city will have to do more to keep people safe," Pritzker said in a statement last week.

**New database**

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza's office launched a new portal on Tuesday to track spending related to asylum seekers.

While the portal tracked about \$31 million in expenditures related to migrants, Mendoza's office noted "state spending that helps homeless or other populations that could benefit migrants may not

be included, so this should not be considered an exhaustive list of all the help the state provides asylum-seekers."

The database encompasses spending that occurred since November and "should include all spending directly aimed at these newcomers moving forward as reported by state agencies."

Mendoza echoed Pritzker's and others' concerns about the federal government failing to adequately support states who are receiving migrants.

**White Sox stadium**

Chicago White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf was at the Capitol Tuesday to meet with the state's four legislative leaders - including Curran.

The Senate minority leader, however, wouldn't comment on Reinsdorf's supposed \$1 billion request for state tax policy changes to help fund a new White Sox stadium in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood. The plan was first detailed by Crain's Chicago Business.

"I have not seen any plan ... a proposal to put

before me," Curran said when asked about the stadium plan before meeting with Reinsdorf later in the day. "I got a meeting later today. I'll probably hear some details at that point. It's hard to comment on something that I don't know what it is."

Other leaders - including Pritzker - had been waiting for a specific proposal before commenting as well.

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

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 <b>KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR</b> PRE. 1970 UP TO \$400+	 <b>BARBER COINS</b> UP TO \$5,000+	 <b>LIBERTY NICKEL</b> UP TO \$4,500+	 <b>WHEAT PENNIES</b> UP TO \$3,500+	 <b>BUFFALO NICKEL</b> UP TO \$4,200+	 <b>U.S. GOLD COINS</b> UP TO \$300,000+	 <b>GOLD COINS FOREIGN</b> UP TO \$300,000+	 <b>.999 FINE PRECIOUS METALS</b>