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## The Huddle

David Larson

Living in Belvidere in the 60s and eating at the Huddle was something special every time one visited. It was a place to gather with family to celebrate a birthday, and it was an exceptional experience to go to a tablecloth restaurant and break bread with adults. It had the ambiance of a steak house or a Wisconsin supper club. The Huddle was a beautiful restaurant run by Bob and Pearl Mason. Pearl Mason is seated on the left in this photo in the Huddle Coffee Shop. The Huddle was upscale, with leather upholstery and maple woodwork. The local newspaper compared it to “a swanky Chicago cocktail lounge.” But that was in the 60s. The story of this storied restaurant, which greeted World War II vets upon their return home, begins about a month before Pearl Harbor.

With a soft opening in October 1941, the business, as seen in this picture began more or less as a hamburger joint with ice cream, in-house ground steak burgers, and curb service. Car hops would run out to your car to take your order, and you could dine there or on the road. Others would go into the dining room, which was called the coffee shop in later years and is featured in this picture.

*continued on page 4*



*The Huddle's coffee shop*

## House Votes to Extend ACA Subsidies

Charles Herbst

The U.S. House of Representatives voted Thursday, January 8 to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies for an additional three years. Without extending these subsidies, Americans covered by the ACA (Obamacare) would experience increases in their health insurance premiums of as much as 100 percent.

The legislation (H.R. 1834) passed 230-196. Seventeen Republican Congressmen joined 213 Republicans to pass the act. The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is certain to be modified before passage.

Locally, Congressmen Bill Foster and Eric Sorensen voted for the extension. Congressman Darin LaHood voted against it.

“Too many families are forced to bankrupt themselves to afford basic health care to keep themselves healthy,” said Congressman Sorensen. “For months, House Republicans left millions of Americans in the lurch wondering if their health insurance premiums were going to skyrocket by refusing to work with Democrats on a solution to address rising costs. I’m proud I was able to help deliver lower health care costs for my neighbors, and I hope the Senate will quickly take up and pass this critical bill to keep health care affordable.”

Congressman Foster said that he “voted yes to

extend Affordable Care Act tax credits and stop health care premiums from skyrocketing for Illinois families. After deliberate inaction from the Republican-controlled Congress, ACA tax credits were allowed to expire at the beginning of this year. Today’s vote was Congress’ last opportunity to pass a clean, three-year extension and reverse these premium increases.

“Republican cuts to the ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid impact everyone, even those who don’t receive health care coverage from those programs. When people lose coverage and go uninsured, they’re more likely to show up to the emergency room. This raises rates for everyone.

“For months, my Democratic colleagues and I have been fighting to extend tax credits, fix our broken health care system, and make life more affordable for people in Illinois. Despite efforts by President Trump and Republican leadership to block action and allow premiums to double or even triple, a few House Republicans joined us to force a vote and pass this bill. It is now up to the Senate to get this legislation to the President’s desk.”

No comments on his no vote were received from Congressman LaHood. On his website, LaHood stated that his “priority is to repeal the damaging components of Obamacare and work towards a patient-centered efficient and effective health care system.” No specific information was provided as to how the Congressman intends to accomplish that goal.

## Despite Mounting Budget Pressure, Graduated Income Tax A Political Longshot

*Gov. JB Pritzker backs the idea in principle but says it's not a 2026 priority*

Brenden Moore      Capitol News Illinois

When a progressive Chicago alderperson scolded Gov. JB Pritzker in November over his opposition to Mayor Brandon Johnson’s failed proposal to tax large corporations \$21 per employee, Illinois’ billionaire chief executive was quick with a retort defending his progressive bona fides.

“What we need is a progressive income tax, a graduated income tax in this state,” Pritzker told Chicago Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez, a democratic socialist who confronted him following a Veterans Day commemoration in Little Village. “You know that I’ve worked very hard to get that passed.”

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Alan Anderson, 69, Belvidere, December 31  
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Helen Huftalin, 96, Belvidere, January 7  
Melba Koch, 75, Belvidere, January 5  
Larry Layman, 89, Harvard, January 5  
Donna Loomis, 71, Poplar Grove, January 6  
Kevin Rangel, 28, Harvard, December 31  
Walter "Walt" Schearer, 83, Poplar Grove, Jan 2  
Myron "Jay" Smith, 78, Formerly of Belvidere, Dec 16  
Mary Swanson, 69, Belvidere, December 31  
Joyce Wagner, 71, Harvard, January 7  
John Young, 65, Formerly of Belvidere, Dec. 31



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**Guest columns.** Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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# Foster Votes to Protect American Science From Trump Administration Cuts

## Press Release

U.S. Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) has issued the following statement after he voted in favor of the FY 2026 appropriations minibus, which passed the House:

"This funding package reflects the hard work of Democrats to push back against the Trump Administration's repeated attacks on American science. While the Administration proposed devastating cuts that would have undermined our national labs, hollowed out basic research, and weakened our global competitiveness, this agreement protects core investments in agencies like the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. These programs support the fundamental research that drives innovation, strengthens our economy, and keeps the United States secure.

"As Congress's only PhD physicist, I will continue fighting to ensure our scientists have the support they need to keep America at the forefront of discovery."

## FY 2026 Minibus Science Funding Highlights

### • Department of Energy – Office of Science:

The bill provides \$8.4 billion for the DOE Office of Science, rejecting the deep cuts proposed by the Trump Administration and making it the only major DOE research office to receive an increase relative to prior enacted levels. The Office of Science supports basic research at national laboratories across the country, including Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois' 11th Congressional District.

### • National Science Foundation (NSF):

The minibus includes \$8.76 billion for NSF — far above the Trump Administration's proposed \$3.9 billion request. The bill also includes new guardrails to prevent disproportionate cuts to individual NSF directorates, helping protect merit-reviewed, fundamental research from political

interference.

• National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):

Funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is preserved, including full support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps small and mid-sized manufacturers modernize operations, strengthen supply chains, and create jobs.

# Bailey Proposes 'Illinois DOGE' as Republican Governor's Race Focuses on Spending

New poll shows Bailey holds commanding lead in four-person primary

Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

President Donald Trump's and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency disbanded less than a year into Trump's second term and appeared to have caused more chaos than actual savings to the federal government.

But Illinois Republican candidate for governor Darren Bailey says a DOGE-like system can achieve savings and efficiencies in Illinois' budget.

"It needs to be broken down," Bailey told reporters at a news conference at the Statehouse Thursday in Springfield. "It needs to be audited. It needs to be opened up so that people know where the money's coming from. I am very confident there are going to be a lot of waste discovery in that."

Bailey also announced a plan to address cost-of-living issues and other areas that relies on DOGE-style governing to achieve results. The commission under a Bailey governorship would be led by his running mate, Aaron Del Mar.

Bailey and Del Mar did not specify any cuts they've already identified but stressed it would not be a tool to lay off large numbers of state employees or make cuts based on partisan politics — a difference from Trump's and Musk's approach.

"We're not going in here with a chainsaw,"

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## Bailey

from page 2

Del Mar said. "We're going in here with an X-Ac-to knife. We are doing this as a purely public policy effort. This is not politically driven."

Musk waived a chainsaw on stage at a conservative event last year, symbolizing his wide-ranging approach to government cuts. He later had a falling out with Trump and left government service.

Bailey and Del Mar suggested numerous state boards and commissions deserve more scrutiny, and any jobs or services that are duplicative could be consolidated.

A spokesperson for Gov. JB Pritzker said he doesn't trust the Bailey campaign's approach.

"He echoes Trump's lies, copies Trump's dangerous ideas, and wants to bring Trump's chaos to Illinois," Alex Gough said in an email. "Make no mistake: Bailey is running with Trump, embracing the same dysfunction and broken promises that have repeatedly failed working families."

Bailey said he is not concerned about naming something "DOGE" after the scrutiny the program received in the Trump administration.

"People understand what it means," Bailey said. "They're going to have to get over the federal situation and we're going to understand we have our own problems in Illinois. I am my own person, and I have proven that, regardless of who I like, who I support."

Bailey received Trump's endorsement during his unsuccessful 2022 campaign and said on Thursday he is willing to accept it again.

### Bailey's priorities

Beyond the DOGE plan, the former state legislator from Clay County is proposing a series of initiatives he hopes will address affordability.

Topping that list is utility prices, which have increased substantially throughout the state. Bailey said he would repeal the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that many Republicans blame for rising prices and dwindling supply. He also wants to require independent audits of major utility contracts.

Bailey said he would cap annual property tax rates to not exceed a person's mortgage rate. In response, he said the state would do more to fund education but did not elaborate on how much he would increase spending for public schools to help them rely less on property taxes.

"Classrooms should focus on education, not political agendas," Del Mar said. "The blueprint prioritizes strong instruction in reading, writing, math, science and civics. It supports parental involvement."

### Child care spending

The Trump administration has already tried slashing some spending in Illinois. Most recently on Tuesday, the federal government cut off what Pritzker's office estimates is \$1 billion in federal aid for child care and other family assistance programs to Illinois. The Trump administration claimed without evidence that the freeze was in response to "widespread fraud and misuse of taxpayer dollars" in Illinois and four other Democrat-led states.

"I think it's fair for any administration to demand

accountability," Bailey said when asked whether he agrees with the administration's decision.

One of Bailey's opponents, conservative researcher Ted Dabrowski, is also trying to score political points on the Trump administration's claims and a fraud scandal in Minnesota's human services programs.

Dabrowski held a news conference in Chicago on Tuesday warning massive spending on child care programs in Illinois could be a sign of fraud like Minnesota. But he acknowledged he had no evidence there had been any wrongdoing in Illinois. He suggested there should be audits to see why child care spending has grown in Illinois in recent years.

Funding child care and preschool programs throughout Illinois has been one of Pritzker's top priorities during his second term and he has included several spending increases for the programs in recent budgets. He took office in the wake of a historic two-year budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly that was accompanied by massive spending cuts to social services.

### First poll of the race

The first poll of the Republican primary for governor by Emerson College was released Thursday by WGN and showed Bailey has a strong lead in the primary.

Bailey received support from 34.4% of voters in the poll of 432 likely GOP primary voters conducted Jan. 3-5. No other candidate cracked 10%, with Dabrowski coming in second at 8.2%.

DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick was at 5.4% and businessman Rick Heidner was at 1.1%. While Bailey holds a strong lead less than a month before early voting begins on Feb. 5 for the March 17 primary, 46.4% of voters were still undecided.

The GOP field was whittled down to four candidates on Thursday after the State Board of Elections ruled Gregg Moore and Joseph Severino did not submit enough valid signatures to remain on the ballot.

The economy was the top issue in the larger poll of 1,000 likely primary voters for 40.4% of respondents followed by health care and threats to democracy, each around 12%.

Pritzker's approval rate is 50.6%, according to the poll.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## Illinois House Speaker Calls Bears Stadium Ask 'Insensitive' Amid Budget Pressures

*Franchise threatened to move to Indiana if Illinois lawmakers don't lend a hand*

**Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois**

Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch said he is hopeful about the Chicago Bears' prospects of victory over the Green Bay Packers in their play-off game on Saturday.

But he likely didn't instill any hope in team officials who are seeking state resources to build a new stadium in Arlington Heights.

"When folks say what's your priority going into the legislative session, we're trying to bring down the cost of living," Welch said at a City Club of Chicago event on Tuesday. "Talking about a brand new Bears stadium when this one's not even 25 years old, that's insensitive to what real people are going through right now."

Welch was addressing questions about the Bears' request for property tax breaks and more than \$800 million in state support for infrastructure upgrades.

Bears president Kevin Warren claimed in a letter to fans last month that the team, which Forbes valued at \$8.2 billion, was "told directly by State leadership,"

*continued on page 5*

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**Huddle**

from page 1

Business was good with a Grand Opening scheduled for November 6, 1941, just a month before Pearl Harbor. By July of 1942, the car hop service was discontinued. A July 11, 1942, story in the *Belvidere Daily Republican* reports that it is “either the weather or the good advertising in this paper which has caused, with great success, the need to discontinue the service to continue to prove the quality food and service Belvidereians had come to expect in the dining room at the Huddle.” “Business was too good,” say the proprietors.” Humorously, the closing paragraph of the news story says: “Considering the advertisement of service in connection with the terrific rush of business that followed, is it necessary to point out there never would have been such a flood of trade if the proprietors had kept the matter secret.”

The Huddle was the invention of two local men, Hilton Jones and Norman Kleber. Jones formerly operated the Standard Oil gas station on North State Street. Kleber owned the NorBar restaurant and bowling alley, now a parking lot across the street from the *Boone County Journal*. Kleber was also a coal dealer on Whitney Blvd, where City Hall is today. The *Journal* did a story last year about Kleber Coal.

Reviewing a Huddle’s Christmas advertisement, dated December 24, 1941, it is clear that the war was on people’s minds. By April 1943, the business was sold to Stanley Wells and Virginia Johnson. In July 1943, Robert Mason of Mason Dairy purchased Wells’ half interest, and Mrs. Pearl Mason and Virginia Johnson ran it together.

Almost immediately, Robert Mason was called up to serve. On the morning of departure by bus, with several men on their way into military service, there was a rally at City Hall on South State Street, now the Fire Station, where all the men were served breakfast. In August of 1944, Mason was known to have traveled to England. His arrival date is unknown, nor whether he arrived in Normandy in early June for the D-Day invasion. In December of 1944, LaVerne Steinke, who had been a cook at the Huddle, was a prisoner of war in Germany. In a letter home, he reported good health and working on a farm as a prisoner of war somewhere in Germany. He had been taken prisoner in Italy in May at Anzio, during combat, serving in an armored division. Steinke’s brother was serving in the South Pacific.

With the return of veterans, the Huddle brought back curb service in 1947 for a short while until business required expanding the building extensively. The Lions Club was formed in Belvidere then and held its meetings at the Huddle, as would the IOU Club and the Working Woman’s Club of Belvidere.

**Tax**

from page 1

Pritzker poured \$58 million into the 2020 campaign advocating for a change in the state constitution to allow for an income tax structure that would charge higher rates for higher levels of income.

For nearly six decades, Illinois’ had a flat income tax that charges one rate each for individuals and corporations regardless of income level. But Illinois voters ultimately rejected the proposal to change it, leaving the tax rate at 4.95% for individuals. It only received 46% support, far below the threshold needed to change the state constitution.

In the years since the flameout, Pritzker and Democrats who control the state legislature have mostly shied away from the cause — all while managing to balance the books under the existing tax structure, largely thanks to a strong economy and federal aid in the years after the pandemic.

There are signs, however, that the state’s chronic fiscal challenges are reemerging and likely to be exacerbated by federal policy changes enacted by the Trump Administration. Despite this, it appears the graduated income tax will also be off the table as a remedy, at least in 2026.

Pritzker, who put the “fair tax” at the center of his 2018 gubernatorial campaign and served as its chief champion during the failed 2020 referendum campaign, told reporters in November that putting the question on the ballot is “not something that’s been a priority for me going into the next session.”

“I think it’s something that is being talked about by members of the General Assembly — we’ll have to see if it gets proposed,” Pritzker said, reiterating his belief that “a graduated system is better than a flat tax system.”

Pritzker is running for reelection in 2026 and is widely viewed as a potential Democratic candidate for president in 2028.

**Renewed push**

While Pritzker isn’t putting it at the top of his agenda, some Democrats in the legislature would like to again place a graduated income tax question before the voters.

State Sen. Rob Martwick, D-Chicago, introduced legislation in both 2023 and 2025.

The first was a lone-wolf effort that did not get called before the 2024 election. But Martwick has 17 co-sponsors on his current resolution. And similar legislation in the House, filed by state Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid, D-Bridgeview, has more than two dozen co-sponsors.

The deadline for lawmakers to pass a resolution to place an amendment on the 2026 ballot is May 3.

“I feel like there is this huge appetite for some sort of restructuring of our tax system to make it less regressive (and) to provide relief to middle and working class

people,” Martwick told Capitol News Illinois.

Republicans and the state’s business community have long opposed the idea. The 2020 initiative was in part torpedoed by a relentless \$60 million ad campaign that was mostly funded by billionaire Ken Griffin, the state’s wealthiest resident at the time.

From a policy perspective, a graduated income tax structure is one of the easiest ways to rectify the state’s chronic structural budget deficit while simultaneously shifting the tax burden to its wealthiest residents, advocates say.

Those points have been reinforced this year amid fallout from President Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which granted significant tax relief to the country’s top earners while slashing social spending that states like Illinois have relied upon to balance their budgets.

According to the governor’s budget office, the state is facing a \$2.2 billion budget deficit next fiscal year — a number that could grow to more than \$5 billion by 2031. The numbers are based on current law, meaning they assume no new spending or tax increases.

Changes enacted in Trump’s signature law — such as a requirement that states spend more on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and reductions to Medicaid — could exacerbate the state’s fiscal issues.

**‘The party’s over’**

When the graduated tax amendment failed in 2020, Pritzker lashed out at Republicans and the business community, declaring state tax policy “at a crossroads” and warning “there will be cuts, and they will be painful.”

But with boosts from federal stimulus funds and increased tax receipts spurred by post-pandemic economic activity, Pritzker and state lawmakers have been able to enact balanced budgets in all but one of his seven years in office, with COVID-impacted 2020 the outlier. And the state has paid off a backlog of bills that had ballooned to more than \$16 billion during the height of a state budget impasse a decade ago.

But that boon is over. The past two years, lawmakers had to enact a series of tax hikes and other revenue enhancements to keep the budget balanced.

“The party’s over,” Ralph Martire, the executive director of the Center of Budget and Tax Accountability, told Capitol News Illinois. “And the party’s over because Illinois’ long-term structural problems in their fiscal policy have never been resolved. So the state’s tax policy doesn’t work in a modern economy.”

Martire’s organization has long advocated for restructuring the state’s tax policy, including broadening the sales tax base to include services like haircuts and lawn care. It has also advocated for a graduated income tax structure.

He argues it is simple math — the state needs to capture revenue in growth areas. And in the decades since Illinois enacted an income tax, income has increased most among the state’s wealthiest residents.

“That’s the textbook way,” Martire said. “The

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ideal thing to do would be to amend the constitution to permit a graduated rate structure. But what you also don't want to do, because there's been some advocates of this, is put that rate structure in your constitution."

Another proposed amendment being floated by former Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn would place a 3% surcharge on income over \$1 million. The tax would raise an estimated \$4.5 billion and be set aside for property tax relief. Quinn's effort comes after 61% of Illinois voters signaled support for the idea when asked in an advisory referendum question on the 2024 ballot.

"We have an upside down tax code right now," Quinn told reporters in November. "We give all kinds of tax breaks to millionaires, and we have higher property tax bills for everyday people, and that's not the way to go if you want to have a fair society that emphasizes home ownership and affordability and also emphasizes the proper way to fund education."

Quinn's populist approach to policymaking has not always been warmly received by state lawmakers, but he insisted that his idea can pass as "it's a little easier to understand the millionaire amendment than the question that was put on the ballot in 2020."

Like the graduated plans already proposed, Quinn's plan would have to receive three-fifths support in the legislature to get on the 2026 ballot.

State Rep. Natalie Manley, D-Joliet, filed legislative language for a millionaire's tax last year. Her proposal, which does not have any cosponsors, differs slightly from Quinn's as revenue raised would be split evenly between property tax relief and education funding.

Lawmakers could also take an approach that wouldn't require a constitutional amendment. This would involve raising the flat income tax rate while also upping refundable tax credits for low- and middle-income taxpayers.

Illinois currently has an earned income tax credit available for people earning up to about \$67,000. The state also offers a child tax credit to those who qualify for the state EITC who have at least one dependent child. Such credits

have been found to stand up to state constitutional muster.

Martwick said that would be "an acceptable Plan B," but thinks "we should always try for the best policy first."

"And I think that would be a constitutional amendment that provides a really good, well thought out, structured plan that allows everyone to contribute and have skin in the game, but in a way that allows everyone to thrive and isn't overburdening one segment over another," Martwick said.

#### Income tax origin

Illinois' first income tax was enacted in 1969. It was championed by Republican Gov. Richard Ogilvie as a way to plug a budget deficit, reduce reliance on sales and local property taxes and to increase funding for education.

Ogilvie originally proposed a flat 3% to be charged across the board. But state lawmakers eventually settled on 2.5% for individuals and 4% for corporations — a compromise forged with Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley in exchange for Democratic votes.

The flat rates were necessary to comply with the uniformity clause of the state's constitution.

When a convention was held in 1970 to create a new constitution, the tax was so new that delegates' focus was enshrining it into the new document — not messing with the rate structure.

As such, delegates adopted language permitting one rate for individuals and one for corporations.

The individual rate hovered between 2.5% and 3% until 2011, when state lawmakers enacted what was billed as a temporary increase to 5% to help fill a budget deficit and pay down overdue bills. The rate reverted to 3.75% in 2015. But it was permanently raised to 4.95% in 2017 when legislative Democrats and a handful of Republicans overrode a veto from then-Gov. Bruce Rauner to end a more than two-year state budget impasse.

The state's corporate tax was temporarily raised from 4.8% to 7% in 2011. It went back down to 5.25% in 2015 before being permanently raised to 7% in 2017. Businesses also pay a 2.5% personal property replacement tax, which makes the effective rate 9.5%.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

## Bears

from page 3

our project will not be a priority in 2026." Welch, a Democrat from west suburban Hillside, did not dispute the claim.

The Bears' current home, Chicago Park District-owned Soldier Field, was rebuilt with state money in 2002. Warren and the Bears say their new project should be a priority for state lawmakers seeking to create jobs and build the state's economy.

Gov. JB Pritzker has said he is open to allocating state funds for infrastructure upgrades to accommodate crowds near the former Arlington Park race course, the team-owned potential development site. But he's so far declined to support direct tax breaks or financial aid for team facilities.

After being shafted by the General Assembly for several years, Warren threatened to explore building the stadium in northwest Indiana. That excited Indiana Republican Gov. Mike Braun, who said he will work with the team.

Some suburban Democrats support helping the Bears relocate to Arlington Heights, but the team faces a math problem in the legislature. Twenty-eight of the 78 House Democrats live in Chicago and several of them have expressed opposition to the team moving out of the city. Welch has adopted a rule for the House Democratic caucus that at least 60 Democrats must support a bill to allow it to move forward.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, isn't prioritizing the Bears in the Senate either.

"President Harmon agrees that we need to stay focused on issues like education and health care and everyday affordability — the things people care about — especially given the economic uncertainties being thrown at us by Washington," Harmon spokesperson John Patterson said in an email.

#### Budget situation

Another hinderance for the Bears is the state budget. Pritzker told lawmakers last year during his annual budget address there was little room for new spending and any lawmaker that wanted money for a new program would have to come up with a corresponding cut.

The fiscal year 2026 budget ultimately increased spending in most areas by less than 1% from the previous year.

State lawmakers will return to Springfield next week to begin the spring legislative session, and the budget picture remains murky. The governor's budget office announced in the fall that the state was on track to run a \$2.2 billion in fiscal year 2027, which begins on July 1.

Amid that landscape, Welch said members of his caucus are not hearing from their constituents about the Bears.

"They're hearing people talk about the cost of prescription drugs, about premiums of their health insurance going up, grocery prices, rent; they're talking about cost of living," Welch said. "I don't know anyone that has knocked on a door and someone has said anything about the Chicago Bears."

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Legal Description: 25-44-4 W 528 OF N 550.5 OF S 930’ 7133 GARDEN PRAIRIE RD

At public sale by taking sealed bids, which shall be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on January 23, 2026, at the School District’s Central Office located at 1201 5th Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008. All bids must be clearly marked on the outside “Property Bid for 7133 Garden Prairie Road”. All bids shall subsequently be opened by the School District at 3:15 p.m. on January 23, 2026, at its Central Office.

The award of a bid, if any, by the School District will be to the bidder that provides the highest bid (and which must exceed the minimum selling price of \$750,000.00) and agrees to comply with all of the terms contained in the Terms and Conditions document on file with the School District’s Superintendent (or her designee). The School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids in its sole discretion. Please note that the real estate is subject to a lease that expires on July 31, 2026.

The completed bid package, including the terms and Conditions document, is on file with and available at the School District’s Central Office, during regular office hours and on the District website (www.district100.com). Arrangements to obtain the bid package and/or to view the property may be made by emailing Jo Ann Armstrong, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, at jarmstrong@district100.com.

Board of Education of  
Belvidere Community Unit School District 100,  
Boone County, Illinois

Holly Houk

Board Clerk

Dated: December 15, 2025

Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 30, Jan 6 and 13, 2026

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

In the Matter of the Estate of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND,  
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND of Belvidere, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 18, 2025, to AMY B. BERTRAND of Belvidere, Illinois, whose attorney is Timothy J. Leake, Allen Galluzzo Hevrin Leake, LLC, 839 North Perryville Road, Suite 200, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before July 6, 2026, that date being at least six (6) month from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court at the Boone County Courthouse, Probate Division, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representatives, or both.

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

AMY B. BERTRAND, Executor for the Estate of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND, Deceased

By: ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC

By: One of their Attorneys

PREPARED BY:

ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC

Timothy J. Leake, ARDC #6277868  
839 North Perryville Road, Suite 200

Rockford, Illinois 61107

(815) 414-5522

Attorneys for the Estate

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 6 13, 20, 2026

To: Dennis J Severson, Brenda S Severson, Timothy Horner, Viviane Severson, Greenview Estates, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX19 FILED: 12/22/2025  
TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-90013

Sold for General Taxes of: 2023

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality):N/A

And Special Assessment Number:N/A

Warrant No. N/A

INST. NUMBER:

N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 50-28-400-209

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the mobile home from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961060

Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: Gladys (Tina) Feulner, Stephanie Feulner, Corey Feulner, Hedi Hayes, Adam Hayes, AMOS A. YODER as RA for Four Seasons Dream Homes, LLC, Four Seasons Dream Homes, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX21 FILED: 12/22/2025

TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-90024

Sold for General Taxes of: 2023

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A

And Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No. N/A

INST. NUMBER:

N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 70-02-200-350

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the mobile home from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961063

Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: Unknown Heirs and/or Devises at Law of CRAIG WOOSLEY, Unknown Heirs and/or Devises at Law of JACQUELINE WOOSLEY, David Woosley, Joshua Woosley, Thema Woosley, Tommy Woosley, Holly Woosley, John Woosley, AMOS A. YODER as RA for Four Seasons Dream Homes, LLC, Four Seasons Dream Homes, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Service, Unknown Occupants of 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX22 FILED: 12/22/2025  
TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-90026

Sold for General Taxes of: 2023

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) :N/A

And Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No. N/A

INST. NUMBER:

N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 70-02-200-371

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the mobile home from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961061

Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: NANCY PATERSON , Oak Lawn Estates, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065

TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX23 FILED: 12/22/2025  
TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-90034

Sold for General Taxes of: 2023

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A

And Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No. N/A

INST. NUMBER:

N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 90-26-300-210

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the mobile home from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961059

Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

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

Rock Valley Credit Union, Plaintiff,

vs. in case no.: 2025FC90

Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants,

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Lot Twenty-one (21) in Block Two (2) as designated upon the Plat of Biester’s Fourth Subdivision of a part of Lot Four (4) of Prospect Hill Subdivision as platted and recorded in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois in Book 4 of Plats on Pages 38 and 39; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, commonly known as 172 Beacon Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, PIN 05-25-429-017, and which said Mortgage was made by Guadalupe Cazares, as mortgagor, to Rock Valley Credit Union, as mortgagee, and recorded July 31, 2014 in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2014R03772; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 on or before February 13, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. ELISA J. WHITMAN, REILLY LAW OFFICES, Attorney for Plaintiff, 6801 Spring Creek Rd. Suite 2D, Rockford, IL 61114 (815) 316-8540. NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA 4259 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESTAURANT business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SAFFRON GARDEN that its location is or will be 116 BUCHANAN ST 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: 630-276-9564

SHARAREH VASSAJI

495 PRAIRIE KNOLL DR

POPLARGROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 6, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 01/13,20,27 - P

## Bears from page 5

No state leader, including Welch on Tuesday, has explicitly ruled out addressing the Bears' concerns this year. But the speaker, who is entering his sixth year leading the House, said this session will be all about "affordability."

Other lawmakers who have chastised the Bears for seeking public money said the state should have other priorities such as increasing funding for public education and social services.

### New budget report

While there's still six months to go in the fiscal year, a report published Tuesday by the independent Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability painted a rosier picture of state finances, at least in the short-term. It found state revenue is up nearly 5%, or \$1.2 billion, through the first six months of FY26 compared to the same period in FY25.

That includes sales tax revenue up 1%, an indicator of consumer confidence in the economy.

Pritzker is scheduled to present his FY27 budget proposal on Feb. 18, which will include new estimates from his office about revenue projects for the current year and a plan to close next year's projected deficit.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Founda-*

Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office in a statement called the move "particularly callous" amid high costs of living, and "tens of thousands of Illinois families" depend on services affected by the freeze.

"We are committed to protecting this critical funding and are evaluating all possible options to do just that," Raoul's office said in a statement.

Pritzker's office said about 100,000 Illinois families, including more than 152,000 children, are served through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program, which receives funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.

The TANF block grant program supports licensed child care providers in every county in Illinois. The funds are used to support the Child Care Assistance Program as well as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' licensing work.

Pritzker's office said the Social Services Block Grant supports 275 organizations in Illinois that provide health and welfare services to children, seniors, people with disabilities, and people facing poverty and food insecurity.

### Feds cite fraud concerns

In its announcement Tuesday, the Department of Health and Human Services said the action was in response to "serious concerns about widespread fraud and misuse of taxpayer dollars in state-administered programs."

The agency also said it had "identified concerns that these benefits intended for American citizens and lawful residents may have been improperly provided to individuals who are not eligible under federal law."

Although HHS cited no specific examples of such fraud and abuse, Minnesota's child welfare system has been the subject of a widespread fraud investigation that has resulted in charges against dozens of individuals and prompted Democratic Gov. Tim Walz to give up his bid for reelection to a third term.

"Families who rely on child care and family assistance programs deserve confidence that these resources are used lawfully and for their intended purpose," Deputy HHS Secretary Jim O'Neill said in a statement. "This action reflects our commitment to program integrity, fiscal responsibility, and compliance with federal requirements."

Pritzker issued a statement Tuesday evening condemning the funding freeze and emphasizing the department's anti-fraud policies and reporting protocols.

"Rather than making life easier and more affordable for our families, Donald Trump is stripping away child care from Illinois families who are just trying to go to work," he said. "Thousands of parents and children depend on these child care programs to help them make ends meet, and now their livelihoods are being put at risk. This is wrong, it is cruel, and we will take every step possible to defend the kids and families depending on all of us right now."

## Illinois, 4 Other States Targeted for \$10B Child Care Funding Freeze Win Restraining Order

*The lawsuit comes days after the administration announced the funding freeze*

*Nikoel Hytrek Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois and the four other Democratic-led states that were subject to the Trump administration's freeze on \$10 billion in federal funding for child care and family services secured a restraining order on Friday in their lawsuit seeking to block the move.

The restraining order, issued by Judge Arun Subramanian in the Southern District of New York, means the freeze can't take effect while the full case plays out, unless an appellate court overturns the stay.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul called the freeze, which includes about \$1 billion for child care programs in Illinois, "callous," and stressed that it targeted only Democratic-led states.

"There is no justification for this attempted funding freeze," Raoul said in a statement praising the order. "It is a cruel and illegal attempt by the Trump administration to play politics with the lives of children and low-income families."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced late Tuesday that it was freezing the distribution of funds for Illinois, California, Colorado, Minnesota and New York because of concerns about fraud, although it didn't provide evidence or cite specific claims. The department called for those

*continued on page 8*

## Trump Freezes \$10B In Social Service, Child Care Funding for Illinois, 4 Other Blue States

*HHS cites 'serious concerns' about widespread fraud and misuse of funds, cites no evidence*

*Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

The Trump administration announced late Tuesday that it was freezing distribution of about \$10 billion in federal child care and family assistance funds to five Democratic-led states, including Illinois.

It will now require those states to submit detailed justification and documentation before any of the federal funds are released.

The action applies to three programs overseen by the Administration for Children and Families, a division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: the Child Care and Development Fund; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF; and the Social Services Block Grant program.

Other states whose funds are being frozen include California, Colorado, Minnesota and New York.

Gov. JB Pritzker's office said the action affects about \$1 billion in funding for programs in Illinois. Those include subsidized child care services for low-income working families as well as licensed child care providers that are partially funded through block grants under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

## Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

Bring your plate number

**M-F 9-5  
Sat 9-1**

419 S. State St. Bel.

815-544-2075



## Restraining Order from page 7

states to submit additional documentation in two weeks in order to receive the money.

Raoul joined his counterparts from the other four states in filing the suit Thursday against HHS and its secretary, Robert Kennedy Jr.

“Congress enacted this critical funding to support families and help working parents access child care, and the president does not have the authority to withhold it in this way,” Raoul said in a Thursday statement.

The 41-page lawsuit asked the court to immediately stop the freeze and order the release of funds.

### Disfavored by the Trump administration

The lawsuit accuses the administration of targeting Democratic states for political reasons, documenting several statements from President Donald Trump going back to December that specifically mention Illinois, California, Minnesota and New York. The statements include vague claims about fraud and attacks on the respective governors.

At a Friday news conference, all five attorneys general said the administration did not offer any evidence or specific allegations of fraud in the letters they received.

“If the president was serious about rooting out fraud, his administration would be investing more resources in partnering with states and supporting states’ efforts to root out fraud and abuse,” Raoul said. “But the real motivation behind this action is to punish Democrat-led states like Illinois that are disfavored by the Trump administration.”

The news release from HHS stated the funds will remain frozen until HHS’s Children and Family Services division reviews documents requested from the states and finds they are following federal requirements.

“Families who rely on child care and family assistance programs deserve confidence that these resources are used lawfully and for their intended purpose,” said Deputy Secretary Jim O’Neill. “This action reflects our commitment to program integrity, fiscal responsibility, and compliance with federal requirements.”

Gov. JB Pritzker released a statement Tuesday emphasizing that Illinois already has anti-fraud policies and reporting requirements for programs like this. Raoul said the same thing on Friday.

“We, on the local level, regularly partner with federal agencies investigating fraud and abuse to investigate and prosecute on a case-by-case basis,” Raoul said. “This approach of, without any specific evidence, threatening to freeze funds, is inconsistent with what we do on a normal basis to make sure that funds are appropriately being administered.”

The freeze impacts three programs: the Child Care and Development Fund; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF; and the Social Services Block Grant program. Those programs fund several Illinois programs that serve hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans

Raoul said he can’t provide an exact date for when federal funds Illinois has already received might run out, only saying the date is “fairly imminent.”

The lawsuit also claims that the two-week deadline to submit documents is unreasonable, and many of the requested documents involve individuals’ sensitive personal information.

## After Fatal Ice Shooting In Minneapolis, Illinois Democrats Seek Kristi Noem’s Impeachment

*Video contradictions and echoes of past shootings fuel calls for DHS secretary’s removal*

**Brenden Moore**

*Capitol News Illinois*

Recalling parallels to aggressive federal immigration enforcement tactics in the Chicago region last fall, top Illinois Democrats called for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem’s ouster after a federal immigration agent fatally shot a woman under questionable circumstances in Minneapolis on Wednesday.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Lynwood, who is running in the Democratic primary for retiring Sen. Dick Durbin’s seat, said she plans to file articles of impeachment against Noem.

“She has turned ICE into a rogue force, violating the Constitution, tearing families apart, and leaving death in her wake,” Kelly said in a statement. “From Chicago to Minneapolis, her recklessness cost lives, including Renee Nicole Good. This isn’t just dangerous — it’s impeachable. I’m fighting back.”

Alongside Kelly is her Democratic primary opponent, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Schaumburg, who wrote on social media that “I’ll be your first cosponsor.”

“When federal agents are unleashed without restraint or oversight, the consequences are deadly — and the responsibility for this killing is on their hands,” he said, adding that he will be “demanding full answers and accountability from the Trump administration.”

The third leading candidate in that Senate race, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, said Noem should “resign or be removed,” adding “we won’t let you get away with this.”

### Impeachment unlikely

Kelly’s impeachment push is likely symbolic at this point due to Democrats’ minority status in the U.S. House. And removal doesn’t appear likely either, as Trump and Republicans in his administration and Congress put out statements backing the ICE officer’s conduct.

Good, 37, was killed by a federal immigration agent while apparently attempting to flee a traffic stop. DHS, in a statement, said she “weaponized her vehicle” and attempted to run over agents in “an act of domestic terrorism” while the officer, “fearing for his life,” fired defensive shots.

However, multiple videos of the incident directly contradicted the Trump administration’s narrative by showing that Good was driving away from — not toward — the officer when he opened fire, raising doubts about the necessity of using lethal force.

The ICE agent later was seen on video walking around the scene with no apparent injuries, even though Trump said on social media the officer was hospitalized. Trump deemed the victim a domestic terrorist.

For Illinois’ elected leaders, there was a sense of déjà vu as the accounting of the fatal shooting echoed patterns in two shootings involving immigration officers during the height of Operation Midway Blitz in the Chicago region last year.

Silverio Villegas Gonzalez was fatally shot by ICE agents in Franklin Park in September after attempting to flee a traffic stop. As in Good’s case, DHS said that Villegas Gonzalez tried to use his vehicle as a weapon, that agents feared for their lives, acted in self-defense and were “seriously injured.” But, bodycam footage later obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times found that the ICE officers deemed their injuries as “nothing major.”

In October, Marimar Martinez was shot by a federal agent in Chicago’s Brighton Park neighborhood. DHS called her a “domestic terrorist” who used her car as a weapon. But evidence poked holes in that narrative and federal charges against her were dropped.

### We’ve seen this playbook before

Gov. JB Pritzker, speaking at an unrelated bill signing Wednesday morning, said that “we’ve seen this playbook before,” casting the federal government’s version of events in Orwellian terms.

“Kristi Noem and Donald Trump have told Americans to disbelieve clear, indisputable video evidence,” Pritzker said. “They want you to question what your eyes and ears are telling you and instead blindly believe anything that they say.”

The governor then encouraged people to watch videos of the incident for themselves.

Pritzker had one other message: “It’s time for Kristi Noem to go.”

“ICE is not making Minneapolis safer — just as it did not make Chicago safer,” U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth said, calling the shooting “horrific” and saying the agency’s behavior “needs to stop.”

Durbin, in a statement, said that “a full investigation must be completed so the truth can be revealed.”

“Video of the incident starkly contradicts DHS’ narrative, and the fact that DHS has jumped to characterize this shooting in ‘self-defense’ is rushed, at best, and a lie, at worst,” he said.

Durbin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, called on his Republican counterparts to issue a subpoena to compel Noem to testify before the committee.

Noem is one of the faces of the Trump administration’s aggressive crackdown on illegal immigration. She made several appearances in Illinois during Midway Blitz, the campaign DHS says resulted in the arrests of more than 4,500 immigrants who were living in Chicago and its suburbs without legal permission.

But the raids often led to violent confrontations between masked federal agents and protestors during various operations in the city and suburbs, including near an Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in suburban Broadview. Many of these skirmishes resulted in the deployment of tear gas and other chemical agents.