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## Who Decides When America Goes to War?

*A Constitutional question that still shapes U.S. foreign policy*

David Larson

The power to take a nation to war is among the most consequential decisions any government can make. In the United States, that power was deliberately divided when the framers drafted the United States Constitution. More than two centuries later, the balance they created between Congress and the President is presently one of the most debated issues in American government. It is a constitutional question that is seemingly ignored by *both parties*.

At the center of that debate is a simple phrase in **Article I, Section 8: Congress has the power “to declare War.”**

The power comes directly from Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The exact wording is:

**“The Congress shall have Power... To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water.”**

The wording was not accidental. During the Constitutional Convention, the draft Constitution originally gave Congress the power “to make war.” James Madison and others proposed a change: replace “make” with “declare.”

The reason was practical. They believed Congress should decide when the nation formally enters war, but the President should still have the ability to respond quickly if the country were attacked.

That brief debate produced the United State of American’s constitutional war powers: Congress determines whether the nation goes to war, while the President commands the military once war or military action if the country were attacked.

The framers’ caution was rooted in experience. Under the British system, the king could effectively lead the nation into war. Many American revolutionaries believed this concentration of power was dangerous.

Madison reasoned, the executive branch is “most interested in war and most prone to it.” War tends to increase executive authority, rally public support around leaders, and expand government power. For that reason, the Constitution placed the decision for war in the hands of the legislature, the branch closest to the people.

Even George Washington supported the  
*continued on page 3*



President Franklin D. Roosevelt 12:30 PM December 8, 1941 delivering his “Day of Infamy” speech. The House vote was 388 to 1, Senate 88 to 0 and became law the same day.

## Illinois Officials Say The State is Mostly Insulated From Trump’s Election Threats

*Federal rhetoric about election intervention hasn’t yet translated into concrete action, election officials say*

Reece Dower

Illinois election officials and community leaders say they are confident the state is mostly insulated from the Trump administration’s aggressive moves and heated rhetoric on election administration as Illinois’ March 17 primary approaches.

Republican county clerks cautioned, however, that while they weren’t fazed by President Donald Trump’s messaging or proposed changes to voting laws, they are concerned about how federal cuts to cybersecurity initiatives could affect future elections in the state.

Last month, Trump suggested Republicans should “nationalize” elections and “take over  
*continued on page 4*

## 28 Illinois Schools Receive State Blue Ribbon Schools Award

*Pritzker established the program last year after the national program was abolished*

The state honored 28 schools from across Illinois for academic performance at an event at the governor’s mansion in Springfield Wednesday evening.

The schools, a mix of K-12 public and private institutions, were the first to be awarded in the Illinois Governor’s Blue Ribbon School Award program. The program was established in October 2025, soon after the national equivalent was abolished by the Trump Administration.

The recipients from Illinois had already been selected by the U.S. Department of Education before the program was closed in August 2025.

“Twenty-eight outstanding schools are represented here tonight, recognized for the prestigious distinction that’s based upon the rigorous criteria, the same ones that were used by the Department of Education, so you have met and exceeded those really high standards,” Gov.  
*continued on page 5*

## Congressman Darin LaHood (R)

Representing Rural Boone County

### Securing \$19 Million for the 16th District

I was proud to vote for appropriations legislation that secured nearly \$19 million to fund critical projects across the 16th District. I worked closely with local leaders to target key projects that improve infrastructure, support economic growth, and strengthen our region.

These responsible federal investments strengthen our local economy, increase public safety, and improve the quality of life for families throughout Central and Northwestern Illinois.

### Speaking With Constituents

Hearing directly from the people I represent is one of the most important parts of my job.

I enjoyed participating in an open forum with constituents at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center last Wednesday, where I answered questions on topics ranging from tax policy to

immigration and provided an update on my work in DC.

### Passing the SAVE America Act

I was proud to vote for the SAVE America Act to ensure only American citizens vote in American elections.

Voter ID and proof of citizenship are common-sense safeguards to bolster election integrity and ensure Americans have faith in our electoral process.

### Promise of Liberty at the Peoria Riverfront Museum

It was an honor to speak at the unveiling of the Peoria Riverfront Museum's Promise of Liberty exhibition with guest curator Ken Burns, celebrating America's 250th Anniversary!

I'm grateful to Museum President John Morris, Chair Todd Baker, the Board of Directors, the staff, and the volunteers here at the Peoria Riverfront Museum for their dedication to preserving our history, educating future generations, and supporting our community.

I encourage everyone to stop by and check out this amazing exhibition. I'm looking forward to what will be an incredible year for our nation and Central Illinois!

### Working with Representative Deering

Enjoyed meeting with State Representative Regan Deering in DC to discuss areas where we can work collaboratively to support Illinoisans.

Central Illinois is lucky to have her serving in Springfield! I look forward to continuing to work with her to strengthen our region!

### Meeting with Community Colleges in DC

The 16th District was well represented at this year's Community College Trustees

### National Legislative Summit in DC!

It was great to meet with leadership from Heartland Community College, Highland Community College, Illinois Central College, Joliet Jr. College, Parkland College, and Rock Valley College to discuss policies that strengthen our community colleges, expand educational opportunities, and support student success.

### Touring the Mt. Morris Fire Department

Appreciated the opportunity to tour the Mt. Morris Fire Department and meet with Chief Rob Hought to discuss how my office can continue to support firefighters and EMS providers.

### Providing Federal Funding for a New Metamora Fire Department & EMS Facility

It was an honor to join Mayor Dawn Deeb and our dedicated first responders in Metamora to announce the \$4 million of federal funding I secured to help construct a new Fire Department & EMS facility for the village.

I was proud to support the legislation that made

this investment possible, helping deliver this new facility which will enhance public safety and provide our first responders with the tools they need to effectively serve Metamora and the surrounding communities.

### Hosting the 16th District App Challenge Winners

Enjoyed hosting this year's winner and runner-up of the 16th District's Congressional App Challenge in my Peoria office and presenting them with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition!

The winning app "MeloCognia" uses AI to help detect Parkinson's in its early stages and the second-place app "FENIX" helps healthcare personnel improve diagnosis and treatment times of patients.

### One More Thing: The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

The Vatican approving the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen was a historic and deeply meaningful moment for many across our country and especially for our community in Peoria. His life of faith, service, and commitment continue to inspire generations.

With Archbishop Fulton Sheen's legacy deeply rooted in central Illinois, his progress towards beatification is welcome news to so many who have worked for this honor. I am thankful to Bishop Louis Tylka for his leadership of the Diocese of Peoria, and I am deeply grateful to Pope Leo for approving this critical step.



- Robert Dixon, 75, Harvard, March 4
- Michelle Frickman, 55, Belvidere, March 12
- Carol Guschl, 78, Davis Junction, March 3
- Donald Hill, 92, Belvidere, March 4
- Julie Kleive, 80, Capron, March 7
- Blanca Munoz, 72, Belvidere, March 3
- Beverly Schoonover, 88, Belvidere, March 4
- Paul Temple, 62, Belvidere, March 6



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

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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.  
**Letters.** Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.  
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## Constitution

from page 1

principle that major offensive military actions should not occur without Congressional approval.

Although the power to declare war receives the most attention, the Constitution grants Congress several other authorities that are equally important.

Congress can raise and support armies, provide and maintain a navy, regulate the armed forces, and call forth militias to repel invasions or suppress insurrections. It also controls military funding, a power sometimes called the “power of the purse.” In theory, that financial authority is enormous. Without appropriations from Congress, military operations cannot continue. As a result, the legislature has the ability not only to authorize wars but also to end them.

### War without declarations

Despite this constitutional framework, the United States has rarely issued formal declarations of war. In fact, the last declarations occurred in 1941 during World War II. In the picture, we see Franklin D. Roosevelt before Congress in December of 1941 after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor asking for a Congressional declaration of war.

Since then, American forces have fought major conflicts—including the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq War without formal declarations.

Instead, Congress has relied on authorizations for the use of military force, often called AUMFs. These measures grant Presidents legal authority to use military power but stop short of a traditional declaration of war.

The controlling wisdom regarding post-Vietnam War conflicts are often fought against terrorist organizations or non-state actors rather than nations. Formal declarations can also trigger complex diplomatic and legal consequences. As a result, both Congress and Presidents have increasingly preferred more flexible authorizations

outside of the Constitutional framework.

At times in the post WWII period, Congress has attempted to reassert its authority by limiting military funding. During the later years of the Vietnam War, lawmakers passed restrictions on expanding the conflict and eventually cut off funds for combat operations after the Paris Peace Accords.

In the 1990s, Congress imposed limits on U.S. involvement in Somalia following the deadly Battle of Mogadishu, contributing to the withdrawal of American troops.

But efforts to use funding to halt conflicts have not always succeeded. During the Iraq War, attempts to impose withdrawal deadlines often stalled amid presidential veto threats and political divisions.

### A constitutional tension that endures

The result is a system defined by shared authority and persistent tension. The President commands the armed forces as commander in chief. Congress declares war, funds the military, and writes the laws governing it.

The founders intended this arrangement to make the decision for war deliberate and difficult. By dividing power between two branches of government, they hoped to prevent the nation from entering conflicts too easily. A question of the present.

More than 230 years after the Constitution was written, that debate now continues. Each new military crisis raises the same fundamental question decided by the framers of the Constitution in Philadelphia: who, ultimately, should decide when America goes to war?

## Foster Introduces Medical Records Access Fairness Act

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL), who represents Belvidere, has introduced the Medical Records Access Fairness Act, which would require health care providers to give patients access to their medical records at no cost at least once per year.

Medical records fees that doctor’s offices charge patients can often be a financial burden. If a patient is unable to pay for copies of their own medical records, it can delay or prevent care. According to a 2018 study from the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, patients who have long medical histories can incur costs of thousands of dollars on medical record copies, which are often charged per page and per recipient. The study also describes a situation in which one patient was charged over \$100 for an electronic copy.

“Quality health care hinges on doctors having all of the necessary information about their patient’s case, but costly medical records can make this impossible,” said Rep. Foster. “Too often, the fees charged to access these records amount to thousands of dollars, which is especially burdensome for patients with chronic diseases and complex medical histories. This bill would give patients easier access to their medical records, removing an unreasonable financial burden and improving the health and well-being of many Americans.”

The Medical Records Access Fairness Act is cosponsored by Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH) and is endorsed by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

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## Polling

from page 1

the voting” in select unspecified places despite the Constitution’s express delegation of election administration to the states.

In January, the FBI seized hundreds of boxes of 2020 election ballots in Georgia’s Fulton County — and more recently, issued a subpoena to Arizona for its voting results — after Trump’s repeatedly debunked claims of widespread voter fraud in those swing states. The Trump administration also made major cuts last year to the cybersecurity agency responsible for bolstering state election security.

Critics warn these moves are a signal the administration may look to expand its use of aggressive tactics to counter potential Republican losses in the midterms, but many Illinois election officials pushed back on the notion of a looming federal intervention or a fundamental rupture between local and federal officials.

“There is a lot of talk,” said Sangamon County Clerk Don Gray, a Republican. “But until I see (the federal government) take concrete action, there’s no sense in stirring up people’s fears or cynicism.”

### Feds at polling places?

Some in Trump’s orbit have even stoked fears of federal immigration authorities being deployed to polling locations, a worry DuPage County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek sought to address in a press conference last week.

“It is a federal crime for the military or federal agents to interfere in elections or intimidate voters,” she said. “Those crimes will not be tolerated in DuPage County.”

In an interview, Kaczmarek, a Democrat, said she was only addressing concerns that were already circulating.

“I did not do anything to start the fear,” she said. “The fear was already there.”

On Tuesday, the Democratic National Committee sued the Trump administration to compel a response to whether the government was planning to deploy agents or troops to the polls. The Department of Homeland Security has denied that its Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents would be dispatched to polling places around the country in the midterms.

Late last month, the FBI led a call with state election officials from across the country, including Illinois, to discuss the upcoming election. During the call, federal officials reportedly tried to assuage concerns of the prospect of a federal presence at voting locations.

“Some participants (in the call) asked about potential federal presence and increased involvement in the 2026 elections,” Matt Dietrich, spokesman for the Illinois State Board of Elections, told Capitol News Illinois. “The response from the participating agencies indicated no such plans.”

Gray, the Sangamon County clerk, said election officials should be careful making public projections about election interference without evidence of “concrete action” to back them up. He argued such talk can undermine public trust in elections and noted he had received no indication

federal officials were planning any sort of election intervention.

“We need to see definitive action before getting people riled up,” he said.

### Shuttered cyber programs

Another element of the shifting relationship between local elections officials and the federal government is the cuts to federal programs designed to bolster election cybersecurity of states.

Over the past year, the Trump Administration has inflicted deep cuts to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the federal entity charged with providing cybersecurity support to the states, among other missions. While states are responsible for running elections, the federal government has long lent its cyber capabilities to help secure them.

The cuts have targeted CISA’s workforce and led to a significant drawdown of its election security activities, according to the think tank Brennan Center for Justice at New York University. A survey carried out last year by the Brennan Center found that more than 60% of local election officials nationwide were concerned about cuts to the agency.

Because Illinois conducts elections on paper ballots, the actual vote tabulations in the state remain immune from hacking, according to multiple county clerks interviewed by CNI. But the Trump administration’s gutting of programs focused on combatting foreign disinformation could lead to real-world effects in the state.

“We are under constant attack from foreign agitators,” said Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman, a Republican. “We know from information we’ve already collected in previous years from the feds that China, Iran, Russia, our foreign adversaries, they’ve all attacked little bitty Tazewell.”

Dietrich said Illinois is uniquely insulated from federal cybersecurity cuts because of the state’s massive buildup of its cyber capabilities after the 2016 hacking of its voter database. The Justice Department accused Russian intelligence of the breach, which exposed information on millions of registered Illinois voters according to a department report.

In the wake of the hack, the state established the Cyber Navigator Program to better protect its election system from compromise. The program, which is now fully state funded, embeds one employee at Illinois’ Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center to monitor potential threats to elections, including misinformation and disinformation, Dietrich said.

Ackerman expected there to be “some gaps” due to the federal rollbacks, but he said they wouldn’t impact day-to-day operations in his county. He added that while he wasn’t concerned by Trump’s other moves regarding elections, he said he’s noticed the federal government is sharing less confidential intelligence about election threats, a development he’s less sanguine about.

“We’ve insulated and protected ourselves in previous years with the help of the federal government,” he said. “That’s the aspect that I’m

nervous about. It isn’t as thorough as it has been in the past.”

### SAVE America Act

On another front, in a post on his social media site Sunday, Trump said he will refuse to sign any new legislation until Congress passes the SAVE America Act. He reiterated the demand Monday at a retreat for Republican congressmen in Florida, saying the bill should be the GOP’s “No. 1 priority” before the midterms.

The proposed bill would require individuals to prove U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and require photo identification to vote in federal elections. Opponents of the measure say these requirements are onerous enough to disenfranchise millions of eligible voters in Illinois.

“This would create another barrier to the ballot box,” said Becky Simon, president of the Illinois League of Women Voters. “People do not need more barriers to the ballot box. People need to be encouraged to vote.”

The bill would place the new demands on Illinois voters to solve an issue that data show is not prevalent, as non-citizens are already barred from voting in federal elections. A 2024 audit of voter rolls in Georgia, a state long accused by Trump of widespread non-citizen voting, found only 20 non-citizens were illegally registered to vote out of 8.2 million registered voters. Out of those 20, only nine had voted illegally in previous elections.

Still, these legislative changes would take time to go into effect even if they make it through Congress and are signed into law.

“We expect the primary elections will unfold uneventfully,” Simon said. “The clerks that we’ve talked to are looking at this as almost practice for November, when they see the real challenges coming.”

*Reece Dower is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications, and is a fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.*

*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.*

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## Education

from page 1

JB Pritzker said at the ceremony.

The Trump administration said the closure was part of a series of downsizing initiatives in the Department of Education in an effort to return education to the states, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program honored thousands of public and private schools for academic achievement since 1982. In 2024, 18 Illinois schools received the prestigious award.

“I believe that this level of educational excellence really should be celebrated at every opportunity,” Pritzker said. “We should be constantly uplifting our students and our teachers, our administrators and the school’s achievements and successes. Each and every day, you come to school eager to support your students, their safety, their growth, their well-being. You put forward your best efforts, and you commit yourselves to, well, making their lives better.”

The Illinois State Board of Education will manage the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Schools application and awards process in the coming years.

Fifteen public and 13 nonpublic schools, included below, were awarded in the ceremony.

### Public Schools:

Sunset Ridge Elementary School, Northfield, Sunset Ridge School District 29

William Fremd High School, Palatine, Township High School District 211

Highlands Elementary School, La Grange, LaGrange Highlands School District 106

Pleasantdale Middle School, Burr Ridge, Pleasantdale School District 107

Lyons Township High School, La Grange, Lyons Township High School District 204

Glen Oaks Elementary School, Hickory Hills, North Palos School District 117

Warren Elementary School, Warren, Community Unit School District 205

Prescott Elementary School, Chicago, Chicago Public School District 299

Clarendon Hills Middle School, Clarendon Hills, Community Consolidated School District 181

Walker Elementary School, Clarendon Hills, Community Consolidated School District 181

Kennedy Junior High School, Lisle, Naperville Community Unit School District 203

Liberty Intermediate School, Libertyville,

Community High School District 128

Sarah Adams Elementary School, Lake Zurich, Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95

Mascoutah Middle School, Mascoutah, Mascoutah School District 19

Lincoln-Way East High School, Frankfort, Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210

### Private Schools:

Ascension Catholic School, Oak Park

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy, Chicago Regina Dominican High School, Wilmette

St. Giles School, Oak Park

St. Matthias School, Chicago

St. Therese Chinese Catholic School, Chicago St. John of the Cross Parish School, Western Springs

St. Norbert School, Northbrook St. Anne Catholic School, Barrington

The Academy of Saint Joan of Arc, Evanston

Timothy Christian (PreK – 8), Elmhurst

Wheaton Academy, West Chicago

Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart, Lake Forest

*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.*

## Tri-State Tornado Was 101 Years Ago March 18

*613 Deaths in Illinois Remain Largest Loss from Tornado in a Single State*

### Tom Emery

It was a freak weather event that left unspeakable tragedy. Many of its victims were innocent children.

Wednesday, March 18 marks the 101st anniversary of the so-called “Tri-State Tornado,” which ravaged Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana in 1925, leveling entire towns in its path. A century later, many communities still feel the scars.

Though figures vary, at least 695 people were killed, the highest from a tornado event in American history. Some 613 of those deaths were

in Illinois, the most from a tornado event in a single state. Another 2,027 across the three states were injured, with over 15,000 homes destroyed.

A high number of the deaths were students, as several schools were obliterated in the disaster. Nine schools were either damaged or destroyed by the twister, which struck

on a Wednesday afternoon.

In the tiny town of DeSoto in Jackson County, Ill., a local school partially collapsed in the winds, causing thirty-three deaths. That is also a national record for school fatalities caused by a storm.

In today’s dollars, the Tri-State tornado left \$1.4 billion in damage and devastated several communities, including Murphysboro, Ill., where 234 deaths occurred, the most in a single community from a tornado in American history.

Researchers today debate if the phenomenon was a single funnel or a series of tornadoes. The National Weather Service lists the distance at an incredible 219 miles.

As expected, the tornado is considered an F5 on the Fujita Scale, the highest classification and the most deadly. Winds have been estimated at over 300 miles per hour.

The tornado had an unusually wide path, an average of over three-fourths of a mile, though some accounts estimated the path of a mile wide. If that is true, it’s another record. The twister traveled in a generally northeastern route at an average of 62 miles per hour, with a record of 73 miles per hour between Gorham and Murphysboro.

It is generally accepted that the tornado began near Ellington, a village in southeastern Missouri, with the first fatality around 1:01 p.m. The storm then blasted into Annapolis, a mining settlement twenty-two miles northeast, and leveled over 90 percent of the town, killing two.

The path continued east and in Bollinger County, Mo., thirty-two children were hurt when two schools were heavily damaged. By then, victims were helpless in the monster tornado, as

*continued on page 6*

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# LEGAL NOTICES

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**U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR LOAN ACQUISITION TRUST 2017-RPL1, C/O RUSHMORE LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, Plaintiff,**  
**Vs. 2026FC8**  
**Alton E. Parker, Jr., Lareda C Parker, unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants.**

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: ALTON E. PARKER, JR., LAREDA C PARKER**

**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 FORTY-ONE (41) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT NO. 4 OF RIVER REACH SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD P.M., AND A REPLAT OF LOTS 21 THRU 27 PLAT NO. 3 OF RIVER REACH SUBDIVISION RECORDED FEBRUARY 19, 1976, AS DOCUMENT NO. 76-461 IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE NO. 10 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS 8778 QUAIL DR, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 PIN # 08-04-277-007

and which said Mortgage was made by:

ALTON E PARKER JR AND LAREDA C PARKER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, NOT IN TENANCY IN COMMON, BUT AS JOINT TENANTS, the Mortgagor(s), to Beneficial Illinois Inc DBA Beneficial Mortgage Co of Illinois as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of BOONE County, IL, as Document No. 03R17654; 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, on or before April 2, 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.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>" [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).  
 Potestivo & Associates, P.C.  
 223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610  
 Chicago, IL 60606

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.

Our File No.: 321642

I3282467

Published in The Boone County Journal March 3, 10, 17, 2026

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

**U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,**  
**VS. NO. 2026FC7**

**JARED A DEBOLT A/K/A JARED ALEXANDER DEBOLT; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.**  
**8788 SHEFFIELD DRIVE**  
**BELVIDERE, IL 61008**

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU,**

Jared A Debolt a/k/a Jared Alexander Debolt Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT EIGHT (8) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF OAK HILLS ESTATES, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 11 OF OAK HILLS ESTATES PLAT NO. 1 AND A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH FIRST NAMED SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 5 OF PLATS ON PAGES 10 AND 11 AS DOCUMENT NO. 123385 ON MAY 9, 1962 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as: 8788 Sheffield Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

and which said Mortgage was made by,

Jared A Debolt a/k/a Jared Alexander Debolt Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Cherry Creek Mortgage Co., Inc.

Mortgage, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2018R01986; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before April 16, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to [ilcourts.info/efiling](http://ilcourts.info/efiling). If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to [ilcourthelp.gov](http://ilcourthelp.gov) for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at [illinoislegalaid.org](http://illinoislegalaid.org). All documents re-

ferred to in this Notice can be found at [ilcourts.info/forms](http://ilcourts.info/forms). Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website.

¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411-1121, o visite [ilcourthelp.gov](http://ilcourthelp.gov) para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.

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

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
 Attorney for Plaintiff  
 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820  
 Chicago, IL 60606-1220  
 Ph. (312) 346-9088  
 File No. 25-23307IL-1338468  
 I3283350  
 Published in The Boone County Journal March 17, 23, 31

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

ON MARCH 10, 2026, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 DID ADOPT TENTATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON MAY 1, 2026, TO APRIL 30, 2027.

EFFECTIVE MARCH 11, 2026, THE AFOREMENTIONED TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AT THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 STATION LOCATED AT 130 WEST OGDEN STREET, CAPRON, ILLINOIS. A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE CONVENED ON MAY 12, 2026, AT 6:55 PM AT 130 WEST OGDEN STREET, CAPRON, ILLINOIS, AT WHICH TIME THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL ENTERTAIN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET ORDINANCES FOR THE 2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 WILL CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING TO TAKE ACTION ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2026, TO APRIL 30, 2027.

CAROL BERGLUND  
 SECRETARY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
 BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1  
 Published in The Boone County Journal March 17

# ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA 4267 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a SOCIAL AIRCRAFT TYPE CLUB business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MIDWEST NAVIONEERS that its location is or will be 1004 BEECH BAY ROAD IN POPLAR GROVE, 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: 847-971-7717  
 CHRISTOPHER FITCHEN 1004 BEECH BAY RD  
 POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: February 23, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County  
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/03,10,17 P.

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

No. DBA4269 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HANDYMAN business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MOD-IFIED HOME IMPROVEMENT that its location is or will be 402 CLUB CIRCLE in BELVIDERE, IL in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 224-288-8505  
 TIMOTHY MICHEAL MODRZEJEWSKI 402 CLUB CIRCLE  
 BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: February 27, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County  
 Published in Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/26 - P

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

No. DBA4268 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PUBLISHING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BELLIS PUBLISHING that its location is or will be 14054 QUEENANNS WAY IN POPLAR GROVE, IL in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-721-4900  
 DAISY R SHELLEY 14054 QUEENANNS WAY  
 POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: February 27, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County  
 Published in Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/26 - P

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

No. DBA 4271 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PERSONAL CARE business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of RADIANT PERSONAL CARE that its location is or will be 1411 ILES AVE 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: 779-208-1492  
 JOSE FRANCISCO COLLAZO JR.  
 1411 ILES AVE. BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: March 10, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County  
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/17,24,31 P.

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

No. DBA 4270 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COTTAGE FARM STAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE FLOUR & FLOWER CO. that its location is or will be 155 W NORTH ST in CAPRON, 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: 815-764-7439  
 STACEY ANN RIVERA  
 155 W NORTH ST CAPRON, ILLINOIS 61012

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: March 5, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County  
 Published in Boone County Journal 03/10,17,24 P.

## Tornado from page 5

iron sheets in some areas of Missouri were hurled fifty miles.

More deaths in Missouri occurred in the small German settlements of Perry County before the storm crossed the Mississippi. In all, eleven Missourians were killed in the storm.

Around 2:37 p.m., the tornado tore into Gorham, a tiny town in Jackson County, Ill. near the Mississippi River, wiping out nearly the entire village. Of the 80 homes in Gorham, 60 were destroyed, in addition to the business district, the train depot, and much of the school.

One little girl at the school told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that, as the twister struck the school, "the walls seemed to fall in, all around us. Then the floor at one end of the building gave way. We all slipped or slid in that direction."

The aftermath left her shellshocked. "I can't describe it," she said. "I can't bear to think about it. Children all around me were cut and bleeding. They cried and screamed. It was something awful. I had to close my eyes."

Next was Murphysboro, a city of around 10,000 that suffered the greatest loss of life. Most of the town was leveled, including several schools. Seventeen children died at the Longfellow School, while another nine were killed at the Logan School.

Many victims were among the youngest. Anna Loy, a twenty-five-year-old mother from Murphysboro, died in the storm, as did two of her children, four-year-old Tommy and five-month-old Charles. There was also Mary Spangler, 21, of Murphysboro who died along with her only child, a seventeen-month-old son.

It was much the same at DeSoto, where fifty-six residents died, including the 33 school pupils. Another fourteen were killed in the tiny settlement of Bush, while 102 lost their lives when the tornado ripped through the mining city of West Frankfort at 3:10 p.m.

Some accounts list the number of dead in the town as much higher. The dead included a young

*continued on page 7*

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## Tornado

from page 6

couple, Laymon and Beulah Price, and their infant son, Jackie.

The death toll in West Frankfort would have been higher if not for the 1,500 coal miners who were at work underground at the time. Still, over 500 miners completely lost their homes as large parts of the town, including the northwest side, were decimated. As in many other areas, a large number of the fatalities were children.

That afternoon, four-year-old Lela Hartman was visiting her grandmother's farm west of West Frankfort. In a 1999 interview, she recalled that the sky "just kept getting darker and darker" and "it was almost black as night when we finally went to the cellar. And I think we got there just in time because we could hear things you didn't hear in an ordinary storm."

The nearby mining village of Caldwell, Ill., suffered 24 deaths, including eleven in one family alone. Twenty-eight more fatalities occurred in Parrish, where the devastation was so great that the town did not rebuild.

Dozens more lost their lives in Hamilton and White counties before the tornado charged into Indiana, blowing away the town of Griffin. In an acclaimed 2004 book on the tornado, author Peter Felknor wrote that "the search for family and friends had a special hellishness, as fires flickered over the ruins and the injured wandered about in a daze."

Eighty-five farms were ravaged in nearby Owensville, then killed dozens at Princeton before the tornado finally dissipated around 4:30 p.m., three miles southeast of Petersburg, Ind. A total of 71 Indiana residents perished.

Lists of the tornado deaths were printed in papers across Illinois for days afterward. Though no video exists of the tornado, newsreels and photographs provide a staggering look at the devastation.

In the century since, several books have been written, and numerous studies have been conducted, on the Tri-State Tornado and its legacy. Various commemorations, particularly in Jackson County, Ill., are being planned to mark the centennial of the disaster.

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## Senate Advances Bills

*The Illinois Senate faces a Friday deadline to move bills out of committee for consideration on the floor.*

*Ben Szalinski, Brenden Moore, Jenna Schweikart & Nikoel Hytrek  
Capitol News Illinois*

Bills creating new insurance requirements for boaters and establishing local pension buyout programs are moving forward in the Statehouse.

The Illinois Senate faced a Friday deadline to move bills out of committee for consideration on the floor. While many state lawmakers have an eye on Tuesday's primary election, it was business as usual in Springfield, though many big ticket items like the state budget will be on the docket later in

the spring.

The Senate Transportation Committee voted 16-1 on Tuesday to advance a bill that will require more boat owners to have liability insurance.

Under Senate Bill 2972, the insurance requirement would apply to boats with at least a 50-horsepower engine or that are at least 21 feet long.

"Anyone who has a boat this length and with that much horsepower on it, that's an investment, that is not something that is an inexpensive toy or hobby, and I would think that a lot of people already have insurance," Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Lake Forest, who is sponsoring the bill, told the committee. "This is to cover the people who don't."

Sen. Craig Wilcox, a McHenry Republican who represents the boater-friendly Chain O'Lakes, was the only member of the committee who voted against the bill. He said he'd rather see revenue from fines for improper insurance go toward waterway managers rather than the court system.

### Pension buyout

The Senate Pensions Committee advanced a bill that would require local governments to establish a version of the state's pension buyout program.

Senate Bill 3404, sponsored by state Sen. Rob Martwick, D-Chicago, passed on an agreed bill list, though some changes are expected to address concerns from the Illinois Municipal League, Martwick told Capitol News Illinois.

Under the proposal, local governments would need to establish a pension buyout program, and it would remain at their discretion whether and when it is offered.

The state's program, created in 2018 and extended twice, offers workers covered under the more generous Tier 1 pension system the option to receive a one-time lump sum payment in exchange for forfeiting future benefits, or the option to receive a smaller lump sum payment in exchange for forgoing future annual cost-of-living adjustments.

Gov. JB Pritzker's office estimates that the voluntary program has reduced the state's long-term pension liability by \$2.9 billion.

A bill that would extend the state program an additional two years through fiscal year 2028 also passed committee unanimously. Pritzker's office estimates that another \$1.4 billion could be saved through the program's extension.

### Mobile ID cards

The Senate Executive Committee unanimously advanced Senate Bill 3449, a bill that specifies that anyone, including law enforcement, cannot take possession of a mobile device to verify the device owner's identity if they use their device as identification cards.

"So much of our personal information, passwords and sentimental value is stored within our phones," Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, said in a statement. "People shouldn't have to hand over their phones just to prove their identity, nor can we allow critical personal information to fall into the wrong hands."

The bill also updates state law to change

language and requirements on mobile IDs to ensure clarity as more people are using mobile IDs. The bill would take effect upon becoming law.

### Professor workload

The Senate Higher Education Committee unanimously advanced a measure on Wednesday that is designed to provide more transparency around the course workload for college faculty members.

Senate Bill 3314 sponsored by Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, would require the Illinois Board of Higher Education to annually report beginning in 2027 the number of credit hours being taught by full- and part-time faculty and both public at private universities in the state. The state does not currently require public reports on the number of credit hours faculty members are reaching.

"This legislation helps shine a light on who is doing the teaching in our colleges and universities by making clear how many credit hours are taught by full-time versus part-time faculty," Illinois Education Association President Karl Goeke said in a statement. "Our students and their families deserve to know who is leading the bulk of the classes at their colleges and universities. Plus, we know there are a lot of adjunct faculty teaching the same courses as tenured faculty, but they're being paid less and receive fewer benefits."

### Rideshare unions

The Senate Labor Committee on Tuesday heard testimony on Senate Bill 2906, which would give rideshare drivers the right to unionize. While legislators did not vote on the bill, several said it seemed like a good idea, but questioned whether the bill might have unintended effects on drivers who work in rideshare and delivery.

"My concern is that while some folks might just be exclusively rideshare drivers and others delivery, from what I've heard from folks in my community, they do multiple things," Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago said. "I want to make sure that while we're upholding those rights, that we're not inadvertently harming folks from not being able to do, you know, multiple things."

Two union representatives and two rideshare drivers testified in support of the bill, citing low wages and limited bargaining opportunities. The Illinois Department of Labor and Labor Relations Board did not take a position on the bill but expressed concern over a provision implementing a 20-cent per ride administrative fee.

Bill sponsor Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, said he had met with the agencies on Monday and Tuesday to discuss an amendment filed last Friday.

"Right now, many drivers are leaving the market because the pay is behind so much," rideshare driver Andrew Spiro said. "We need to make this work fair, stable and sustainable. Passing this bill will help make that possible."

*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.*

