

State General Revenues Top \$50 Billion for First Time in FY2022

Pandemic-driven windfalls not expected to last long into current year

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

State tax revenues grew by \$5.5 billion in the fiscal year that concluded on June 30, exceeding \$50 billion for the first time in Illinois' history, according to a new report from a state budgeting agency.

The 12 percent base revenue growth in Fiscal Year 2022 gave lawmakers near-unprecedented flexibility in the current budget year.

Continued on Page 2



State and Logan The Hub of Historic Belvidere

By David Larson

Over the years, since the railroad came to Belvidere in 1852, the near South State Street at Logan Avenue—the stagecoach route intersection—has been the cornerstone of Belvidere's second phase of growth and the most visible location in the community.

These photos record that unique corner over 100 years through the 1950s.

The John Plane Hardware and the Hovey & Schaefer Building, perhaps the first noteworthy building on the south side of the Kishwaukee River, are the top picture, seen just before the turn of the century. Streetcars, electricity, and telephones had already become integrated into the city.

The middle photo is a completely new building that replaced the original structure at some unknown date, perhaps in the 1920s. Edward C. Hovey and A.J. Schaefer retained ownership of the location and the new building. A firm similar to the Hovey & Schaefer store, Kenyon Company occupied the whole building selling men's, women's and children's clothing. In August of 1939, the Kenyon Company store closed, but little is known about the retailer.

The third photograph at the bottom is an exterior view of the J. C. Penney store in the same building. Hovey and Schaefer immediately had a new long-term tenant, J. C. Penney who took possession in September of 39. Penney's completely remodeled the interior of the store. By 1939, Penney's was a successful retailer with stores reaching to both coasts.

After these buildings, two other buildings have been located at this corner in the subsequent 60 years. J.C. Penney replaced the Hovey & Schaefer building with a plain, painted cinder block building with a windowed facade. That building was removed to build the present bank building.

Today this part of Belvidere has come to share the retail commerce of the community with other locations along State Street and Logan Avenue. The heritage of this central business district has become as important or even more important than the square footage of currently existing retail space.



Tax Relief

from page 2

That allowed the General Assembly to approve \$1.8 billion in tax relief, pay \$500 million more to state pensions than statutes require, retire hundreds of millions of dollars in interest-accruing debts early, and drive the state's "rainy day" fund to its highest-ever balance of over \$1 billion.

It also helped the state reach a zero-day accounts payable cycle – meaning it was caught up on its bills – for the first time in decades.

But the report from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability also noted that the pandemic-related drivers of growth, which led to nationwide revenue windfalls for nearly all state governments, are likely to wane in the coming months.

That's something Gov. JB Pritzker told Capitol News Illinois last week that lawmakers planned for in April when they projected Fiscal Year 2023 revenues at \$46.5 billion – an 8 percent decrease from the final FY 2022 numbers.

"We wrote that into the budget, that is a decrease in revenue just in this coming year," Pritzker said in an interview. "So, we understand that there were some temporary nature of revenues that were coming in."

All told, the FY 2022 base revenues reached \$50.3 billion without including direct federal aid. The number jumps to \$51.1 billion when including a \$736 million direct transfer-in of COVID-19 relief dollars.

The base revenues were nearly \$8 billion beyond the May 2021 projections on which the FY 2022 budget was based. Personal and corporate income tax grew \$6.1 billion beyond what was projected in May 2021, while sales tax revenues were about \$979 million beyond projections.

While the revenue windfalls won't alleviate longstanding budget pressures such as a \$130 billion unfunded pension liability that demands about a quarter of state general revenue funds each year, it's a level of good financial news that Illinoisans are not accustomed to hearing – and a level of progress Pritzker has hung his hat on as he seeks a second term.

"A significant surplus and a zero-day payment cycle mean that our schools are funded, our roads are being rebuilt, and our healthcare providers are paid on time – and Illinois taxpayers are no longer dealing with hundreds of millions of dollars in interest payments because government didn't do its job," Pritzker said in a statement last week. "Illinois' massive bill backlog – eliminated since I came into office – once contained bills past due for as long as 500 days."

The COGFA report noted that even though direct federal aid was not included in the base revenue calculation, the indirect effects of federal stimulus played a major role in the unexpected growth.

So major, in fact, that revenue came in beyond initial projections in 49 states in the fiscal year.

One driving factor, according to the report, was the "continuation of a pandemic-related shift" in consumer spending from non-taxed service-based sales to taxable goods, which created "strong market conditions" that led to increased tax revenues from corporate profits and capital gains.

Republicans have also attributed the revenue spikes at least partially to an "inflation-induced sugar high," noting that as prices increase so does sales tax revenue.

"The influence of these particular factors is expected to wane as the state enters into FY 2023 resulting in reduced revenue expectations for the upcoming fiscal year," the COGFA report noted.

Still, June's receipts remained strong, growing by \$736 million compared to the previous fiscal year.

As a result, final FY 2022 revenues were \$2.6 billion higher than the April estimate from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget that was used as the basis of this year's budget negotiations.

A GOMB spokesperson said in an email Wednesday that the surplus has not led to any discussion of amending the FY 2023 budget in the first week of the new fiscal year. But it's likely to allow for some flexibility.

"FY 2022 revenues continued to outperform expectations through the last quarter of the fiscal year," GOMB spokesperson Carol Knowles said in an email. "This will allow the state to be better positioned in the coming year as we continue to monitor the national economic outlook."

Knowles noted that the higher-than-expected revenues contributed to the improving fiscal situation which Comptroller Susana Mendoza and Pritzker highlighted in a pair of news releases last week.

Those releases noted Illinois has erased its "bill backlog," ending the fiscal year with a general revenue funds payment cycle of zero days from when vouchers are received by the state comptroller's office.

The \$1.8 billion accounts payable balance was a far cry from the height of the state's two-year budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly, when the bill backlog reached \$16.7 billion.

Pritzker has also touted – and bond ratings agencies have noted – that Illinois focused much of its spending of surplus dollars on relieving interest-accruing debt. Illinois has seen six credit rating upgrades – two each from each of the three major agencies – in the past year.

In a news release last week Pritzker contrasted those upgrades with the eight downgrades the state received during the tenure of Rauner, whom Pritzker unseated in 2018.

While the upgrades this year mark the first upward break from a downward trend that began in the Blagojevich administration, Illinois remains in the worst shape of all states as judged by the ratings agencies.

And while Illinois lawmakers dedicated \$1 billion to the rainy day fund, Mendoza said in a news release she'd push for laws mandating greater contributions to budget stabilization funds when Illinois has stronger-than-expected revenue performances in the future.

"The fact that we'll have a billion dollars saved in our rainy day fund to help us during adverse downturns certainly helps, but Illinois must save more when we are able to with stronger-than-expected revenue receipts so that we strengthen our ability to weather through

these unexpected crises," she said.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Quidnunc



Perhaps we should build an old fashion train station and the train will come. Oh, the Brooklyn Bridge is for sale again. It is time to start thinking inside the box.



- Cook, Ruth, 97, Cherry Valley, July 2
- Fabish, Adella, 93, Belvidere, July 3
- Galster, Douglas, 81, Poplar Grove, July 8
- Lawton, Brian, 49, Belvidere, July 5
- Mackey, Frances, 87, Belvidere, July 9
- McConnell, LaVila, 83, Belvidere, July 8
- Nelson, Steven, 72, Belvidere, June 28
- Tindle, Oneda, 88, Belvidere, July 7



REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor: David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial: Charles Herbst
Photography: Susan Moran

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

419 S. STATE ST • BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PHONE: (815) 544-4430 FAX: 544-4330
WWW.BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM
NEWS@BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM

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.

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

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

FREE BIBLE

We are offering free of charge an easy-to-read Bible. It's the GOOD NEWS BIBLE in today's English. The volumes we distribute contain the Old & New Testaments, maps, and helpful features to assist the reader. If you would like to receive a copy, simply write to us at the address below. This is a free offer. There will be no follow-up correspondence. We do not ask for money.

Gift Of The Word
P.O. Box 307
Avon, NY 14414

LOST CAT

"Camden" Domestic medium hair, brown Tabby;
has eye issues, Willow Street area

779-537-1141

Sweet Magnolia KITCHEN

CUSTOM CUPCAKES & CAKE POPS -
CALL THE CUPCAKE LADY!

A perfect bite for everyone!

815-276-5285



SWEETMAGNOLIATC
@GMAIL.COM

Pritzker Pushes for Assault Weapons Ban, Federal Action

Bill pending in General Assembly would prohibit further sales

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

In the wake of a July 4 mass shooting in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured, Gov. JB Pritzker is calling for a ban at both the state and national levels on military-style assault rifles and high-capacity magazines.

The governor made those calls on national cable television and at the White House in recent days.

“While I support an assault weapon and high-capacity magazine ban at the state level, we urgently need federal regulation on the weapons of war and high-capacity magazines that are used only for mass murder,” Pritzker said in a statement released last week. “Illinois is not an island, and even with some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, our state is only as safe as the state with the weakest laws — many of which border Illinois.”

The weapon used in the Highland Park shooting has been identified as a Smith and Wesson M&P 15, a semi-automatic rifle that holds 30-round magazines of 5.56mm ammunition. The alleged shooter, Robert Crimo III, reportedly used three such magazines during his attack on a Fourth of July parade, firing off more than 80 shots in a matter of just a few minutes.

Although the letters “M&P” stand for “Military & Police,” it and others like it have been widely available to civilians at sporting goods stores throughout the country.

The weapon used in Highland Park is also similar to guns used in other recent mass shootings, including the May 24 shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, that left 19 children and two teachers dead, and the May 14 shooting at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store that killed 10 people.

All those weapons are modeled after the Colt AR-15, a semi-automatic version of a rifle originally designed for the military.

On Monday, Pritzker and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering were at the White House for an event with President Joe Biden marking the recent signing of the Safer Communities Act, the first significant federal law addressing gun violence in nearly 30 years.

“We had a number of conversations immediately after the attack in Highland Park and I’ve been impressed with the way they’ve handled things. It’s been extraordinary,” Biden said. “And as the three of us have discussed, we have more to do.”

Later in the day, Pritzker appeared on CNN’s “State of the Union,” and he repeated his call for additional measures to control gun violence.

“I think that there are probably three things that need to be looked at here: One is changing some of the verbiage in the law on red flags so that something could have been filed that would have prevented the FOID card from being issued. That’s one,” he said. “Two is that we need to ban assault weapons, not just in the state of Illinois, but nationally. And then third, high-capacity magazines.”

A bill pending in the General Assembly would make it a felony to buy or sell assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines. House Bill 5522, by Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, would also require existing owners of such weapons to register them with the Illinois State Police, and it would prohibit those owners from selling them in-state to anyone but a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Hirschauer, a first-term lawmaker and organizer of a local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, introduced the bill in January, but it was never considered in a substantive committee. Since the July 4 mass shooting in Highland Park, however, 50 more lawmakers, all Democrats, have signed on as cosponsors.

“I think that my colleagues have been moved by the tragedy in Highland Park, but also moved by the gun violence that affects the entire state, and constituents all over Illinois have been reaching out to their state representatives and state senators, telling them how important this bill is,” Hirschauer said during a phone interview.

Gun rights advocates, on the other hand, argue that eliminating one type of gun from society will not address the underlying causes of gun violence.

“We certainly understand the emotional response of anti-gun politicians in light of the evil and violence the world witnessed in Highland Park ... just like the equivalent of 47 Highland Park shootings that have taken place in the city of Chicago year to date,” Richard Pearson, director of the Illinois State Rifle Association, said in an email. “Evil and violence do not lie in an inanimate object but in the hearts of people. At some point politicians must tackle the “Why” of violence instead of the easy way out by trying to ban inanimate objects.”

Lawmakers had planned to convene a special session this summer, primarily to respond to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision striking down a constitutional right to abortion. Before the Highland Park shooting, however, those plans were put on hold and no special session has yet been scheduled.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Darren Bailey also called for a special session last week to repeal a criminal justice reform bill passed in January 2021 and convene a mental health task force consisting of “doctors, first responders, patients, home caregivers, parents, teachers, and churches.”

The Pritzker campaign, in turn, blasted Bailey for voting against gun safety bills and state budgets that increased mental health funding.

The next scheduled meeting of the General

Assembly is Nov. 15 when the regular fall veto session convenes.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, non-partisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

FOID, Red Flags and Restraining Orders: How State Laws Regulate Firearm Purchases

Highland Park shooter was able to buy assault weapon despite previous police run-ins

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

A mass shooting in Highland Park at a Fourth of July parade prompted questions about how the suspect was able to obtain a gun in a state with some of the strictest gun laws in the nation.

Law enforcement officials have said that the Highland Park shooting suspect, Robert Crimo III, 21, legally purchased and possessed the Smith & Wesson M&P 15 that he used in the attack that left at least seven dead and dozens injured.

Gun laws in Illinois regulate the purchase and possession of guns and ammunition. In order to legally possess a gun, the owner must have a Firearm Owners Identification Card.

Despite the existence of two previous reports regarding apparent suicidal and homicidal tendencies exhibited by Crimo, he obtained a FOID card and was legally allowed to purchase weapons and ammunition.

In April 2019, Highland Park police responded to a call that Crimo attempted to commit suicide with a machete one week prior. The report also stated that it was handled by “mental health professionals.”

In September 2019, police returned to the home in response to a report that Crimo was using drugs, was depressed and had threatened to “kill everyone.”

Crimo and his mother denied that account. Highland Park police initially confiscated 16 knives and one sword. No one was arrested, and Crimo’s father claimed ownership of the knives, which police later returned to him.

At that time, Highland Park police completed a “Clear and Present Danger” form. The form states that clear and present danger reporting shall be used by Illinois State Police to identify individuals who, if granted access to a firearm or ammunition, pose an actual, imminent threat of substantial bodily harm to themselves or others.

The Illinois State Police Firearms Services Bureau, the administrator of the FOID card program, determines whether the subject of the clear and present danger report possesses a FOID card or has a pending application. At the time, Crimo had neither.

Continued on Page 4

Pro Tree Care & Landscaping

Linda Johns owner

Over 30 years of service • 24 hr emergency service

General and Safety Pruning

Hedge and Shrub trimming • Tree and stump Removal

Spring and Fall cleanup • Firewood pickup and delivery



815-547-3345

jackofftrade81@mchsi.com

**Received a notice from the IRS?
Haven't filed for several years?
Can't afford to pay your taxes?**



You have a serious legal problem. You must take action. The IRS is not going to go away.

There are deadlines. Miss those deadlines and you'll lose your rights to appeal, have your case heard, and pay more interest and penalties.

I can help. As a tax attorney, I am trained to analyze the law, minimize your tax bill, and protect your legal rights. Wouldn't you rather speak with someone locally that you can trust?

You can overcome your tax problems. I use a variety of approaches, often more than one, to solve a tax problem. Each client's situation is different.

Let's work through your IRS matter and get you back to enjoying The Good Life.



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.
LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

FOID*from page 3*

But three months after the September 2019 visit from Highland Park Police, Crimo did apply for a FOID card. Because at that time he was still under the age of 21, he needed a sponsor for approval. His father signed the application, state police have said.

After Crimo submitted his application, a background check would be initiated to determine whether there were any circumstances that prohibited him from gun ownership.

Illinois law allows state police to deny an application for a FOID card, or to revoke or seize a FOID card, if they find that the current or prospective cardholder is subject to any of the following disqualifications:

- Is under 21 years of age and has been convicted of a misdemeanor or found to be a delinquent;
- Has been convicted of a felony under the laws of Illinois or any other jurisdiction;
- Is addicted to narcotics;
- Has been a patient of a mental health facility within the past five years;
- Is mentally or developmentally disabled;
- Has been involuntarily committed to a mental health facility;
- Intentionally made a false statement on the FOID card application;
- Has been convicted within the past five years of battery, assault, aggravated assault, or violation of a protective order in which a firearm was used or possessed;
- Has been convicted of domestic battery or aggravated domestic battery.

If Crimo would have had a FOID card or had a pending application at the time Highland Park police filed the clear and present danger form, analysts would have had to determine if there was a preponderance of evidence – a burden of proof that is met when it is determined that there is a greater than 50 percent chance the claim is true – to issue a clear and present danger determination.

Crimo had no previous criminal convictions on his adult record. His only conviction was for possession of tobacco by a minor when he was 16 years old. Under Illinois law, juvenile convictions are sealed.

Despite the two calls to Highland Park police including the suicide attempt and the threat of violence, Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly said there was no reason for Illinois State Police not to issue the FOID card. State police have said there was no report from a mental hospital or provider that would have triggered a prohibitor.

And even though an unidentified resident of the family home claimed they were afraid to return to the home after the September 2019 call to the Highland Park Police, there was no order of protection.

Illinois also has a “red flag” law, officially the Firearm Restraining Order Act, which is usually pursued in circuit court in response to various actions, including brandishing of a firearm, threatened use of a firearm, and violation of an order of protection, among others.

While existing prohibitions on firearm possession are determined by an individual’s prior criminal or mental health history, firearm restraining orders are different because they are an immediate but temporary action.

Crimo’s FOID card application was one of more than 23,977 received by the Firearm Services Bureau in December 2019, and one of 309,176 received throughout the year. It was approved in January the following year.

In addition to the FOID background check, Crimo would have been subject to additional background checks through the federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System when buying firearms. Crimo passed checks on June 9, 2020, July 18, 2020, July 31, 2020 and Sept. 20, 2021.

Crimo has confessed to the shooting. He has been charged with seven counts of first-degree murder. He remains in jail with no bond pending trial.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Major Fundraising Underdogs Among Challengers to Unseat Incumbents

Unofficial results show six incumbents likely ousted in primaries

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Four months before the general election, six incumbent state lawmakers appeared primed for an early rejection by voters based on unofficial tallies this week.

The longest-serving of the incumbents to lose their primary election was Democratic Rep. Mike Zalewski, of Riverside, a founding member of the House’s “Mod Squad” of moderate Democrats. He was unseated by a more liberal challenger, Abdelnasser Rashid, of Justice, who had the backing of the progressive group Our Revolution, which has roots in the 2016 presidential campaign of U.S. Sen Bernie Sanders.

It’s a race that Kent Redfield, a campaign finance expert and professor emeritus of political science at the University of Illinois at Springfield, called “stunning.”

Redfield calculated that Zalewski raised just over \$1 million and about \$96,000 was raised by associated independent expenditure committees. Rashid, on the other hand, raised \$383,000 with his biggest contributor being family members at \$60,000, according to Redfield’s analysis.

“I mean, there were issues within positions, a bunch of other things, but if you look at that money, that’s just stunning that you’ve got \$1 million that he raised during that 18-month period,” Redfield said.

Zalewski was one of three incumbent House Democrats who were trailing in their elections this week. Election results won’t officially be certified until July 29, and some jurisdictions continue to await mail ballots which will still be accepted through July 12, provided they were postmarked as of election day.

While Redfield said it’s not unusual for incumbents to be unseated in a primary, usually those with establishment backing and big money donors end up prevailing. Mitigating factors this year, he said, were that every legislative district was redrawn with new decennial census data, and the fact that the House has a new speaker.

Emanuel “Chris” Welch, of Hillside, replaced former Speaker Michael Madigan in January 2021 after Madigan held the gavel for all but two years since 1983.

“You know, I don’t want to say, well, Madigan would have won it and Welch didn’t sort of thing,” Redfield said. “Because you can’t ever go back. Madigan, a couple of cycles ago, you’d be shocked.”

The ousting of the three Democratic incumbents wasn’t as shocking this year, he said, because Welch’s operation isn’t as “top-heavy” as Madigan’s was.

“I mean, part of that is, is it possible to do that? And secondly, do you want to do that?” he said of maintaining a level of control that Madigan had over House races.

And he said Rashid ran a successful grassroots campaign.

Rashid frequently attacked the seven-term incumbent on his vote against a measure repealing a parental notification of abortion requirement and for his ties to Madigan, who has been indicted on bribery and racketeering charges.

The Riverside-Brookfield Landmark newspaper quoted a Rashid election-night victory speech in which he said he would fight for the middle class, work to end corruption and that he was excited to be the General Assembly’s first Palestinian Muslim.

Zalewski, meanwhile, was no stranger to heavy lifts in the General Assembly, frequently carrying major revenue bills as well as a measure that would have set the rates of a graduated income tax structure had it not been rejected by voters.

That district, the 21st, encompasses a long stretch of the southwest Chicago suburbs, stretching from the Berwyn area in the north to the Bridgeview area in the south. Rashid’s margin of victory was about 320 votes, unofficially as of Friday, although Zalewski conceded on election night.

“I loved this job, gave my all for the people of the district and the state, and did it the best I could,” he said in a social media statement. “The voters of the district made their voices heard, and that’s democracy.”

Rashid’s general election opponent will be Matthew Schultz, who the Landmark reported is a 26-year-old from Brookfield who works for the anti-tax group Taxpayers United.

77th House District

In the 77th District, which includes O’Hare Airport and the suburbs of Northlake and Addison, incumbent Democrat Kathleen Willis trailed challenger Norma Hernandez by about 200 votes as of Friday.

Hernandez had the backing of progressive U.S. Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, as well as powerful labor unions such as the Mid America Carpenters Union and the Chicago Laborers’ District Council.

Continued on Page 5

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates

We Are OPEN

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date



Fundraising

from page 4

Willis was a member of Madigan's leadership team who ultimately opposed Madigan's reelection as speaker in 2021, helping to end his historic run. While she was not named to leadership under Welch, he did campaign for Willis during the primary race. Willis was the sponsor of gun dealer licensing legislation that became the first bill signed by Gov. JB Pritzker.

Fundraising was about equal in that race, with Willis raising \$330,000, including \$76,000 from teacher unions, \$100,000 from other elected officials' candidate committees and \$63,000 from Democrats for the Illinois House.

Hernandez raised \$316,000 with \$86,000 raised by independent expenditure committees that were working in her favor. She received \$120,000 from organized labor and \$133,000 from other elected officials' committees, according to Redfield's analysis.

The Republican candidate in the district is Anthony Airdo, of Melrose Park, who lost to Willis in the district's old boundaries in 2020 by a margin of about 44 percentage points.

16th House District

The Gun Violence Prevention PAC claimed the apparent unseating of incumbent Denyse Wang Stoneback as a victory in the 16th District.

"Rep. Stoneback failed her constituents when she worked against and refused to vote for life-saving legislation that would require universal background checks for all gun sales and provide funding for mental health," Kathleen Sances, president and CEO of GPAC, said in a statement.

Kevin Olickal, a Skokie Democrat who had a lead of about 640 votes over Stoneback as of Friday, also had the backing of U.S. Rep. Garcia, as well as his state senator, Ram Villivalam, of Chicago. Billed on his campaign website as a "true progressive," Olickal is currently working part-time toward his juris doctorate at Loyola University Chicago School of Law School.

Spending in that race was near equal as well, with Stoneback raising \$285,000, including \$44,000 from organized labor, \$14,000 from Democrats for the Illinois House and \$44,000 from Welch's candidate committee.

Olickal raised \$204,000, with \$96,000 in independent expenditures raised to oppose Stoneback by anti-gun groups. GPAC also gave \$36,645 directly to Olickal's campaign. He also received \$90,000 between organized labor and the nursing home industry.

The Republican candidate in the northside Chicago-area district is Vince Romano, also of Skokie. He ran unsuccessfully for the district under its previous boundaries in 2012 against former Madigan lieutenant Lou Lang, garnering just 32 percent of the vote.

43rd Senate District

The Senate Democrats lost one incumbent to a primary challenger, although Eric Mattson had only been in the Senate since May. He had replaced John Connor, a Will County Democrat who left the chamber in a bid to become a judge, in the 43rd District.

Mattson was beaten by Will County board member Rachel Ventura by more than 1,800 votes. Ventura's campaign page describes her as "pro-ethics, no strings attached," and as a "progressive Democrat" who is dedicated to fighting the wealth gap.

She was dwarfed in fundraising by Mattson, who raised \$801,000, including \$245,000 from the Senate Democrats' campaign apparatus and \$416,000 from organized labor. Ventura's biggest backer gave her \$6,000, and her candidate committee received just 12 contributions exceeding \$1,000 while raising only \$41,000.

On the GOP side, Diane Harris, who received backing from the Senate Republican Victory Fund – the campaign apparatus for establishment Senate Republicans – held a lead over her challenger by about 120 votes as of Friday. Her opponent

was Michelle Lee, a further right candidate whose focus was education policy with a stated goal of banning critical race theory in Illinois schools.

93rd House District

Two House Republican incumbents lost in their primaries as well.

Mark Luft, a House Republican and mayor of Pekin, had the backing of over \$59,000 from the campaign account of House Minority Leader Jim Durkin and \$268,000 from organized labor. He lost by more than 3,000 votes to the son of a retired state senator in the 93rd District. All told, Luft raised \$463,000.

Travis Weaver, the victor in that race, was backed by the GOP nominee for governor, state Sen. Darren Bailey. Weaver's dad, Chuck Weaver, served in the Illinois Senate from 2015 through January 2021.

Weaver raised \$295,000, including \$60,000 from his father's campaign committee and \$83,000 from business and professional organizations.

No Democrat ran in the western Illinois district that runs from Geneseo to the north to the Pekin area.

75th House District

In the 75th House District, David Welter, a Morris Republican, was defeated by Jed Davis, a more conservative challenger from Newark who also had Bailey's backing.

Welter was one of the House GOP's more effective bipartisan lawmakers, having most recently voted for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, a massive energy overhaul which helped secure the future of the nuclear plants in his district.

Welter was bested by about 1,000 votes in the district that includes suburbs such as Yorkville and Oswego. He had raised \$663,000, including \$205,000 from organized labor and \$40,000 from the state Republican Party.

Davis raised just \$48,000, including \$6,000 from Bailey supporter and GOP megadonor Richard Uihlein, and \$15,000 from the Restore Illinois PAC, which also supported Bailey.

No Democrat filed to run in the district.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Boone County Master Gardeners are Ready to Answer Your Call:

Boone County Master Gardeners offers a free service answering garden questions at their Horticulture Help Desk. The Help Desk is open 1-4 p.m., Monday thru Thursday throughout the growing season (April – Sept.) Master Gardeners are volunteers who have trained by University of Illinois Extension educators to provide research-based answers to your home horticulture questions. Topics include insects, trees, shrubs, plants, vegetables, fruits, gardens, lawns, and more. The Master Gardeners can be reached by calling 815-544-3710, emailing in your question to uimg-boone@illinois.edu, or by stopping at the office at 205 Cadillac Court, Suite 3 in Belvidere during help desk hours.

Community Garden Tour Day: The cost of food is on the rise. Access to fresh produce may become an issue for those who can't afford it. Community gardens help to feed the hungry by putting fresh produce into the hands of those in need.

Belvidere is fortunate to have four community gardens that work to provide fresh produce for the community. Two of the gardens provide food for local food pantries as well as educational/volunteer opportunities for youth in 4-H programs

and life skills with the Belvidere NASR groups.

On Saturday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to noon, the community is welcome to attend this year's Community Garden Tour Day. Stop by one or stop by all four and learn how the gardens got started, how they function in the community and how you can get involved. Volunteers will be at each site to help answer any questions you may have.

The four garden locations are as follows:

Boone County Health Department (1204 Logan Ave. Belvidere – Behind the Administration Building)
Buchanan Street Garden (218 Buchanan Street – corner of Main St. and Buchanan Street)
St. John's United Church of Christ (401 N. Main Street)

Ida Public Library (320 N. State Street)

Friends Of Beckman Mill's Annual Ice Cream Social & Artists in The Park:

Summer is finally here, the season of ice cream, cake, and root beer floats! Everyone is invited to join the Friends of Beckman Mill for their Annual Ice Cream Social and Artists in the Park on Sunday July 17th. Enjoy food, art, and fun for the whole family from Noon until 4:00 p.m. Entrance to the park is FREE and there is so much to see and do!

Artists from around the region will display their works in a beautiful open-air gallery.

Kids are you ready to get creative? Budding artists are invited to paint – canvas and paints will be provided; you bring your artistic spirit.

For information call 608.751.1551 or check out the Friends of Beckman Mill website: www.beckmanmill.org

Village of Caledonia - Monthly Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 6:00PM, Caledonia Congregational Church, 14730 Oak St., Caledonia IL 61011, www.villageofcaledonia.com

What's in the SAFE-T Act? A Look At The 2021 Criminal Justice Reform and How it has Evolved

Law enforcement opposition has softened since initial passage, although concerns remain

By Grace Kinnicutt Capitol News Illinois

Amid a campaign season in which every constitutional office and seat in the Illinois General Assembly will be up for vote, rising crime and a landmark criminal justice reform passed in 2021 have become dominant topics for Republicans trying to loosen Democrats' hold on state government.

The Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act, known as the SAFE-T Act, passed with the backing of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus in the early hours of Jan. 13, 2021.

The broad-ranging measure abolishes cash bail beginning in January 2023, reforms police training, certification and use-of-force standards, expands detainee rights, and requires body cameras at all departments by 2025.

Since its passage, the measure has been amended twice to accommodate concerns of law enforcement groups, pushing back certain effective dates and changing some of the initial use-of-force language.

Continued on Page 7



LEGAL NOTICES

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

MARIA G. RIVERA, Plaintiff
-VS- CASE # 22DN29
NOE X. COSIMIO JR, Defendant
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given to you, NOE X. CASIMIRO JR., Defendant that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 on or before the 27th day of July 2022 a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.

Dated: 06-27-2022
Pamela Coduto, Clerk of the Circuit Court
17th Judicial Court, Boone County, Illinois
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 7/7, 7/14, 7/21 – P

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
BOONE COUNTY

DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT): ROBERT NELSON FISH
Case No. 2022-MR-6

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: ROBERT NELSON FISH to the new name of HANNAH RENEE FISH. The court date will be held on 08/09/2022 at 9:30a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3
Published in *The Boone County Journal* – 7/7, 7/14, 7/21 – P

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PENNY S. CHAMBERLIN, Deceased PROBATE No. 2022-PR-7

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION – CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the estate of PENNY S. CHAMBERLIN, of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 21st, 2022, to ROBB CHAMBERLIN, whose address is 157 Harvest Glenn Dr., Davis Junction, IL of Ogle County and whose attorney is Ashley Davis of Berger Law Firm LLC, 418 W. Blackhawk Dr., Suite 102, Byron, IL 61010.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the representative, or both, within (6) months from the date of first publication of this claim notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney with ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Attorney No.: 6326799
Attorney: Ashley Davis
Firm Berger Law Firm, LLC
Address: 418 W. Blackhawk Dr., Suite 102, Byron, IL 61010
Phone (815) 234-4950
Service Email office@bergerlawfirm.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 7/7, 7/14, 7/21

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: DAYANA VELAZQUEZ-GACIA, minor
No. 20-JA-4

Julian Velazquez-Marquez/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on MARCH 16, 2022, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Dayana Velazquez-Garcia, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 7/28/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THE PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHT TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: July 5, 2022 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
Published in *The Boone County Journal*; July 14, 21, 28 – C

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

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: RICHARD KILKELLY, Deceased.
CASE NO. 2022 PR 34

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of RICHARD KILKELLY. Letters of Office were issued on July 5, 2022 to KIM MANSON, who is the Executor of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Mark D. Brynteson, 2969 Rolling Meadow Court, Belvidere, IL 61008. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before January 16, 2023, that date being at least six (6) months 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 755 ILCS 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date as stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, Belvidere, Illinois, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office-Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Mark D. Brynteson, Attorney for Executor
Attorney Mark D. Brynteson #627884
2969 Rolling Meadow Court
Belvidere, IL 61008

P: 815-569-4280
F: 815-459-4075
E: mdb@bryntesonlaw.com PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULLE 11 FOR PLEADINGS ONLY
Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 14, 21, 28

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-_____
ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATIONS OF THE
NORTH BOONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING MAY 1, 2022, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the North Boone Fire Protection District #3, Boone County, Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a Budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Budget on the 5th day of July, 2022, and Notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and the Board having met all other applicable legal requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the North Boone Fire Protection District #3, Boone County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: That the fiscal year of this Fire Protection District is hereby fixed to begin on May 1, 2022, and end on April 30, 2023.

Section 2: That the following Budget containing an estimate of the revenues available and expenditures and the appropriations contained therein be and the same is hereby adopted as the Budget and Appropriations for this fire protection district for this fiscal year; and the following sums of money, or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the North Boone Fire Protection District #3, for its fiscal year beginning May 1, 2021, and ending April 30, 2022, for the respective objects and purposes, as hereinafter set forth namely:

<u>CORPORATE FUND</u>	
<u>Estimated Corporate Fund Revenues</u>	
Cash on hand as of April 30, 2022	\$ 679,361.00
Investments/Capital Reserve on hand	\$ 126,255.00
Property Taxes to be received in FY 2022-2023	\$ 767,018.00
Illinois Replacement Tax	\$ 5,000.00
Foreign Fire Insurance Proceeds	\$ 10,000.00
Adjustment Levy	\$ 1,335.00
Public Assistance Grant	\$ 310,000.00
Interest	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 9,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE:	\$ 1,908,169.00

Estimated Corporate Fund Expenditures and Appropriations
BUDGETED APPROPRIATED

<u>I. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:</u>	
Volunteer Firemen Compensation:	\$ 40,000 \$ 50,000
Chief Salary:	\$ 50,000 \$ 55,000
Trustee Salaries:	\$ 11,250 \$ 12,000
Training-Staff:	\$ 2,000 \$ 2,000
Training-Firemen:	\$ 20,000 \$ 40,000
Professional Services:	\$ 13,000 \$ 18,000
Fire Inspections:	\$ 14,000 \$ 15,000
Legal Ads:	\$ 1,200 \$ 3,000
Auditing:	\$ 9,000 \$ 15,000
OSF Paramedics:	\$275,000 \$290,000
Legal Fees:	\$ 25,000 \$ 35,000
Uniforms:	\$ 3,000 \$ 5,000
Payroll Taxes:	\$ 18,182 \$ 20,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:	\$481,632 \$560,000
<u>II. OPERATING EXPENSES:</u>	
Fuel and Oil:	\$ 46,000 \$ 70,000
Truck/Equipment Repairs:	\$ 50,000 \$ 60,000
Radio/ Pager Repair:	\$ 2,500 \$ 5,000
Building Maintenance:	\$ 40,000 \$ 60,000
Utilities/Communications:	\$ 70,000 \$100,000
Insurance:	\$ 90,000 \$100,000
Supplies and Consumables:	\$ 30,000 \$ 40,000
Dues:	\$ 1,500 \$ 3,000
Miscellaneous Expense:	\$ 3,000 \$ 6,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$333,000 \$ 444,000
<u>III. CAPITAL EXPENSES:</u>	
Replace Protective Gear:	\$ 25,000 \$ 35,000
Truck/Equipment Purchase:	\$ 50,000 \$ 75,000
Ambulance Loan:	\$ 50,000 \$ 50,000
Building Expenses:	\$ 25,000 \$ 40,000
Building Loan:	\$ 157,000 \$ 160,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES:	\$ 307,000 \$ 360,000
<u>IV. RESERVE AND CONTINGENCY:</u>	
Equipment Reserve Fund:	\$ 500,000 \$ 500,000
Contingency Fund:	\$ 50,000 \$ 50,000
Building/Capital Reserve:	\$ 235,000 \$ 235,000
TOTAL RESERVE AND CONTINGENCY:	\$ 785,000 \$ 785,000

TOTAL CORPORATE FUND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS: \$ 1,906,632.00 \$ 2,149,000.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for corporate purposes.

ESTIMATED CORPORATE FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023: \$1,537.00

AMBULANCE FUND
Estimated Ambulance Fund Revenues

Cash on hand as of April 30, 2022	\$0.00
Property Taxes to be received in FY 2022-2023	\$ 21,443.00
Ambulance Revenue	\$336,000.00

Miscellaneous Income	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE:	\$ 358,443.00
<u>Estimated Ambulance Fund Expenditures and Appropriations</u>	
BUDGETED APPROPRIATED	
<u>AMBULANCE EXPENSES:</u>	
Ambulance Staffing:	\$ 276,000 \$ 300,000
Ambulance Billing:	\$ 36,960 \$ 45,000
Payroll Taxes:	\$ 27,275 \$ 30,000
Miscellaneous Expenses:	\$ 2,000 \$ 4,000
Ambulance Reserve:	\$ 16,208 \$ 16,208
TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS:	\$ 358,443.00 \$ 395,208.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the proceeds of a special property tax for ambulance purposes.

ESTIMATED AMBULANCE FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023: \$0.00

SUMMARY

TOTAL CORPORATE FUND APPROPRIATIONS \$ 2,149,000.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND APPROPRIATIONS \$ 395,208.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS \$ 2,544,208.00

Section 3: That all unexpended balances of any item or items of any general appropriation in this Ordinance be expended in making up any insufficiency in any other item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose of any like appropriation made by this Ordinance.

Section 4: That the invalidity of any item or Section of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of the whole or any other part hereof.

Section 5: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 5th day of July, 2022, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Guthrie, Ragland, Worley, Cassidy NAYS: None ABSENT: Baraconi

APPROVED by me this 5th day of July, 2022.
/s/ Glen Guthrie, President, Board of Trustees, North Boone Fire Protection District #3

ATTEST: /s/ Lesley Ragland, Secretary, Board of Trustees, North Boone Fire Protection District #3
Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 14, 2022

ASSUMED NAMES

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend...to conduct and transact a Roofing business in said County and State under the name of ANDERSON ROOFING at the following addresses 111 E 4th St., Belvidere IL, 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows: NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: MICHAEL BRUGGER, 111 E 4th St, Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: Michael Brugger 07/12/22

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th day of July 2022.

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk,
By Cindy Wilcox, Deputy
Published in the Boone County Journal 07/14,21,28

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a hair salon, providing hair braiding service, extensions installed, selling hair products, apparel and accessories business in said County and State under the name of BRAIDS BY KAY at the following post office address: 207 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Keryarea Price, 124 Fir Street, Michigan City, IN 46360; phone # (773) 531-8326.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 1st day of July, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 7/7, 7/14, 7/21/22 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a motorcycle repair business in said County and State under the name of BONE BREAKE PERFORMANCE at the following post office address: 6545 Joan Drive, Unit C5, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Adam McCauley, 603 Constitution Drive SW, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone # (815) 209-6406.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 7th day of July, A.D. 2022 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 7/14, 7/21, 7/28 - p

Boone County License & Title

Stickers - Titles - Plates

We Are OPEN

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075



CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on July 12, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as J. ROC ARMS, located at 1443 South State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSUMED NAME.

Dated this 12th day of July, A.D. 2022
Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk
Published in the Boone County Journal 7/14, 7/21, 7/28/22 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a sporting goods, firearms, and ammunition business in said County and State under the name of J. ROC ARMS at the following post office address: 1443 South State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: James S. Rocuskie Jr., 105 Galahad Court SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone # (815) 544-0767.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th day of July, A.D. 2022
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 7/14, 7/21, 7/28 - p



SAFE-T Act *from page 5*

Proponents say the reform is a step toward making the justice system equitable and fair for Black, Latino and minority communities who have been disproportionately harmed by it.

In a phone interview with Capitol News Illinois, House chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, Rep. Kam Buckner, D-Chicago, said the SAFE-T Act was the “first stab” at addressing public safety issues and police distrust in minority communities.

“There is no such thing as perfect legislation, but I think all legislation can be perfected if it’s handled the right way,” Buckner said.

Republicans, meanwhile, have referred to the bill as a “de facto defund the police bill” due to its added training and equipment requirements and purported effect on officer morale, even though it doesn’t directly affect law enforcement funding.

The measure passed on razor-thin majorities in the lame duck session of 2021, which led to a brief effort by Republican superminorities to repeal the act that ultimately fell flat.

Law enforcement groups have since softened their opposition to the bill amid the two follow-up proposals.

“Let me make it clear to you that the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is not against the SAFE-T Act (because) we have put countless hours in collaborating with elected officials,” Hazel Crest Police Chief Mitchell Davis said at a news conference earlier this year.

Davis was the president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police during the bill’s passage. Ed Wojcicki, the executive director of that organization, said in an interview the “ship has sailed” on a full repeal, although discussions on fine-tuning the law continue.

“We’re perfectly fine with saying hold us more accountable, make us be transparent, require more training,” Wojcicki said. “We just tried to educate the legislature that what they wrote down

in the law was very difficult to implement on the street.”

Cash bail

One of the more controversial provisions of the bill abolishes cash bail in Illinois and replaces it with a system that will prioritize the severity of an offense, the risk of not appearing for court and the threat and danger the individual poses to another person or the community if they were to be released.

The provision does not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2023, but opponents claim it will allow “dangerous and violent criminals” back on the street, tying the hands of prosecutors who seek to keep the accused individuals incarcerated before a conviction.

Rep. Justin Slaughter is the Chicago Democrat who carried the SAFE-T Act in 2021. In April, he accused Republicans of a “bad stench of racism” in their opposition to the reform.

In an interview, he said the current system of cash bail has an “adverse impact on those that don’t have the money,” and eliminating cash bail will make it more difficult for violent offenders to be released compared to lower level, nonviolent offenders.

“If this is a violent, dangerous offense, we certainly want to hold offenders accountable but at the same time, we want to have an understanding of the root causes of crime and violence,” Slaughter said.

But Republicans and some state’s attorneys have lately been arguing that the opposite may be true.

James Glasgow, a Democratic Will County state’s attorney, argued that the SAFE-T Act requires a higher burden of proof to detain accused violent criminals until trial.

The SAFE-T Act states that all defendants “shall be presumed eligible” for pretrial release unless prosecutors present “clear and convincing” evidence to deny the suspect pretrial release, such as proof that the suspect committed the crime and poses a threat to the physical safety of a “specific, identifiable” person.

Prosecutors are required to submit a request for detention if the offender committed a crime that poses a significant threat to public safety of an individual or community. The state is also required to provide each suspect a hearing within 48 hours to determine if the suspect should be released.

Glasgow said it’s nearly impossible to provide evidence needed within 48 hours since it takes time to review body and surveillance cameras and crime labs take time to process evidence.

“I’m not against no bail for nonviolent crimes,” Glasgow said. “But when it’s protecting the health, safety and welfare of the law-abiding citizens, we have to be able to do that.”

In a phone interview, Sen. John Curran, R-Downers Grove, who is a former prosecutor, said that instead of eliminating cash bail altogether in Illinois, he would prefer a model similar to one in place in New Jersey, which permits cash bail in narrow circumstances.

Curran said such a system would ensure that individuals who are threats to the safety of communities are being held.

Detainee rights

The SAFE-T Act also establishes the right for an individual in police custody, or who is moved from one place of detention to another, to make

three phone calls within three hours after arriving at the new place of custody.

During floor debate on House Bill 3512, one of the follow-up measures, Minority Leader Jim Durkin, a former prosecutor from Western Springs, raised concerns that the three phone calls will allow the offender to call the victim and “scare the hell out of them” to prevent the victim from pressing charges.

Durkin said that without proper restrictions in place for the phone calls, it could lead to witness tampering and intimidation, particularly in domestic violence situations.

But the bill states that only calls made to a public defender or other attorney can’t be “monitored, eavesdropped upon, or recorded.”

Slaughter said in an interview that elected officials can’t dictate who the individual can call but they can ensure that the detainees have the access to communication when in custody.

“People need to know what’s happening and that you are moving from one place to another and that you get access to communication,” Slaughter said.

A record of phone calls made when an individual is in custody must be maintained and if no calls are made, the detainee must give a written statement to the police as to why they did not make any calls.

The three-hour requirement for the phone calls does not apply when the individual is asleep, unconscious or not complying with officers, and police must document the noncompliance.

Certification standards

The SAFE-T Act also overhauls the police certification and decertification process and provides more power to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, which oversees training and grant programs for law enforcement and correctional officers throughout the state.

Follow-up legislation pushed back the effective dates for the police certification and decertification system from Jan 1, 2022, to July 1, 2022.

The SAFE-T Act creates a certification system placing law enforcement officers into three categories: active, inactive and decertified. Those with active certification can be legally employed at any Illinois agency in a law enforcement capacity.

The provision provides ILETSB more discretionary authority to decertify officers for unethical or unprofessional conduct that would not rise to the level of felony. Law enforcement agencies will be required to hire only certified officers.

Slaughter said that before the SAFE-T Act, the decertification process in Illinois severely lagged compared to other states and that the state is “trying to play catch up.”

Prior to the SAFE-T Act, an officer’s certificate could be revoked upon a conviction of a felony, or under certain misdemeanors from a limited list of “decertified misdemeanors,” including theft, bribery, harassment of witnesses or jurors, or using deceptive practices.

The SAFE-T Act also allows for anonymous complaints against police officers and removes a requirement that officers under investigation must be informed of the complainants’ names or officer in charge of the investigation.

In an interview, Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, who is a former prosecutor, said the new certification portion may have a positive impact, but one potential negative consequence is individuals using the anonymous complaint process to try to impact their criminal case.

Opponents of the legislation have also claimed that it is causing low morale among law enforcement and that more needs to be done to address the growing need for officers to keep communities safe.

Continued on Page 8

ROCKFORD BUSINESS SYSTEMS

- Digital Color & Black & White
- Multi Functional
- * Copy * Print * Fax * Scan
- * Service • Supplies • Toner

Sharp ~ Canon ~ Toshiba ~ Lexmark ~ HP ~ Xerox ~ Ricoh

Sales 815-608-1173 Service 815-282-4002

Get instant cash for your GOLD

WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd.
Belvidere, IL
815-547-7111

Additional 10% off jewelry with this ad
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

SAFE-T Act

from page 7

But Slaughter said when looking at it through a social equity lens, the new system can help with bad policing and help restore trust and respect with law enforcement among those who have been disproportionately impacted.

The law also requires officers to complete 30 hours of training every three years consisting of hands-on scenario-based training, use-of-force techniques and de-escalation, officer safety, and high-risk traffic stops. It also requires training in crisis intervention, racial and ethnic sensitivity, and officer wellness and mental health.

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$10 million for a local law enforcement retention grant program.

Use of force

The SAFE-T Act also changed the use-of-force standards by only allowing deadly force when necessary for officers to defend themselves from bodily harm. If a suspect is attempting to escape, officers are only authorized to use deadly force if that person is likely to harm others and cannot be caught at a later time.

It also banned the use of chokeholds and any other actions that restrict breathing from being applied above the chest unless an officer is in a situation that authorizes deadly force.

But Wojcicki noted the two follow-up bills addressed concerns surrounding the use of stun guns, chokeholds, pepper spray and tear gas.

The original bill prevented stun guns from being aimed at someone's back, but Wojcicki said the back is the recommended target and that hitting them in front could inadvertently hit the heart. He said the first follow-up measure, House Bill 3443, changed it so that it is okay to target the back with a stun gun.

But Wojcicki said they are still pushing to clarify the language surrounding the definition of a

stun gun because they want officers to use lethal weapons less often, yet the law defines a stun gun as a "firearm."

Slaughter filed House Bill 3904 that would remove stun guns from the definition of "firearms." The measure passed the House 106-1 in March but has yet to pass the Senate. Wojcicki said they hope to see the measure passed during the fall veto session.

The law also creates a duty to intervene when another officer is using excessive force and a duty to provide medical assistance to those who are injured.

Wojcicki also noted they hope to see a provision regarding trespassing changed. The SAFE-T Act says that if a person is committing a Class B or C misdemeanor, officers can only issue a citation, rather than detaining an individual.

That means, he said, if someone were to trespass on a homeowner's front porch and the homeowner wanted them removed, an officer wouldn't be able to arrest them or force them to leave.

"Most people, I think, would say there's something wrong with that," Wojcicki said. "That's why we keep saying we want some commonsense changes."

Body cameras

The legislation also makes body cameras mandatory for law enforcement agencies across the state. The largest departments are required to have body cameras already in place while the rest of the law enforcement agencies must have body cameras implemented by 2025.

Lawmakers dedicated \$30 million to local law enforcement camera grants in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

The SAFE-T Act requires cameras be turned on at all times when the officer is in uniform and responding to calls for any law enforcement-related encounter. The camera can be turned off if circumstances prevent it from being on, or when

an officer is inside a correctional facility or patrol car that has a functioning camera system.

Victims of a crime, witnesses or community members can also request that the camera be turned off unless it is impractical or impossible to do so, and it can be turned off when an officer is interacting with a confidential informant.

But Wojcicki said having an officer turn the body camera off and on too much could set up an officer to be in violation of the law because of it being too detailed and that the language needs to be simplified.

The legislation also contains provisions on victim services, mental health services and sentencing reform, and it creates databases and oversight boards to help with transparency and to navigate what aspects of the bill need to be tweaked moving forward.

"What we know is that this takes a more comprehensive, holistic, robust approach as we look at all the myriad of different complex issues that go into crime environments," Slaughter said.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

Illinois License Plates & Stickers for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles • Trailers • Boat Trailers
- Notary Public • Map Books

Ask us for details about our over the counter Plates and Sticker service.

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals
(Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service



(815) 544-2075

Located on State Street at the **Journal**
419 S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

Open 6 Days a Week

Monday thru Friday - 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday - 9 am to 1 pm