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## Regulating Powerful AI Models Advances As Advocates Say it's Only the First Step

*The measure aims to increase transparency and safety protocols around 'frontier' AI*

**Jenna Schweikert** Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Senate voted overwhelmingly on Thursday to advance a bill that would regulate how large artificial intelligence model developers handle transparency and catastrophic risk.

Senate Bill 315 is part of an eight-bill package and is modeled after similar legislation in New York and California as lawmakers, at the urging of industry lobbyists, seek to establish a “de facto” national AI standard.

Announced on May 13, the bill would require large developers like Meta, OpenAI and Anthropic to adopt a transparency framework, employ third-party auditors and report a model's catastrophic risk capabilities. It passed the Senate 52-5.

The move comes as President Donald Trump recently floated the possibility of a second AI-related executive order, this time directing developers on how to report powerful models to federal officials. Trump previously issued an order discouraging states from regulation, but state lawmakers cited a lack of federal movement as their reason for moving forward with regulations.

State Sen. Mary Edly-Allen's bill is functionally the same as California's and New York's laws, which both passed in late 2025. It would require large developers with revenues over \$500 million — a threshold tailored to capture only the largest entities — to create, publish and adhere to a transparency framework explaining how the company applies industry standards, measures model capabilities and chance of catastrophic risk, and identifies and responds to safety incidents.

Three of the leading “frontier” AI companies — a term used in the bill to describe the large, groundbreaking tech companies — have reported in their own safety evaluations that their models could provide meaningful assistance in building a biological weapon, according to the testimony of Scott Wisor, policy director for Secure AI, a non-profit seeking meaningful AI regulations.

Anthropic's Mythos, for example, is so powerful the company said it could not release it to the public.

OpenAI and Anthropic both testified in support, with OpenAI again citing the effort to create

a national standard focused on the “most capable” models and the worst potential harms. That approach allows smaller companies to thrive and continue innovating, while still protecting consumers. Other advocates, from startup coalitions to transparency-oriented nonprofits, say the bill is only the beginning of the conversation.

“It's important to keep perspective about how modest many of these requirements still are relative to the scale of the technology involved,” said Jonathan Iwry, a fellow at the Wharton Accountable AI Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, in a statement emailed to Capitol News Illinois. The lab researches ethical, regulatory and governance considerations for AI.

“Even the companies developing them seem unable to reliably predict or control the systems' behavior,” Iwry said. “Against that backdrop, requirements like transparency, testing and auditing should probably be understood as foundational safeguards rather than the upper limit of accountability.”

*continued on page 2*

## Illinois House Advances Measure Aiming to Control Prescription Drug Prices

*The bill now heads to the Senate, where its future is uncertain*

**Jenna Schweikert** Capitol News Illinois

A bill seeking to regulate the maximum price of certain prescription drugs narrowly passed the House Thursday on a vote of 62-39 and now heads to the Senate.

Senate Bill 3496, sponsored by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Palatine, would establish an independent board with the power to set the maximum price that a drug can be sold for in the state, also referred to as an upper payment limit.

Locally, West voted for SB 3496. Cabello, McCombie, Keicher and Sosnowski voted no. Vella did not vote.

The board, made up of governor, Senate and House leadership appointees, would do so by reviewing vital information including a drug's average price, its manufacturing cost, average copayments, accessibility and use, and other information.

The bill's passage marked a significant turnaround from when Syed pulled a previous version of it from the record before a floor vote in mid-April. Syed has led a yearslong effort to pass

the initiative.

“I introduced this legislation when I first got elected, and I did it out of desperation. There are so many people in my community that are specifically struggling with prescription drug affordability,” Syed, who was elected in 2023, said. “We have a mandate to care, and we have a mandate to try to do every single thing in our power to deliver for our constituents.”

But it doesn't mean smooth sailing is ahead. The measure still needs Senate approval, and Gov. JB Pritzker hasn't yet signaled whether he'd support it. The measure faced criticism and skepticism during floor debate, including from Republicans who questioned whether it can be effectively implemented and if it would actually have the effect of lowering drug prices.

During floor debate, Republicans pointed to Virginia, where Gov. Abigail Spanberger recently vetoed a similar bill.

“The Virginia governor just vetoed their prescription board due to the inefficiencies and cost and effectiveness of this,” Rep. Jackie Hass, R-Kankakee, said. “As much as we would like to see prescription drugs become more effective, there is a lot more that needs to happen with this bill.”

### Amendments

Syed said she's already developed several substantive amendments in the past two months to address concerns.

“I've worked hard to negotiate this language. I've engaged with every single stakeholder that I can think of,” Syed said. “I've kept my door open. I've taken commentary from folks on the other side of the aisle in committee and brought amendments back to reflect those changes.”

The most significant change is that the program would be slated to end in five years, giving lawmakers the opportunity to renew if it's effective.

Amendments would also limit the board's review to a maximum of two drugs per year, outside of automatically adopting drug prices negotiated at the federal level. The state would also have the choice to opt into the upper payment limit for state employee health plans or decline to, if other federal drug rebates would be more cost effective.

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act gave the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services negotiation power over pricing of certain prescription drugs, including the Maximum Fair Price, or MFP, mechanism for Medicare users.

But advocates say the federal program was never meant to be used by the states for people

*continued on page 3*

# Reps. Foster Leads Bipartisan Effort to Streamline Nuclear Technical Expertise

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) representing Belvidere introduced the bipartisan Nuclear Forensics Authority Realignment Act, alongside Congressman Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Congressman Scott DesJarlais (R-TN). This legislation would realign the National Technical Nuclear Forensics (NTNF) program from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

In 2010, Congress codified the NTNF program under DHS to ensure the government could respond to a nuclear event without warning. Realigning NTNF under NNSA will lead to greater efficiency, as NTNF will have direct access to NNSA's research and development efforts and nuclear materials. The realignment will also eliminate duplication of efforts between NNSA and DHS.



- James "Minna" Frederick, 70, Capron, May 14
- Renee LaBonte, 79, Formerly of Belvidere, May 10
- Larry Oerkfitz, 78, Harvard, May 13
- Jean Olson, 85, Formerly of Belvidere, May 18
- Mary Petersen, 84, Marengo, May 11
- Lauren Williams, 11, Poplar Grove, May 19

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"As the conflict in Iran continues, Congress must take meaningful steps to strengthen our national security amid rising nuclear threats," said Congressman Bill Foster. "This legislation would make our nuclear agencies more efficient and strengthen their ability to safeguard the American people. As the only Ph.D. in physicist in Congress, I'm proud to lead this bipartisan effort to ensure our nation's technical experts can continue their critical work at a pivotal moment for global security."

"In the event of a nuclear incident, every second matters—and our ability to respond quickly and accurately can save lives and strengthen our national security," said Congressman Joe Morelle. "This bipartisan legislation ensures our nation's top nuclear experts are working in the right place, with direct access to the tools, research, and coordination needed to respond to emerging threats. I'm proud to once again partner with Congressman Foster on this common-sense effort to streamline our nuclear forensics capabilities and better protect the American people."

"Peace through strength requires our nuclear arsenal to have all of the capabilities necessary to respond quickly and efficiently to threats from our adversaries. I'm proud to co-sponsor this legislation to ensure the safety and security of every American," said Congressman Scott DesJarlais.

## AI from page 1 Bill debates

Edly-Allen's bill, while shaped similarly to California and New York, does go farther by requiring third-party auditing. The audits are meant to ensure compliance, Edly-Allen said. But the provision became a point of contention in committee.

For Jeremy Kudon, executive director of the American Innovators Network, the audits represent an "expensive requirement" for startups with few, or even no, lawyers on staff. AIN is a coalition of startups and small-sized AI companies.

"They're gonna have to rely and use their much-needed capital to pay for lawyers and ... lobbyists simply to comply with these laws, when their whole goal is to help innovate and to make AI, you know, more accessible to everyone," Kudon said.

Kudon and other advocates also expressed concern that this kind of tweaking could throw off the national standard companies are seeking.

"This kind of violates the principle that we set out at the very beginning ... that we would have three states all following the same framework in this really initial year of AI frontier model legislation," Kudon said.

Senate Republican Leader John Curran on May 13 questioned whether the bill was clear enough regarding the auditing process.

"I don't see anything that would prohibit my next-door neighbor from being a third-party auditor," he said in committee.

Amendments added this week clarify who is allowed to give third-party audits, what the audit should include and protocols for protecting pro-

prietary information.

But in committee on May 20, TechNet's representative Ninia Linero still echoed Curran's comments: "We remain concerned that Illinois would effectively be requiring private actors to make highly subjective determinations requiring AI safety compliance without established national standards, certifications, or clear regulatory guardrails."

The amendments, made with recommendations and requests from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Secure AI, Anthropic and Senate Republicans, also extend the effective deadline from 2027 to 2028, add some new requirements to the transparency framework, require large frontier developers to file disclosure statements and pay fees and clarify that no civil liability is created.

"SB315 reflects a practical decision to pursue incremental progress and build on approaches that lawmakers believed were politically achievable given the realities on the ground," Iwry said, calling the bill a positive development, but still a low baseline.

"The real question is whether these laws ultimately serve as a springboard toward stronger, more mature forms of AI governance, or instead allow what are relatively modest baseline accountability standards to get locked in as the long-term norm," Iwry said.

### Defining evolving tech

Opponents also argued the bill's definition for "frontier" models could apply to more companies than lawmakers originally intended to as AI evolves.

"As companies, especially smaller companies, start to adapt or work off of those models or off open-source models that use the same compute ... they typically fall into that definition," Kudon said.

The \$500 million revenue threshold may become less relevant too, because as AI becomes more prevalent, companies become more successful.

"As AI grows faster and faster, \$500 million dollars in revenue is actually not that much money," Kudon said.

It is that development that Kudon said makes balancing regulation and innovation difficult. It takes time to get legislation passed, but all the while, AI continues to develop and improve. Every four months, model capabilities double, Wisor said.

"This isn't a simple conflict between "industry" and regulators," Iwry said. "There is a complex ecosystem of AI stakeholders ... all differing in their interests and concerns."

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# ‘Junk Fee’ Ban Heads To Pritzker as Senate Oks Bill Allowing Minors to Consent To Birth Control

*Paid jury duty, rooftop solar for schools, breasted CPR manikin measures also pass*

*Nikoel Hytrek, Jerry Nowicki & Peter Hancock*

The Illinois Senate advanced 40 bills on Wednesday, including a ban on “junk fees” and a bill allowing minors to consent to receiving birth control services without the need for a parent or other person’s consent.

Senate Bill 3341 passed 37-19 on party lines and now moves to the House for further consideration.

There are 24 states, plus the District of Columbia, that allow minors to consent to receiving contraceptives on their own, according to the KFF.

Bill sponsor Sen. Graciela Guzmán said it’s about ensuring young people can get contraceptives if they need them.

“This is about access, this isn’t about curtailing parental involvement,” she said. “It is certainly our hope that parents are able to be in the lives of young people in ways that facilitate access and these conversations, but as was noted in the previous testimony of someone here in the chamber, that’s not the case for every single child.”

During floor debate, Republicans objected to the bill and accused Guzmán of trying to cut parents out of important decisions concerning their children and raised the possibility that sex trafficking or abuse victims would go undetected.

Guzmán said she had specific experience from mentoring young people and from being a survivor of assault herself.

“When that happened to me, I would have wanted every single opportunity to have the help that I needed,” she said. “And in the instance that there was someone that was suffering trafficking and needed birth control or needed that kind of interaction with a provider, I wouldn’t want to limit that.”

Sen. Jil Tracy, R-Quincy, questioned whether minors are able to understand drug interactions and the potential side effects of contraceptives.

“It’s just disheartening that we continually think that government knows better than a parent knows about their children,” she said. “I recognize not all

*continued on page 4*

## Drug Prices

who are not enrolled in Medicare.

“The MFP was never intended to be applied at the state level,” said Peter Fotos, a representative of PhRMA, a policy advocacy group representing pharmaceutical companies, in committee on May 20.

“MFP is restricted to Medicare for a reason, because Medicare is a different animal. ... It is not the same in any form, fashion, operation or otherwise to a state health plan, or a commercial market plan, or even Medicaid,” Fotos said.

If established, the board would automatically adopt the first 10 negotiated Medicare drug prices and apply them to the drugs for any person statewide. The board would also automatically adopt MFPs for other drugs negotiated by the federal government in the future.

“There could be additional drugs looked at sooner, but first we have to prioritize the implementations of those 10 drugs,” said Anusha Thotakura, executive director of Citizen Action/Illinois, a progressive policy coalition backing the initiative. “That was made based on extensive negotiation and stakeholder feedback that was considered about wanting to see what implementation process looks like before considering other drugs.”

To protect patient access and savings, Syed added provisions requiring the board to develop an accessibility plan for UPL-approved drugs, specifying how savings and UPLs should be applied to provide direct financial benefit and allowing the board to suspend the UPL if there is a shortage, unless it is caused by a manufacturer.

The amendments also clarify public records requirements and state agency roles to protect proprietary information.

### Lawmaker, advocate concerns

Haas voiced concerns that the board would be effectively governing itself in its rulemaking and appeals procedures.

The board would be subject to the same rulemaking processes as other state agencies, which must be approved by the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rulemaking, or JCAR. Appeals to board

from page 1

decisions would be heard directly by the board but would be subject to judicial review.

“We’re (JCAR) going to inherit this mess that you create with this legislation,” JCAR member and Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, said in committee. “The operationalization of this, again, is a mess, the way that it is delivered. So why don’t we have an agency assigned to work with this board?”

Syed said she didn’t see a need to house the board in a state agency because it would be working with multiple agencies, and most other states with a PDAB made it independent of an agency.

Eleven states currently have a board, although no other state has fully implemented a upper price limit, which lawmakers identified as a concern.

In committee, lawmakers also questioned the startup costs of the board and if was being considered in the budget. The board is expected to employ an executive director, general counsel, part-time staff and contractors for surveys, but the bill does not include provisions regulating those salaries, other than capping spending annually at \$750,000.

Syed said it was not being considered as an active budget item, meaning it would need to apply for funding from general revenue if passed. But once a UPL is in effect, the bill directs state savings to be collected in a fund that would be used for board costs.

Lawmakers and stakeholders also criticized Syed’s characterization of the five-year sunset and limited drug reviews as making the board into a “pilot program.”

“A sunset clause does not erase the fact that the bill creates a new independent state board, staff, funding and legal authority,” Fotos said. PhRMA has said PDABs don’t solve high prices, pointing to health plans and pharmacy benefit managers as the root of the problem.

The bill faces a long road ahead in the Senate before lawmakers adjourn on May 31.

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**Bills** from page 3

children have ideal home situations, but that's not to say that most do, and so this bill addresses those that don't, but it also affects those that do."

**Junk fees ban**

Three years after the bill was initially introduced, the Senate passed a measure to ban "junk fees," which are charges added to the total cost of ticketed events, hotels, tech and other goods and services.

House Bill 228 would make it unlawful for any business to advertise, display or offer a price for a good or service that does not include all mandatory fees or surcharges before taxes.

Local support for HB 228 came from Keicher, McCombie, Vella, West, and Stadelman. Cabello, Chesney, and Syverson voted no. Sosnowski was excused. Gov. JB Pritzker says he'll sign it.

"Illinois consumers have been nickel-and-dimed out of thousands of dollars per year by unnecessary and deceptive junk fees," he said in a statement. "I am proud that the Illinois General Assembly has passed the Junk Fee Ban Act to put money back in the pockets of families and establish fair, honest pricing — from concert tickets to online shopping."

Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago, sponsored the bill in the Senate and said it was an important consumer protection measure.

It passed 46-12 with both Democratic and Republican support after passing the House in April 77-18. It still faces opposition from various retail and business groups, but Aquino said he incorporated some of their concerns.

"We did make changes to this bill a significant number of times to balance out the making sure that we have practices in this state that are fair, that are transparent, so that people — when they're making this really important decision of how to spend their money — that it is done in a way where it is informed, they know what they're paying for and there's not any surprise charges coming after," Aquino said.

Violations of the law would be subject to civil penalties laid out in the existing Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

**Breasted CPR mannequins**

Beginning in the 2029-2030 school year, secondary schools that teach CPR classes will have to provide both breasted and non-breasted

mannequins if Gov. JB Pritzker signs a bill that will soon head to his desk.

House Bill 4788, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Laura Ellman of Naperville, passed the Senate 43-13. It cleared the House 73-38 in April. The idea for the legislation began with a Naperville High School student, senior Ashlynn Goldstein.

Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, cited his experience as a firefighter, EMT and 20-year holder of CPR certification in voting against the bill.

"I can tell you that whether someone has breast tissue or no breast tissue has no real-world application," he said. "The process of CPR, despite the amount of breast tissue you have, does not matter."

Supporters said its about stigma. Women are 27% less likely to receive bystander CPR than men because of hesitancy to follow protocol, fueled by fears of inappropriate touching, exposing the chest or drawing accusations of sexual assault, according to the Journal of the American Heart Association.

"If this can help bridge that gap, then I think we should move forward," Ellman said.

The schools could comply with the law by putting chest covers on existing mannequins.

**Paid jury duty**

Another bill that will soon head to the governor requires employers of more than 25 people to pay their employees for time spent on jury duty.

Sen. Rob Martwick, D-Chicago, said employers would be on the hook for the entire duty, even if the trial last months — though he added the "vast majority" of jury duty service lasts one day.

"This is an attempt to address the financial disincentive that exists for potential jurors to serve," Martwick said, adding it was an initiative of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

House Bill 4844 passed 35-20, with Republicans arguing that its unduly burdensome on employers.

Locally, West, voted for HB 4844. Cabello, Keicher, McCombie, Sosnowski, and Chesney voted no. Vella and Stadelman did not vote.

"It should not be on the burden of employers to fund our justice system. It's certainly not fair, and many are not equipped to do this," Tracy said.

The measure previously passed the House 69-34 in April.

**Solar-powered schools**

Public schools may soon find it easier to incorporate rooftop solar generators into their buildings' electrical systems under legislation that passed the Senate Wednesday.

Senate Bill 3273,

sponsored by Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, would streamline the process for public schools to install rooftop solar systems and get them connected with their local power grids.

It would require electric utilities to give priority to interconnection requests from public schools and to complete evaluations, reviews and screenings of their proposed projects within 30 days after determining their request is complete.

It would also require utilities to disclose upgrade costs and construction timelines to schools as soon as possible after completing interconnection reviews.

"We know the kind of dynamics our school districts have to deal with when it comes to making a budget and sticking to a budget during the course of the year," Cunningham said on the Senate floor. "It was hard for them to do that given the length of time it took for them to get an interconnection. This is set to make that an easier process, a more streamlined process because obviously school districts don't have some of the resources that private renewable developers do."

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 56-0. It now awaits consideration in the House.

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## Illinois County Clerks Are Preparing for Mail Voting Amid Attacks and Changes

*Communication and experience with the process are keys to maintaining voter faith, clerks say*

Nikoel Hytrek

Capitol News Illinois

Voting by mail isn't new. The United States first implemented the practice on a large scale when President Abraham Lincoln insisted on holding the 1864 election and Union soldiers were far from their polling places.

Since the 2020 election and the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become an even more popular voting method and one of the most scrutinized. In that election, a third of votes counted in Illinois were by mail. Matt Dietrich, the spokesperson

*continued on page 8*

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## Voting

from page 4

for the Illinois State Board of Elections, said it was the first time many Illinoisans had taken advantage of mail-in ballots.

But as 43% of Americans voted by mail in 2020, according to the Census Bureau, it had the parallel consequence of delaying the timeline for ballot counting in several states. Six years after President Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in 2020, he still claims the election was rigged and that late-arriving mail-in ballots were fraudulent or shouldn't have been counted.

Nonetheless, it remains a popular method, especially in Illinois, where the process of ensuring voter confidence in mail voting and elections generally falls upon county clerks. In 2024, more than 18% of voters cast their ballot by mail, according to information from the Illinois State Board of Elections. In 2016, that number was 6.5%.

Many county clerks told Capitol News Illinois they've developed strategies to boost confidence in voting by mail by relying on transparency, communication and having people experience the process.

"In Illinois, we probably have been doing vote-by-mail longer than most Midwestern states," Don Gray, the Republican Sangamon County Clerk, said in an interview.

Because of how long it's been happening, he said the state's process is well established, and people's faith grows with the more experience they have with the voting method.

Ahead of this year's elections, the U.S. Postal Service is making changes that could alter mail voting procedures, Congress is considering the SAVE America Act to tighten voter ID guidelines and exercise more federal control over voter rolls, and the U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether ballots should be counted if they arrive after Election Day.

Illinois officials say they're ready to handle those changes.

### The vote-by-mail experience in Illinois: confidence

In Illinois, anyone who wants to vote by mail simply has to request a vote-by-mail application from their county's election office, fill it out and send it back. Then voters wait to receive a ballot in the mail, fill it out and follow the instructions about how to return it.

Illinois implemented no-excuse mail voting in 2009 and set up a system for permanent mail voting in 2021, which allows voters to sign up to receive ballots without having to request them every time an election comes around.

Pew Research Center polling from 2025 shows Americans still support mail voting, although Republican support has decreased since 2021. The poll showed support for mail-in voting was higher in states where it's more common. Seven states now have universal mail-in voting, meaning all voters receive ballots in the mail regardless of whether they asked for them.

According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 32 countries or territories allow some form of mail-in voting,

usually called "postal voting." Europe has the largest number of countries that allow voters to cast a ballot using the postal service.

"It is not my experience that there is some vulnerability in systemic or large, wide fraud on just a mail program, because I know how we operate and we do it well," Gray said.

Like other clerks, Gray said he practices full transparency by inviting people to observe how different steps are taken — from how to request a ballot, to receiving it and turning it back in to the clerk's office, and how it's processed and counted.

"The more you can expose how you operate, the greater trust and confidence you'll have in your jurisdiction," he said.

In Sangamon County, the number of people who vote by mail has increased and so has the number of people registering in the permanent program. Because of that, Gray thinks voters understand the process better.

"And I think it's going to be kind of the wave of the future," he said. "It's one of those pieces that when you engage it and you use it, and you realize how well we do it and how secure it really is, you think to yourself, 'Why haven't I been doing this all along?'"

The number of people signing up for the program has grown in several areas of the state.

When Democratic Champaign County Clerk Aaron Ammons took office in 2018, he said only 7,000-8,000 people used mail-in voting, but now the permanent vote-by-mail list has grown to almost 20,000.

"So there's a tremendous increase, but I have been very vigilant about that," he said. "I've been very outspoken as an advocate for vote by mail."

Ammons has done that in part by using local TV, radio and newspapers and providing weekly updates about the process through social media and the county clerk's website.

A similar story has played out in Tazewell County. Though the number of people voting by mail has decreased slightly following the pandemic, it's still about a quarter of the votes cast. Half of voters still vote on Election Day, and another one-fourth do it early, but in person.

"What we're hearing is that our local folks have confidence," Republican Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman said. "More questions (are) about the post office. Will it be delivered in a timely manner? How can we guarantee that our ballot is actually there?"

### Ballot tracking

Those questions are answered by ballot tracking, which allows people to keep tabs on their ballot and know when it arrives at the election office. Multiple clerks said it was another major piece of confidence in mail voting.

"That allows them (voters) to engage in the process, rather than just assume it's there," Ackerman said.

The Tazewell clerk's office uses a St. Louis-based vendor called KNOWiNK to handle their mail-in ballots, and Ackerman said the ballot tracking was one of the main reasons why they switched from their previous system. KNOWiNK is a nationally recognized company that was set

up by former election officials.

The company also has materials for vote-by-mail reminder cards and other bulk mail for clerks to send to voters.

Gray called the tracking system a "beautiful" way to make elections transparent and to boost confidence.

"You know when you put your ballot in the box, right? Hold us accountable, make sure that we got it and that your vote has been validated and counted," he said.

### Current challenges and solutions

As the first mid-term of Trump's second term looms in November, clerks are navigating a few new developments that could shake faith in the vote-by-mail process.

The United States Postal Service updated language regarding postmarking mail, including ballots. In a January news conference, a bipartisan group of county clerks warned that the new rule could alter when a postmark is applied and what it means for ballot eligibility.

Illinois accepts ballots up to two weeks after an election, as long as the ballot is postmarked by Election Day. The new rule means people who mail their ballots on or a few days before Election Day risk having their ballots rejected, clerks warned.

The March primaries were the first elections under the new rules, and Ackerman said the rule change didn't have as big an effect on mail-in voting as the clerk's office feared it would.

"I think that is due to the fact that we got information out," he said.

Before the primaries, the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Records met to discuss how to handle the change and to spread the word about it. There, Ackerman said he planned to put cards with information about the new rules in the vote-by-mail packets Tazewell County voters were sent before the primaries. Those packets also included a voter's ballot, return envelope and instructions for filling out the ballot and turning it in.

In Sangamon County, 7,317 mail-in ballots were returned, and only four were rejected for having a late postmark. Williamson County had 1,206 mail-in ballots returned and 18 rejected because of the late postmark. In Tazewell County, 15 mail-in ballots out of 2,933 were rejected because they were postmarked one or two days after March 17.

"There shouldn't be ballots that aren't counted, period," Ackerman said. "The goal is to have every single ballot counted. In generalized numbers, that doesn't mean a lot, but to those 15 individuals I'm sure that is a big problem."

Another challenge could come from the U.S. Supreme Court as it considers whether states should be able to count ballots that are postmarked by Election Day but arrive later. A decision in the case is expected sometime before June 30, and it could lead to Illinois having to adjust how it collects mail-in ballots.

The state elections board is already planning for the ruling and how to communicate new

*continued on page 8*

# LEGAL NOTICES

## In the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois Probate Division

In the matter of the Estate of Judith M. Anderson, Deceased (Case No. 20025PR69). Notice is given of the death of Judith M. Anderson, of Poplar Grove, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 25, 2025, to Nicole Rene Anderson, whose attorney is Craig A. Janas, 6815 Weaver Road, Rockford, IL 61114 (847) 844-0592. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court or with the representative, or both, on or before November 12, 2026, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it is filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. E-filing is now mandatory in civil cases with limited exceptions. 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 <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQgethelp.asp>. Any questions or petitions should be directed to Craig A. Janas, as attorney for the estate.

Published in The Boone County Journal May 12, 19, 26, 2026

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

May 13, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of North Boone CUSD 200 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, that a budget for said school district for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the North Boone CUSD 200 District Office located at 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, from and after 8:00 A.M. on the 13th day of May 2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6:30 P.M. on the 16th day of June 2026 at the North Boone CUSD 200, District Office located at 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065. Final budget adoption is anticipated on the 16th day of June 2026 at the regular Board of Education meeting.

Dated this 12th day of May 2026, Board of Education of North Boone CUSD 200 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois  
Russell O'Donnell, Secretary to the Board of Education  
Published in The Boone County Journal 5/19/26

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

**BMO Bank N.A. PLAINTIFF**  
**Vs. No. 2026FC29**

**John Arrowood; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Charles E. Arrowood a/k/a Charles Arrowood; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Amy L. Silvestri, as Special Representative for Charles E. Arrowood a/k/a Charles Arrowood (deceased) DEFENDANTS**

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:**

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Charles E. Arrowood a/k/a Charles Arrowood

Unknown Owners and Nonrecord 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:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

322 E Pleasant St  
Belvidere, IL 61008

and  
313 Caswell Street  
Belvidere, IL 61008

and which said Mortgage was made by:

Charles E. Arrowood a/k/a Charles Arrowood

the Mortgagor(s), to BMO Harris Bank N.A., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2015R00214; 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,

Pamela Coduto

Clerk of the Circuit Court  
601 North Main Street  
Belvidere, IL 61008

on or before June 18, 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.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

(630) 794-5300

DuPage # 15170

Winnebago # 531

Our File No. 14-26-02155

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

13286551

Published in The Boone County Journal May 19, 26; Jun 2, 2026 PNN

### Notice

Logan Auto Sales  
1007 Logan Ave  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
loganautoandtire@gmail.com  
815-544-9811

5/19/26

Felix Osantos-Ortiz  
3239 Alta Vista Rd  
Rockford IL 61107  
Vehicle: 2004 Chevy Trailblazer LS  
VIN: 1GNDDT13SX42401665

Subject: Legal Notice Regarding Unpaid Mechanic Work Order and Storage

Dear Felix,

This letter serves as formal notice regarding the outstanding balance for mechanical repairs and vehicle storage for your 2004 Chevy Trailblazer LS. As of today, the following invoices remain unpaid:

Invoice Details:

Invoice Number: RO #820

Date(s) of Service: 1/9/25

Description of Services: Remove & replace radiator hose, tow from Racine WI to Belvidere, remove & replace fuel pump as well as the fuel pump itself.

Total Amount Due for Mechanical Services: \$299

Storage Fees: \$45 a day until \$1700 threshold

Start Date of Storage: 4/7/25

Current Balance Due for Storage Fees: \$1,700

Total Outstanding Balance: \$1,999

As per our prior agreement and in accordance with the [contract, service terms, or applicable law], payment is now overdue. Kindly note that you have been given ample time to address these outstanding balances. We request that you make full payment by 6/19/26 to avoid further legal action.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention and resolve it promptly to avoid unnecessary complications.

Published in The Boone County Journal 5/26/2026

### Notice

Logan Auto Sales

1007 Logan Ave

Belvidere IL 61008

5/16/26

Westbay Equipment Co

Rr 4 Box 1549

Galesburg IL 61401

Vehicle: 197 Donahue 25 FT Flatbed Trailer

VIN: DC9FP22K7UDDC9754

Subject: Vehicle Storage

Dear Westbay Equipment C, Steven Stone and Grant Oyler,

This letter serves as formal notice regarding the outstanding balance for vehicle storage for your 1997 Donahue 25 FT Flatbed Trailer. This vehicle has been abandoned on my property since July 2024. Storage fees of \$35.50 per day began on 2/23/26. To resolve this issue, we are waiving further fees, as long as this is resolved in the next month (5/20/26). The current balance for storage fees is \$1,988. Storage Fees:

Start Date of Storage: 2/23/26

Work Order: 74095283

Current Balance Due for Storage Fees: \$1,988

Administration and Doc Fees: \$0

Total Outstanding Balance: \$1,988

Kindly note that you have been given ample time to address these outstanding balances. We request that you make full payment by 6/16/26 to avoid further legal action.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention and resolve it promptly to avoid unnecessary complications.

Published in The Boone County Journal 5/26/2026

### Notice

Logan Auto Sales

1007 Logan Ave

Belvidere, IL 61008

loganautoandtire@gmail.com

815-544-9811

5/19/26

Nadya Kalimullah

Lienholder: Accurate Auto Sales

130 Flintridge Dr Unit 6

1602 Broadway

Rockford IL 61007

Rockford IL 61104

Vehicle: 2013 Dodge Journey SE

VIN: 3C4PDCAB0DT506229

Subject: Legal Notice Regarding Unpaid Mechanic Work Order and Storage

Dear Nadya,

This letter serves as formal notice regarding the outstanding balance for mechanical repairs and vehicle storage for your 2013 Dodge Journey SE. As of today, the following invoices remain unpaid:

Invoice Details:

Invoice Number: RO #838

Date(s) of Service: 4/11/25

Description of Services: Remove & replace radiator hose, tow from Rockford to Belvidere, remove & replace control module, throttle body & fuse box. Parts include radiator hose, antifreeze, acceleration pedal, thermostat housing, thermostat, control module, throttle body and fuse box

Total Amount Due for Mechanical Services: \$1,396.28

Storage Fees: \$45 a day until \$600 threshold

Start Date of Storage: 4/22/25

Current Balance Due for Storage Fees: \$600

Total Outstanding Balance: \$1,996.28

As per our prior agreement and in accordance with the [contract, service terms, or applicable law, payment is now overdue. Kindly note that you have been given ample time to address these outstanding balances. We request that you make full payment by 6/19/26 to avoid further legal action.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention and resolve it promptly to avoid unnecessary complications.

Published in The Boone County Journal 5/26/2026

### Notice

Logan Auto Sales

1007 Logan Ave

Belvidere, IL 61008

loganautoandtire@gmail.com

815-544-9811

5/20/26

Stanisha Bryant

Lienholder: Credit Acceptance Corp

1112 North Winnebago ST

25505 W 12 Mile Rd

Rockford IL, 61103

Southfield MI, 48034

Vehicle: 2015 Ford Taurus SE

VIN: 1FAHP2E8XFG183874

Subject: Legal Notice Regarding Unpaid Mechanic Work Order and Storage

Dear Stanisha,

This letter serves as formal notice regarding the outstanding balance for mechanical repairs and vehicle storage for your 2015 Ford

Taurus SE. As of today, the following invoices remain unpaid:

Invoice Details:

Invoice Number: RO #837

Date(s) of Service: 3/13/25

Description of Services: Tow from Rockford IL to Belvidere IL, remove & replace core support, hood, driver fender, passenger fender, front bumper cover, head lamp, grille, lower arm control and parts.

Total Amount Due for Mechanical Services: \$2,821.24

Storage Fees:

Start Date of Storage: 8/24/25

Fees are \$45 per day for the duration of 191 days

Current Balance Due for Storage Fees: \$8,595.00

Total Outstanding Balance: \$11,416.24

As per our prior agreement and in accordance with the [contract, service terms, or applicable law], payment is now overdue. Kindly note that you have been given ample time to address these outstanding balances. We request that you make full payment by 6/20/26 to avoid further legal action.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention and resolve it promptly to avoid unnecessary complications.

Published in The Boone County Journal 5/26/2026

**TO: James M. Grisanzio; James A. Grisanzio; Occupant; Kayla E. Eisman; Melania Villela; Karen M. Grisanzio; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".**

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX16 FILED: 5/11/2026**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00098

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

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

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 12357 Cameron Court, Caledonia, IL 61011

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-32-476-013

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on November 4, 2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before November 4, 2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on November 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

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

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

Redemption can be made at any time on or before November 4, 2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.

Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026

13287208

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

**TO: Steiner Management Group Inc.; Illinois Secretary of State for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Dawn M. Moyer; Dawn M. Moyer; Occupant; Rebecca L. Carlson; E-Z Towing; Esy Towing Recovery; Logan Automotive & Tire; Auction Z 2 Inc.; Greg Bingham as President for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Eservices, Inc., as R/A for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Nikles of Petersburg, Inc.; Franks Gerkin Ponitz Greeley P.C., as Attorneys in 2022AR11; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Attorney General for State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Employment Security; Reno & Zahm, LLP as Attorneys in 2023FC9; City of Belvidere c/o City Clerk; City of Belvidere c/o City Council; Logan Auto Body, Inc.; Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company; Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; John J Phelps as R/A for Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; William Lee; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".**

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX18 FILED: 5/11/2026**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00224

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

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

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 1011 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-36-206-062

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for

delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on November 4, 2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before November 4, 2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on November 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

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

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

Redemption can be made at any time on or before November 4, 2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK**

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.  
Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026  
I3287209

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

**Notice**

Logan Auto Sales  
1007 Logan Ave  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
loganautoandtire@gmail.com  
815-544-9811 5/19/26

Chazquell Anderson  
210 Bayless Ave  
Rockford, IL 61101

Vehicle: 2008 Mercury Premier  
VIN: 4M2EU48878UK09551

Subject: Legal Notice Regarding Unpaid Mechanic Work Order and Storage

Dear Chazquell,

This letter serves as formal notice regarding the outstanding balance for mechanical repairs and vehicle storage for your 2008 Mercury Premier. As of today, the following invoices remain unpaid:

Invoice Details:

Invoice Number: RO #839

Date(s) of Service: 3/27/25

Description of Services: Remove & replace passenger front knuckle, upper control arm, cv axle, lower control arm, sway bar link, inner tie rod, ABS sensor, front rotors, front pads, soft brake line, outer tie rod and parts.

Total Amount Due for Mechanical Services: \$1,234.94

Storage Fees: \$45 a day until \$600 threshold

Start Date of Storage: 4/23/25

Current Balance Due for Storage Fees: \$600

Total Outstanding Balance: \$1,834.94

As per our prior agreement and in accordance with the [contract, service terms, or applicable law], payment is now overdue. Kindly note that you have been given ample time to address these outstanding balances. We request that you make full payment by 6/19/26 to avoid further legal action.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention and resolve it promptly to avoid unnecessary complications.

Published in The Boone County Journal 5/26/2026

**TO: Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Illinois Secretary of State for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Dawn M. Moyer; Dawn M. Moyer; Occupant; 30 60 90 Tools Espinoza S Tires; Alpha Autos, Inc.; Belvidere General Rental Center; Espinoza's Tire Shop Inc.; Genoa Heating and Air Conditioning; Logan Auto Sale Inc.; Seven Day Auto; State Street Automotive; Woodruff's Body Shop; Xa Team Testing; Auction Z 2 Inc.; Eeservices, Inc., as R/A for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Greg Bingham as President for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Nikles of Petersburg, Inc.; Franks Gerkin Ponitz Greeley P.C., as Attorneys in 2022AR11; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Attorney General for State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Employment Security; Reno & Zahm, LLP as Attorneys in 2023FC9; City of Belvidere c/o City Clerk; City of Belvidere c/o City Council; Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company; Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; John J Phelps as R/A for Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; William Lee; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".**

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX17 FILED: 5/11/2026**

**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00223

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

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

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**

Property Located at: 1007 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-36-206-061

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will

expire on November 4, 2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before November 4, 2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on November 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

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

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

Redemption can be made at any time on or before November 4, 2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK**

1212 Logan Ave.,  
Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.

Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026

I3287211

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Belvidere Park District Board of Commissioners has announced a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners as of May 12, 2026, for a seat originally scheduled for re-election in April 2029. The individual appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until the Board meeting following the April 2027 Consolidated Election, anticipated to be held in May 2027.

Interested individuals who meet the qualifications established under Illinois law may submit a letter of intent and current resume no later than June 25, 2026.

Submission materials may be delivered in person or by mail to the Belvidere Park District Administration Office, 1006 W. Lincoln Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by email to jjacky@belviderepark.org with the subject line "Board Vacancy."

The Board will review applicants and conduct interviews after the submission deadline in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

To read the formal resolution, please visit belviderepark.org or visit the Administration Office located at 1006 W. Lincoln Avenue, Belvidere.

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26, 2026 PNN

**ASSUMED NAMES**

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4282 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a SHOP AUTO MECHANIC business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of NORTHSIDE REPAIR LLC that its location is or will be 6442 LOGAN AVE UNIT C 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: 779-537-9222

NICOLAS HUMBERTO REYES SANCHEZ SR.

536 BIESTER DR APT 1 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: May 5, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/26 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4283 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of GREENSTONE that its location is or will be 2902 HILLCREST RD 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: 815-520-6952

ASUNCION ZEPEDA

2902 HILLCREST RD 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: May 8, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/26 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4280 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PHOTOGRAPHY business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MEMORIES BY DAWN that its location is or will be 1465 IPSEN RD 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: 847-774-4381

DAWN MCCLLOUD BLOCK.

1465 IPSEN RD 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: April 28, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/26 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4284 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a ROSAS DE LISTON business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ROSAS ETERNAS CON AMOR that its location is or will be 4536 ERICKSON DRIVE in ROCKFORD, IL in the County of WINNEBAGO 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: 779-384-9308

SOSIMA GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ SANCHEZ I

4536 ERICKSON DRIVE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61108

AMANDA SANCHEZ GONZALEZ II

4536 ERICKSON DRIVE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61108

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: May 18, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/19, 5/26, 6/2/26 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4281 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SPIDER LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE that its location is or will be 109 EAST 6TH STREET 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: 815-540-1107

ELOINA FERRAL

109 EAST 6TH STREET 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: April 28, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/26 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4285 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a INSURANCE AGENCY business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MAPS MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION SERVICES that its location is or will be 10511 SADDLE PATH ROAD in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-885-2301

CARL E. RITZ 10511 SADDLE PATH ROAD

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: May 20, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

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**Tech Giants Sued Over 'Stealing' Voices Of Well-Known Journalists, Voice Actors to Train AI**

*The 9 Class actions filed under Illinois' strongest-in-nation biometric data privacy law*

*Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

Over hundreds of pages in legal filings this week, a group of well-known Chicago-based journalists, podcasters and voice actors accused tech giants like Google, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft and others of "stealing" their voices to train Artificial intelligence.

The nine class action lawsuits, filed in Chicago's federal court between Monday and Wednesday, represent a new frontier for Illinois' strongest-in-the-nation biometric data privacy law. In the last decade or so, the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act, or BIPA, has spawned thousands of lawsuits against companies alleged to have collected and stored biometric data from employees and customers without proper notice or consent.

The vast majority of that litigation — which has paid out millions of dollars to Illinoisans mostly via class-action settlements — has been over employee fingerprints collected by

*continued on page 8*

**Voting****from page 4**

information to voters, Dietrich said. Any time there's a big change to how elections are conducted, he said, there's a perception that voting is complicated or that there's something to worry about, and he wants to reassure voters that the state will make available all the information they need to know.

Misinformation about voting spreads, Democratic Champaign County Clerk Aaron Ammons said, because some people only engage when it's time to vote for President or Congress.

"People are not always paying attention," he said. "So they don't see the information, or they digest misinformation as much as they do any accurate information."

He said he asks election judges, both Republican and Democratic, to talk about their experience to help set the record straight. He also relies on local media to share new information. Ammons credits early education for how people in Champaign County adjusted to the postmark change for the primaries.

Ackerman said Tazewell County would handle a change to whether Illinois could accept ballots after the election the same way they managed the postmark change.

"We would have to proactively advertise that change to the public so that they knew to adjust their clocks," he said. That would mean telling people to mail their ballots at least a week before Election Day.

When reassuring voters, Ackerman said, it helps to separate what's going on in Illinois from what happens in other states or at the federal level.

"All I can do is try to make sure that they are confident in their vote, their elections here," he said. "That's about the limits of where I'm at."

Still, Ackerman noted that interest in voting by mail and voting early in person continues to increase, especially as people experience the process and realize it's easy and secure.

"We went from handling a couple hundred ballots for vote-by-mail to having a vote-by-mail list now that's, I believe it's sitting at about 12,000," he said.

**President continues to ramp up rhetoric**

It took four days to call the 2020 race for due to how long it took to count votes in key swing states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Georgia. That delay opened the door for conspiracy theories about the election.

Dietrich said after 2020 he started getting many more messages and Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to the election, but in his experience, once people try voting by mail, their doubts about it fade.

"It is very hard to explain to someone who — if they believe that voting by mail is just rife with fraud and that it's so easy to get other voters' ballots and vote them — if they haven't seen how it works, it's hard to explain why that's not the process," he said.

Since 2020, county clerks have developed strategies to boost confidence in voting by mail by relying on transparency, communication and having people experience the process.

Dietrich said he thinks people's faith in vote-by-mail has increased a lot over the years, based on the higher numbers of people using that method.

"I think some of those who were skeptical, probably in the 2020 cycle, probably saw that it is, number one, convenient for you, but number two, that it is secure," he said.

But even as they work to build trust, Trump has continued to criticize mail-in voting, even though records and reporting show that he frequently uses it, including in the 2026 Florida special elections and in 2020.

On March 31, Trump signed an executive order that would delegate responsibility for determining who can vote by mail to the United States Postal Service. The order instructs the USPS to refuse to deliver a ballot to anyone not on a newly created federal mail voter list which would be established after receiving voter roll data from every state.

Illinois is one of 23 states that is challenging it in court along with voting rights groups, and the Department of Justice on May 1 told a judge it has not acted on the order to restrict mail-in-voting.

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**Voices****from page 7**

timeclock technology, though Facebook's \$650 million settlement in 2020 was with users over facial recognition.

But as companies adopted policies to comply with BIPA and the pool of plaintiffs began to dry up, technology has rapidly evolved. Smart security cameras, safety cameras focused on workplaces, online "try-on" technology that allows users to envision, for example, what a certain pair of glasses would look like on their face, have become popular targets of BIPA litigation.

And with the breakneck speed of AI development, companies focused on building that technology could prove to be the next major focus for BIPA lawyers.

In the cases filed this week, locally famous broadcast journalists like Carol Marin and Phil Rogers, both retired from Chicago's NBC 5 news station, along with podcast hosts and voice actors allege the companies ingested recordings of their voices in order to train their AI "foundational voice models."

"What we are seeing is an illegal and unethical exploitation of talent on a massive scale, and one of the largest violations of biometric privacy ever committed," Ross Kimbarovsky, an attorney with Chicago-based law firm Loevy & Loevy, said Thursday in a statement announcing the lawsuits.

Kimbarovsky accused the companies of disregarding BIPA despite knowing "exactly how to build consent systems that comply with BIPA."

"They've built a billion-dollar industry on stolen voices because they thought no one would make them pay for it," he said.

Other plaintiffs include journalist Robin Amer, audiobook narrators and voice actors Lindsay Dorcus and Victoria Nassif, and podcasters Yohance Lacour and Alison Flowers — all Illinois residents.

**Tech heavyweights named**

The lawsuits name Amazon, Adobe, Google and its parent company Alphabet, Apple, Microsoft and Samsung, as well as Facebook parent company Meta, text-to-speech AI company ElevenLabs, and advanced computer chip maker NVIDIA. None of the companies responded to a request for comment on the lawsuits.

BIPA defenders point out that biometric information is unique, and losing control of it can be irrevocable. If an individual's Social Security number is stolen, for example, it may be a nuisance to get a new one but not impossible. But there's no remedy for a stolen fingerprint, retinal, voice or face scan, they argue. Under the law, companies deploying this technology must obtain written consent before biometric information is collected.

But the lawsuits allege the companies never gave anyone a chance to give consent for their voiceprints to be ingested into their AI training models.

"None of them was told that their voice was being used to train Amazon's commercial voice AI," the lawsuit against Amazon said. "None of them was asked. None of them consented."

A voiceprint "is a digital fingerprint of the human voice," according to the complaints, which go on to characterize it as "a mathematical representation" of someone's voice, including pitch, timbre and resonance determined by a speaker's physiology. A voice is also defined by speech patterns "developed over a lifetime," including accent, cadence and articulation.

"Like a fingerprint, a voiceprint identifies the individual and cannot be changed," the lawsuits say. "A Social Security number can be reissued. ... A person whose voiceprint has been taken cannot recover it by altering their voice — the biological and behavioral patterns that produced the voiceprint are the same ones used to speak every day."

Voiceprint-focused lawsuits may very well become fertile ground for BIPA, especially if judges weighing the complaints filed this week agree the cases should move forward. Industry experts believe the cases could hinge on whether the voiceprints are identifiable.

In early 2023, upscale grocer Whole Foods — which was acquired by Amazon in 2017 — settled a case brought by 330 warehouse employees who alleged the company collected their voiceprints without permission and used them to verify workers' identities. The \$300,000 payout was the first BIPA settlement resulting from voiceprint-focused litigation.

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