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Pritzker Signs Nearly \$56b Budget With New Business Taxes as He Seeks 3rd Term

Budget contains minimal spending increase despite being largest in state history

Ben Szalinski *Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the eighth budget of his tenure on Tuesday as he and Illinois Democrats gear up for an election-year battle centered around affordability — though he had to issue a clean-up veto aimed at addressing late-night drafting errors.

The fiscal year 2027 spending and corresponding revenue plans that will take effect on July 1 total \$55.9 billion, which is slightly less than what Pritzker initially proposed in February. Though that's about \$900 million more than what lawmakers initially approved for fiscal year 2026, discretionary spending will be largely flat year-over-year after lawmakers approved supplemental spending for the current year.

The FY27 budget raises hundreds of millions in new taxes, however, focusing on businesses, social media, fantasy sports and digital assets.

Despite calls from progressive lawmakers to more aggressively increase taxes on businesses and the ultra-wealthy, which largely did not materialize, the budget passed with relative ease in both chambers around 4 a.m. on June 1 with all Republicans voting against it and just a few dissenting Democrats.

“In a year marked by economic uncertainty, rising costs and unprecedented fiscal challenges created by Donald Trump and the MAGA Congress, Illinois has once again demonstrated that responsible governing and balanced budgets go hand in hand with making life more affordable for working families and investing in the future,” Pritzker said.

Though the budget contains fewer bells and whistles than might have been expected in an election-year plan designed to attract voters, Pritzker said Democrats' spending priorities stand in sharp contrast to Republican initiatives at the federal level.

“In Washington, they continue to run massive deficits and pile debt onto future generations to fund tax breaks for corporations, brutal ICE occupations, vanity projects like a new White House ballroom, painting the reflecting pool blue — which already is an epic fail — and holding UFC matches on the White House lawn,” Pritzker said.

Illinois lawmakers included some tax breaks in the budget. It pushes the 1.3-cent gas tax increase that was scheduled for July 1 back until after the election to Jan. 1. It also reduces the sales tax on school supplies from 6.25% to 1.25% between Aug. 7-16.

continued on page 4



Gov. JB Pritzker signs the fiscal year 2027 budget alongside top state lawmakers during a ceremony in Chicago on June 16, 2026. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Maggie Dougherty)

Despite BUILD's Failure, Housing Advocates Celebrate Legislative Wins

Governor says he will keep trying on affordable housing plan

Marisa Guerra Echeverria
Medill Illinois News Bureau

After months of negotiations in the spring legislative session resulted in no final action on Gov. JB Pritzker's flagship housing proposal, housing advocates are celebrating a few legislative victories — and holding onto hopes for future negotiations.

Bob Palmer, policy director for the statewide housing coalition Housing Action Illinois, said some of the major victories came on the funding front. For one, the General Assembly rejected the governor's proposed cut of \$10 million to the HOME Illinois Program, which aims to prevent and end homelessness in the state.

Lawmakers were facing a tight fiscal year, meaning any new funding would be an uphill battle. Even so, David Zoltan, a Chicago-based housing activist, said not increasing funding amid rising inflation is “effectively a cut” for a crucial HOME Illinois program.

While Pritzker's flagship housing proposal,

Building up Illinois Developments, or BUILD, did not pass in its entirety, the General Assembly did approve its \$250 million in capital investments, including \$100 million to develop new housing projects, \$100 million to the Missing Middle and Affordable Homes program and \$50 million for new and first-time home buyers.

Palmer said he encourages the governor's office to distribute the money to communities as soon as possible to address urgent housing needs, especially without the complementary BUILD legislation to back investments.

“Regardless of whether the legislation passed this year or next year, there still is the need for more money to develop affordable housing to increase the housing supply,” Palmer said.

But some progressive lawmakers wanted more. State Sen. Mike Simmons, D-Chicago, argued that the allocation as it stands is “inadequate” to address Illinois' housing shortage, and that the state must pass progressive revenue methods to fully fund affordable housing programs.

Affordable housing advocates also celebrated a budget increase and 10-year extension of Illinois' Affordable Housing Tax Credit, a 25-year-old initiative encouraging private investment into affordable housing projects.

Allison Clements, Executive Director of Illinois Housing Council, a major proponent of the tax credit, said it has a proven track record in the affordable

continued on page 8




David Edwin Diamond, Sr.

January 24, 1939 – June 1st, 2026

David Edwin Diamond, Sr., 87 of Stevens Point, WI passed away at home, on June 1st, 2026, after a ten-year struggle with Alzheimer's. He was born in Belvidere, Illinois on January 24, 1939, to Edwin Claire Diamond and Leona Barbara (Brown) Diamond. In his early years, he worked on the family farm and attended Belvidere High School. On February 2, 1959,



Evelyn Jahn, 80, Marengo, June 11
 Gordon Nelson, 87, Caledonia, June 16
 Lorraine Pepke, 86, Marengo, June 14
 Thomas Shadle Sr., 77, Formerly of Belvidere, June 14



real journalism for a real democracy

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

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

David married the love of his life, Kathleen Rae Browne.

David worked in various positions throughout his life. After high school, he went to work for the Illinois Tollway gas station and worked as a Boone County Sheriff's Deputy. In 1976, the family moved to Park Falls, Wisconsin, purchased a Standard Oil Jobber distribution business. In 1979, the family established a convenience store called Diamond's Parlor in Phillips, WI. In 1983, they moved to Encinitas California, where he started Diamond Construction and retired in 1996 and moved to Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Rae Diamond, children Sheila (David) Graciano, David Jr. (Brenda) Diamond, Shawn (Katie) Diamond. Grandchildren Jacob, Zachary, Callyn (Quinne), Alec and Madison Diamond and great grandchild Ayden Diamond. Brother In-Law Ron Olson, his beloved special dog friend, Cooper and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Doris Olson, brother Duane Diamond and many aunts and uncles.

Due to David's wishes, there will not be a visitation or celebration of life. David donated his body to science specifically for research into finding a cure for Alzheimer's. Please consider donating to The Alzheimer's Association in David's name at <https://www.alz.org/wi/> about or consider donating to the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Portage County to support the Adult Day Center. Donate at: <https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/781/Adult-Day-Center>

New Program Will Expand Access to Digital Databases for Research, Education

The program makes digital information available to all Illinoisans.

Nikoel Hytek *Capitol News Illinois*

Illinoisans now will have access to a large collection of high-quality digital information and educational resources for free by going to their local library or the Illinois State Library's website.

The Illinois Reliable Information Sources, or IRIS, program was announced Tuesday by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias. The state entered a contract with EBSCO Information Services — a digital library resource program used by universities, schools and libraries — to provide access to more than 50 of their databases to all Illinois residents.

It could not be immediately determined how much money went into program.

While it's common for libraries to have resources for research, not all libraries are able to pay for these kinds of services.

"Access to reliable information should not depend on a person's ZIP code or the financial resources of their local library," Giannoulias said in a news release. "This investment will ensure every Illinois resident has access to educational, professional and personal enrichment resources while helping libraries stretch limited budgets and better serve their communities."

The new service includes free access to online databases with e-books, peer-reviewed journals, magazines, newspapers and research databases.

continued on page 8



Rally at Big Thundar Park in Belvidere

On June 14, Flag Day: Liberty and Justice for All took place at Big Thunder Park in Belvidere. It was an afternoon filled with music, information and tributes to our country celebrating our flag, the freedoms it represents and the American way of life. Illinois League of Women Voters President Becky Simon drove in from Naperville to join the festivities. She commented that "the people in Boone County were very welcoming. The Sheriff and the Police Department were so helpful in guiding the march. It was a peaceful, joyful day."

Together the attendees honored the values of liberty, unity and justice for all. The park was

adorned with over 500 American Flags. Speakers highlighted veterans, immigrants, farmers, housing and food insecurity. After the speeches and singing, folks marched carrying flags from Big Thunder to the river and back. Back at the park, there were activities including postcard writing, free vegetable plants, ranked choice voting and voter registration. Attendees donated nonperishable food to those in need. Special thanks to Caritas for their assistance.

This event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford (serving Boone and Winnebago Counties), AAUW, Rockford Urban Ministries and Trogg Hollow in Boone County.

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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--In Our Opinion--

Who Should Decide?

You live in a \$250,000 house in a so-called “nice” neighborhood. Can you paint your house in polka dots? How about some stripes of varying colors and widths? Bring home the most garish colors you can find at the paint store. And why not? Your home will be the star of the block—a true “conversation piece.”

Don’t neglect the landscape. Let the bushes go wild and add a few more for good measure. Give it that “natural” look!

Next, build a tasteful apartment above the garage for your mother-in-law to live in—

NO! YOU CAN’T DO THAT! Your lot is zoned for only one residence. The Belvidere City Council won’t let you commit such an abomination. They will stop you in order to “protect” your neighborhood from undesirables like your mother-in-law. They’ll rationalize it by saying that she’ll clog the schools and her ancient Camry will cause parking and traffic problems. (Besides, you didn’t really want her living next door, anyway.)

Two recent pieces of legislation in Illinois are a radical departure from past land use policy. The first, the enabling legislation for the Northern Illinois Transportation Authority (NITA), allows the NITA to build “transit-oriented development” within a half mile of Metra or CTA stations. The NITA will have extremely broad authority and, for example, can ignore the parking requirements of any city or village. A similar structure exists in Hong Kong, where the real estate operations of the local transit agency fully fund the transit service.

Right now, the RTA is doing a Transit Oriented Development study of Downtown Harvard. What happens when the planners decide that lots of trackside, high-rise public housing is just what Harvard needs to stimulate growth? Think how it will benefit the entire Chicago area. The opportunities are endless!

A second proposal, the BUILD act, has not passed yet, but will preempt local zoning codes and allow property owners to build multifamily housing on their land regardless of what the municipality wants. While this is ostensibly to deal with a housing shortage, critics believe this bill gives a green light for developers to ignore the municipality’s best interest. There seem to be no safeguards.

Unsurprisingly, the Belvidere City Council passed a resolution on May 26, opposing this erosion of the Council’s power to dictate what can be built in our fair city. Many other Illinois cities and villages have also gone on record, vigorously defending their prerogative.

But, if the BUILD act is passed, you will be able to divide your McMansion into about a half dozen apartments. So can your neighbor across the street. Think of the income potential! And you’ll be doing your bit to help Illinois’ housing crisis. To heck with what the Belvidere City Council thinks. Less than fifteen percent of the community voted for them, anyway.

Whether or not the City Council are “nice people” who are certainly entitled to their personal opinions, none of them have any sort of professional expertise or credential in land use planning or urbanology. The public does not expect them to be experts on urban design and policy, but expects them to have access to and consult experts who can advise them.

And do you think that the City of Belvidere or R1 (the local planning agency) are competent to give the City Council any credible help? Besides, they are both too busy fantasizing over the Second Coming of Stellanis and prattling about a choo-choo train that nobody but a couple of local politicians want! Ah, the “Big Little City.”

Then there’s what The Boone County Journal believes Belvidere should look like. (Nobody cares what we think about it, either!)

It’s time for the grownups to have a talk. There is a hard question to answer: What is best for Belvidere, for Illinois, and indeed, for these United States? We are in intense competition with the other cities along the I-90 string city—

as well as Europe and East Asia—to capture our fair share of the world’s wealth. Being an hour from O’Hare, turning our back on vital issues is fatal. There is no free lunch, and plenty would like to eat ours.

We would like to

believe that Belvidere would be a better, richer, and more diverse community if we had a professional city manager and an experienced, talented city planner to help answer the question.

But even professional urbanologists can be corrupted. We’ve seen it before. There can be a fine line between preservation of a community vs. facilitating racism and economic segregation. Vested interests can often overwhelm even the most dedicated and talented professionals. But professional integrity can be safeguarded by an active, well-educated, and concerned community. Conversely, an apathetic community sends the fox an engraved invitation to visit its hen house.

The current, 1950s-style approach finds Belvidere adrift, with the loss of its major employer. Instead of hearing the screaming klaxons, Belvidere is in denial and wasting time. Whether or not the BUILD act ultimately passes, or Boone County gets absorbed into the NITA, this community needs talented people of good faith to prescribe Belvidere’s destiny.



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Prizker

from page 1

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, who is running her own race for U.S. Senate, compared those breaks to Trump’s comment last week that he “loves the inflation.” She said Illinois’ budget should be a “model” for other states.

“We have never lost sight of your family’s budget,” Stratton said. “From groceries to gas to health care, everything is more expensive right now, and families in every corner of our state are feeling the squeeze and letting us know it’s getting harder and harder to make ends meet.”

Pritzker also reminded voters he took office in 2019, shortly after a two-year budget impasse during which many state services were depleted. Preempting criticism from Republicans that spending has grown significantly under his tenure, Pritzker argued it has grown slower than the rate of inflation and the federal budget.

“It is worth pausing to reflect on just how far we have come in Illinois,” he said. “Seven-and-a-half years ago, our state faced an entirely different reality.”

House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said new taxes in the budget contradict Pritzker’s message.

“Governor Pritzker can’t campaign on affordability then govern through tax hikes,” she said in a statement. “By signing this budget, he chose to put more spending and more pressure on family budgets instead of pursuing property tax relief, energy affordability, and economic growth.”

Pritzker issued what are known as “item” and “reduction” vetoes on the budget, reducing or eliminating erroneous line items — such as removing \$500 billion for an NAACP branch and cutting \$60 million for a youth employment program to \$30 million — that were apparently included inadvertently. The thousands of pages of budget legislation came to fruition in the final 24 hours of the spring session and passed after 4 a.m. on June 1.

The bill can take effect despite the vetoes, because the state constitution gives the governor the authority to alter line items. Lawmakers could overturn the reductions, though Pritzker said he made the move in consultation with them.

“Majority Leader Robyn Gabel and Senator Elgie Sims, Jr., the House and Senate sponsors, respectively, of the bill have identified a number of individual appropriation lines included in the enrolled bill sent to me for consideration that either contain errors or are duplicative of other appropriation lines already contained in the bill,” Pritzker said in his veto message. “Upon review, I concur with their assessment.”

New taxes on businesses

Democrats approved hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue through new taxes on social media companies, businesses, digital asset sales and fantasy sports.

Social media companies would be taxed on a progressive scale starting with platforms with 100,000 to 499,999 users paying 10 cents per month for each user all the way up to platforms with at least 1 million users paying a \$165,000 fee plus 50 cents per each user each month. Though a similar tax in Chicago is being challenged in court, the state still expects to collect \$200 million in revenue from the tax Pritzker proposed in February. Pritzker said he’s

confident it’ll survive legal scrutiny.

Lawmakers also granted Pritzker’s request to lower the cap on corporate net operating loss deductions for businesses, which would generate about \$300 million in new revenue.

A new 0.2% tax on digital asset sales will take effect Jan. 1 and raise \$60 million for the state.

Lawmakers also established a licensing process for fantasy sports operators. Each business granted a license will pay a 15% tax on receipts from fantasy contests. The state is expected to receive \$5 million from it, but participants in the leagues themselves will not be taxed.

Sports bets made on prediction markets will also be taxed starting at 1.75%.

Remote tobacco retailers will have to collect taxes from the sale of cigars, pipe tobacco and alternative nicotine products to Illinois customers. That’s expected to generate \$3.8 million.

There’s another new tax that lawmakers aren’t planning to collect this year. The revenue package creates a Targeted Advertising Services Tax, more commonly known as a digital ad tax. It would be a 10% tax on providers of digital ad services on revenue from those ads over \$1 million. Lawmakers expect it will face legal challenges, but its inclusion in the budget satisfies progressives who demanded more aggressive taxes on businesses.

Business organizations, however, are worried small businesses will be hit hardest by paying a tax on revenue derived from digital ads as those ads account for the bulk of their marketing.

Lawmakers also “decoupled” Illinois tax code from the federal code and will now require individuals who sell small business stocks within five years of buying it to pay taxes on their gains.

The budget itself does not eliminate tax incentives for data centers, but Pritzker has directed the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to pause processing those requests at the beginning of FY27. It’s not clear how much that will save the state.

The budget also sweeps dollars from several funds to boost spending, including diverting \$150 million in sales tax revenue from motor fuel to the General Revenue Fund once public transportation is fully funded.

Little new spending

Spending will be relatively flat in FY27, and the budget includes about \$65 million in reductions for government operations, House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston, said during debate over the budget in the House weeks ago.

“There is no budget that solves every problem. There is no budget that finishes the work, but this budget definitely moves us forward,” said House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside.

The budget creates a key program to respond to federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. The budget establishes the Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger, or FRESH Program, and people who have lost or seen their SNAP benefits reduced would be eligible for a one-time \$400 payment. The program is scheduled to last just one year and is estimated to cost about \$70 million.

The state also plans to spend \$55 million to hire 450 new employees at the Department of Human Services, including to help update the state’s systems

to comply with federal changes to SNAP and Medicaid eligibility.

But not all state agencies were winners in the budget. Attorney General Kwame Raoul is not happy with the funding he got as his office struggles to keep up with high caseloads.

“We were shorted about \$10 million from what our overall appropriation was for fiscal year 26 and I can’t imagine why,” Raoul said on June 9 at a City Club of Chicago event, adding “all iterations of it all the way until 3 a.m. in the morning had us fully funded.”

Pritzker said he expects money the attorney general will receive from winning settlements to make up the difference and Raoul “deserves as much support as we can provide him.”

Local governments are getting more funding than expected after Pritzker’s initial proposal, however. Lawmakers allowed the percentage of the income tax that they receive to stay flat at 6.47% after Pritzker proposed reducing it. Because of natural income tax growth, the total dollar amount received will grow.

Illinois lawmakers are also in line for a roughly 3% pay raise, which will bring their base salaries to \$101,450. State law ties their pay each year to the rate of inflation.

Lawmakers also appropriated \$143 million to the healthcare program for undocumented immigrant seniors and \$4 million for welcoming centers that provide services to immigrants arriving in Illinois.

Direct service providers will receive a 60-cent wage increase, which is half of what is recommended. The state’s “rainy day” fund will grow by an estimated \$197 million in other state funds, though lawmakers didn’t direct any new general funds toward it.

It also fully funds pensions and extends a buyout program for two years aimed at reducing unfunded liabilities. When the state’s income tax refund fund carries a surplus of \$150 million or more, money over that amount will be directed to pensions.

Senate Republican Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, was still displeased with the larger spending plan, which is the largest in state history despite its minimal growth.

“Record spending, supported by \$800 million in tax increases, while Illinois families are forced to make cuts in their own households, is not a responsible budget,” Curran said in a statement. “It does nothing to address the structural deficits that directly result in Illinois being a bottom six state in both economic growth and job opportunities under Gov. Pritzker.”

Other spending measures include:

- \$263.7 million from Home Illinois, the state’s primary homelessness prevention program.
- \$5 million to continue the Medical Debt Relief Pilot Program.
- \$19.8 million more to improve reimbursement rates for Department of Children and Family Services partners.
- \$18 million for reproductive health initiatives.
- \$111 million for the Reimagine Public Safety program aimed at reducing gun violence.
- \$5 million to continue the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.
- \$103 million more for personal services at correctional facilities, including for hiring additional correctional officers.

Prizker

from page 4

- \$2 million for two new Illinois State Police cadet classes to train 100 new troopers.
- \$200 million for infrastructure grants.
- \$100 million for the Site Readiness program to prepare unused state land for development.
- \$1.2 billion for lead service line replacement.
- \$32.8 million for a hemp and cannabis testing facility in central Illinois.
- \$1.4 billion for deferred maintenance at state facilities, including colleges and universities.
- \$500 million for downstate road and bridge construction.
- \$143 million for the healthcare program for undocumented immigrant seniors.

Education

Pritzker said he authorized an additional 2% spending increase for higher education in the current year, which was initially held back over fears federal funding cuts could hamper the FY26 budget's ability to remain balanced. Instead, revenue is higher than expected and colleges and universities will receive about \$30 million more. However, the FY27 budget signed on Tuesday calls for increasing higher education funding by 1%.

The budget fully funds the annual Evidence-Based Funding increase for K-12 schools, including restoring \$47 million for property tax relief grants that were not included in FY26.

School districts must agree to reduce their tax levy for three years to receive the grants, however.

Funding for free breakfast and lunch programs at public schools also tripled to \$26 million.

"When Washington threatens food assistance for families, Illinois is investing in children and making sure more students can get a healthy meal at school," Welch said.

The budget appropriates \$10.8 billion to the State Board of Education, which is about \$120 million more than Pritzker requested, but less than the agency hoped for.

Some funds are also shifting out of ISBE this year to the new Department of Early Childhood, which will become active on July 1.

Other education spending includes:

- \$748 million for the Early Childhood Block Grant, which continues funding for Pritzker's Smart Start preschool initiative.
- \$15 million for the Teacher Vacancy Grant pilot program.
- \$721.6 million for the Monetary Award Program, or MAP – an amount equal to FY26.

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

Gov. JB Pritzker to Suspend Tax Breaks for Data Centers, Urging More Discussion

The governor cited growing impacts on energy affordability and water resources

Maggie Dougherty Capitol News Illinois

In a surprise move, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Friday that he is putting a pause on all new state tax incentives for data centers and calling on lawmakers to pass new data center reforms during the fall veto session.

The governor has directed the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to pause all new agreements starting July 1, fulfilling a proposal he made during his budget address earlier this year. The data center tax incentives have been in place as part of bipartisan legislation signed by Pritzker during his first year in office.

From 2020-24, there were 27 data centers that benefited by more than \$983 million from these tax incentives, according to a state report.

In his announcement, the governor cited growing impacts on energy affordability and water resources.

"Illinois has an opportunity to continue leading in technological innovation and economic growth, but we also have a responsibility to protect working families and local communities as the data center industry rapidly expands," Pritzker said.

"I am directing my administration to pause the processing of data center agreements while we continue working with the General Assembly and stakeholders on a comprehensive framework that protects affordability, safeguards our natural resources, and ensures responsible growth across Illinois."

The move comes after lawmakers failed to pass House Bill 5513, known as the POWER Act, by the spring session deadline on May 31, following months of committee conversations and advocacy from environmental groups.

The bill would have required data centers to pay for and supply their own renewable energy, track and report water usage and enter community benefits agreements with the municipalities where they're based. After the bill failed to pass, lawmakers said negotiations would continue over the summer.

Advocates earlier lamented a 'lack of engagement' from Pritzker on supporting the bill.

When it was clear the bill wouldn't be ready for prime time by the spring deadline, lawmakers from both chambers sent a letter to Pritzker calling for a tax credit pause.

"We believe the responsible course of action is to pause the data center tax credits and exemptions in the FY 2027 budget until common-sense guardrails are in place," they wrote in the letter, obtained by Capitol News Illinois. "It is not only fiscally irresponsible, but also unconscionable to continue to provide millions of taxpayer dollars to Big Tech corporations harming our climate, straining our grid, and making electric bills unaffordable for working families."

However, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, told Capitol News Illinois earlier this week that the pause on data center credits did

not have the support of the Democratic caucus to get through session, saying "not only did it struggle, it wasn't even close."

"Now, let's be clear, we certainly hear people's concerns about data centers. We've had numerous hearings about them. I represent parts of DuPage County, so I hear those conversations about noise, water consumption, and energy costs," Welch said. "I know how hard our friends in the environmental energy space are working on this very topic. They're complex issues that just don't get done right away."

Resource strain

Data centers have already put a major strain on energy infrastructure, driving up demand and prices for regular customers — and many more are seeking access to Illinois' grid.

Actual and projected demand from the data centers raised costs by \$13 billion over the past two en-

continued on page 7

NOTICE OF SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Belvidere Community Unit School District 100, Boone County, Illinois ("School District") will sell the following described real estate:

633 West Perry Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 (PIN No.: 05-26-334-009, 05-26-334-021, 05-26-334-008, 05-26-334-020, 05-26-334-007, 05-26-334-019, 05-26-334-006, 05-26-334-018, 05-26-334-005, 05-26-334-004, 05-26-334-003)

Legal Description: To be provided with survey.

at public sale by taking sealed bids, which shall be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on July 31, 2026, at the School District's Central Office located at 1201 5th Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008. All bids shall subsequently be opened by the School District at 3:15 p.m. on July 31, 2026, at its Central Office.

The award of a bid, if any, by the School District will be to the bidder that provides the highest bid (and which must exceed the minimum selling price of \$300,000.00) and agrees to comply with all of the terms contained in the Terms and Conditions document on file with the School District's Superintendent (or her designee). The School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids in its sole discretion.

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

Board of Education of Belvidere Community Unit School District 100, Boone County, Illinois
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HOLCOMB STATE BANK AKA HOLCOMB BANK, Plaintiff,
-v.-2025 FC 75

BRUCE K. HOBSON Defendant
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE PUBLICATION NOITCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2026, the Sheriff of Boone County will at 10:00 AM on July 17, 2026, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main, (West door), BELVIDERE, IL, 61008, sell at a public in-person auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 647 WEST LINCOLN AVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-26-379-001 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$128,073.63. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and is "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after the confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: James E. Stevens, BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG, BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP 6833 STALTER DRIVE, ROCKFORD, IL, 61108, 815-962-6611. Please refer to file number 71575.110. E-MAIL: jstevens@bslv.com CASE # 2025 FC 75 Published in The Boone County Journal JUNE 9, 17, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, 601 NORTH MAIN STREET, BELVIDERE, IL-LINOIS
ESTATE OF Larry Layman, DECEASED.
26 PR 17

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Diane Pelayo, 25024 Illinois Route 173, Harvard, Illinois 60033, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Terrence E. Davey, Malman Law, 205 West Randolph Street, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act III. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before December 16, 2026, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Terrence E. Davey
Malman Law
205 West Randolph Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312)629-0099
13288853

Published in The Boone County Journal Jun 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: HARMONY MORGAN, Petitioner,
v. Case No. 2026DC7

AUSTIN MORGAN, Respondent.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to AUSTIN MORGAN, Respondent, whose last known address is 520 Benton Ave, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545, that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed in the above-captioned case in the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, County of Boone, State of Illinois, by HARMONY MORGAN, Petitioner.

The Petitioner seeks, among other relief: dissolution of the marriage; allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time with respect to the minor children of the parties; child support pursuant to 750 ILCS 5/505; equitable distribution of marital property and debts; award of non-marital property; and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, AUSTIN MORGAN, file your answer or otherwise appear in this action on or before the date that is 30 days after the last date of publication of this Notice, a default may be entered against you at any time after that date, and a judgment for dissolution of marriage and all other relief requested in the Petition may be entered.

Your response must be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of

Boone County at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

PAMELA CODUTO
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Boone County, Illinois
Attorney for Petitioner:
Mason S. Crosby
Crosby & Crosby LLP
3815 N. Mulford Road, Suite 4
Rockford, Illinois 61114
Telephone: (815) 367-6432
ARDC No. 6333778
Published in The Boone County Journal Jun 16, 23, 30, 2026

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RICHARD A.
BRITTON, Deceased.
No. 2026-PR-9

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Richard A. Britton. Letters of Office were issued on February 17, 2026, to Janis Thelen, 8225 White Oaks Road, Harvard, Illinois 60033, who is the legal executor of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Nancy Grimme Schilling, Schilling Law, LLC, 973 Featherstone Road, Suite 350, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 23, 2026, 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 Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008, 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 (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: June 12, 2026.
Janis Thelen, Executor,
By: Schilling Law, LLC
By: Nancy Grimme Schilling
Schilling Law, LLC
By: Nancy Grimme Schilling
973 Featherstone Road, Suite 350
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 977-5000 (telephone)
nancyschilling@schilling-law.com

Published in The Boone County Journal Jun 16, 23, 30, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Mike Busch, 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 on behalf of the property owners Donald K. Busch, Sr., 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 and DMD Investments Inc., 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a map amendment (rezoning) on approximately 87 acres east of Gateway Center Subdivision, Belvidere, IL from RH, Rural Holding District (pending annexation) to PB, Planned Business District pursuant to the Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Section 150.903 Amendment to Official Zoning Map. The subject property is legally described as:

Lots 5-26 and Lots 28-32 of the proposed East Point Commons Subdivision (available for review at the Community Development Department, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 300, Belvidere, IL 61008 during regular business hours). PINs: 08-06-200-004, 08-06-200-011, 08-06-200-008, 08-06-200-005 and Parts of PINs: 08-06-200-013, 08-06-200-014, 08-06-200-016 and 08-06-200-015.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in The Boone County Journal June 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Mike Busch, 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 on behalf of the property owners Donald K. Busch, Sr., 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 and DMD Investments Inc., 923 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a map amendment (rezoning) on approximately 98 acres east of Gateway Center Subdivision, Belvidere, IL from RH, Rural Holding District (pending annexation) to PI, Planned Industrial District pursuant to the Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Section 150.903 Amendment to Official Zoning Map. The subject property is legally described as:

Lots 1-4, 27 and Outlot A of the proposed East Point Commons Subdivision (available for review at the Community Development Department, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 300, Belvidere, IL 61008 during regular business hours). PINs: 08-05-100-001 and 08-05-100-003 and Parts of PINs: 08-06-200-013, 08-06-200-014, 08-06-200-016 and 08-06-200-015.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in The Boone County Journal June 23, 2026

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2022-00160

TO: LIZETTE D. VEGA, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCCUPANTS, TENTANTS, SPOUSES, UNKNOWN OWNERS

County Clerk of Boone County:
Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.

A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of BOONE County, Illinois as Case #2026-TX-21
Property located at 121 N. STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Legal Description or Permanent Index No. 05-26-434-007

Said property was sold on 10-27-23 for delinquent taxes for the year 2022. This period of redemption will expire on 10-26-26.

On 12-15-26 at 9:15AM ZOOM 96397918024 the petitioner will make application to such court in said county for an Order for Tax Deed, should the real estate not be redeemed.

TAX LIEN INVESTMENTS, Petitioner
Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2022-00159

TO: LIZETTE D. VEGA, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCCUPANTS, TENTANTS, SPOUSES, UNKNOWN OWNERS

County Clerk of Boone County:
Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.

A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of BOONE County, Illinois as Case #2026-TX-20
Property located at 121 N. STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Legal Description or Permanent Index No. 05-26-434-006

Said property was sold on 10-27-22 for delinquent taxes for the year 2022.

This period of redemption will expire on 10-26-26.

On 12-15-26 at 9:15AM ZOOM 96397918024 the petitioner will make application to such court in said county for an Order for Tax Deed, should the real estate not be redeemed.

TAX LIEN INVESTMENTS, Petitioner
Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

Official Notice of Bid

Bids are now being accepted by the Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) for the Pavilion Roof Replacement Spencer Conservation Area. Instructions, specifications, and proposal forms may be viewed and obtained at 603 N Appleton Rd., Belvidere IL 61008, Monday-Friday 8:00am-noon and 1pm-4:30pm or at www.bccdil.org. Bids will be opened on July 15th at 2p.m.(central) 2026. The BCCD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Published in The Boone County Journal, June 2, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE, IN PROBATE

In the Matter of: SANDRA A. RATHER, Decedent.
2026PR22

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Sandra A. Rather on March 18, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on May 21, 2026, to Stacy Henneberry, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 205 Cadillac Court #4, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 9, 2026, 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, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

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

Published in The Boone County Journal, June 23, 30, July 7, 2026

MECHANIC'S LIEN

NOTICE

TO: CHRIS HUDSON

Notice is hereby given that a 2000 Yamaha Vstar 650 Classic VIN # - JYAVM01E5YA020072 – work performed by Hammertime Sports, Inc., 2252 Anderson Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008. The amount due \$749.61.

The owner Chris Hudson, 15133 Rockdale Road, South Beloit, IL 61080

This notice is for a Mechanic's Lien being placed on the above subject vehicle per Chapter 770 ILCS 45/1 et seq. Or 90/1 et seq. unless payment is received by 06/28/2026.

SALE DATE: 06/26/2026 AT BELVIDERE FAIRGROUNDS.
Mechanic's Lien holder is Hammertime Sports, Inc., 2252 Anderson Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Published in The Boone County Journal: 06/16/2026

MECHANIC'S LIEN

NOTICE

TO: JAKE ORTIZ

Notice is hereby given that a 2009 Honda Rebel 250 VIN # - JH2MC13009K504907 – work performed by Hammertime Sports, Inc., 2252 Anderson Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008. The amount due \$398.75.

The owner Jake Ortiz, 5642 Alma Drive, Rockford, IL 61108

This notice is for a Mechanic's Lien being placed on the above subject vehicle per Chapter 770 ILCS 45/1 et seq. Or 90/1 et seq. unless payment is received by 06/28/2026.

SALE DATE: 06/26/2026 AT BELVIDERE FAIRGROUNDS.
Mechanic's Lien holder is Hammertime Sports, Inc., 2252 Anderson Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Published in The Boone County Journal: 06/16/2026

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4286 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESALE business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SHARON5195 that its location is or will be 5195 COUNTY LINE ROAD in MARENGO 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: 815-494-0115
SHARON ANN JOHNSON 5195 COUNTY LINE ROAD
MARENGO, ILLINOIS 60152

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: June 8, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/16, 6/23, 6/30/26 - P

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

No. DBA4288 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BODY CONTOURING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of CINTURITA SCULPTING LLC that its location is or will be 1464 NORTH STATE STREET 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: 224-806-7765
JESSICA MARTINEZ 1765 W CHRYSLER DR
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: June 18, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/23, 6/30, 7/7/26 - P

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

No. DBA4289 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CARPENTRY business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BARAGLIA TRIM that its location is or will be 10042 TANGLEWOOD CIRCLE 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: 224-291-1537
Weston Anthony Baraglia 10042 Tanglewood Cir
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: June 22, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/23, 6/30, 7/07 - P

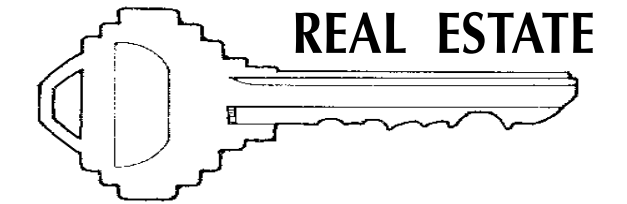
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4290 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a STAINED GLASS MAKING AND SELLING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE GLASS GARDNER that its location is or will be 925 WHITNEY BLVD in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-566-5957
Christine Elizabeth Gardner 925 Whitney Blvd.
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: June 22, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 6/23, 6/30, 7/07 - P



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HOLCOMB STATE BANK AKA HOLCOMB BANK, Plaintiff,
-v.-2025 FC 75

BRUCE K. HOBSON Defendant

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE PUBLICATION NOITCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2026, the Sheriff of Boone County will at 10:00 AM on July 17, 2026, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main, (West door), BELVIDERE, IL, 61008, sell at a public in-person auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 647 WEST LINCOLN AVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-26-379-001 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$128,073.63. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and is "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after the confirmation of the sale. The property will

NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: James E. Stevens, BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG, BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP 6833 STALTER DRIVE, ROCKFORD, IL, 61108, 815-962-6611. Please refer to file number 71575.110. E-MAIL: jstevens@bslv.com CASE # 2025 FC 75 Published in The Boone County Journal JUNE 9, 17, 25, 2026

Data Centers from page 5

ergy auctions on the PJM interconnection, an electric grid that provides energy to 13 states, including northern Illinois.

A February report from the Union of Concerned Scientists found those costs could increase by another \$37 billion in Illinois alone over the next 25 years.

Those rising supply costs have added an average of \$12 per month to residential customers' bill over the last four years, according to ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones. It would have been even higher, around \$16 per month, absent ratepayer relief built into the state's 2021 landmark climate bill.

ComEd, which receives energy from the PJM grid, has nearly 100 data center requests in its pipeline. If all were to come to fruition, they would draw more than 30,000 megawatts — nearly 1.3 times higher than ComEd's historic peak rate of less than 24,000 megawatts in July 2011.

The requests from data centers seeking to access the grid in ComEd's service territory are increasingly larger in size and scale.

"Really, it used to be the average size of data center applications are in the 150- to 200-megawatt range," Quiniones said. "Now it's 700- to 750-megawatt range. It's because of those big training data centers."

The huge surge in demand by data centers, which ComEd said has accelerated at an "exponential pace" since 2019, comes at a time when the state is facing projected energy shortfalls that are expected to drive up energy costs if not resolved.

Labor calls for 'pause on pause'

Organizers from Climate Jobs Illinois and the Illinois AFL-CIO called Pritzker's tax credit pause "shortsighted" and called on him to "pause his pause."

The tax incentive legislation required data center owners and operators to require their contractors to enter into approved project labor agreements to qualify for the benefits.

In a joint statement, the labor leaders accused Pritzker of issuing an order "to generate headlines, rather than practical results."

"This pause does nothing to lower utility bills, protect the grid, or advance clean energy," they wrote. "Instead, it will send billions of dollars in investment and thousands of union jobs to Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio — states that sit on the same electrical grid, where those data centers will be built anyway, just without Illinois workers protected by nationally leading labor standards and without the clean energy requirements we've collaboratively fought to establish here."

Other legislative proposals

In addition to ordering a pause on the tax incentives for data centers, the governor proposed six other principles for reform.

Pritzker urged lawmakers to work with consumer advocates, labor organizations and environmental stakeholders to pass legislation in the veto session that would: require data centers to pay for the costs of their energy and water demand, require them to support the generation of new renewable energy, to track and report water use, to adhere to air quality standards and to enter agreements with the communities that host them.

He also advocated for legislation that would allow utilities to prioritize power to residential and regular business customers in times of high energy demand.

"Data centers should temporarily go dark when the grid is strained to ensure reliable electric service for Illinoisans," the proposal said. "Data centers that don't supply their own clean energy could have their electric service interrupted when the grid is strained so Illinoisans' lights stay on."

ComEd CEO Quiniones told Capitol News Illinois in a recent interview that the utility also sees interruptible service for data centers as part of the solution to protecting energy affordability, along with more deployment of solar power and battery storage — both elements of a major energy reform package Pritzker signed at the start of this year.

Consumer and environmental advocates applauded the governor's announcement and said they expected to continue conversations with lawmakers.

Abe Scarr, director of the Illinois Public Interest Research Group said "the devil is in the details" but that the organization supported the "direction" of the framework. Illinois Environmental Council CEO Jen Walling also cheered the news.

"We're thrilled to see Governor Pritzker's comprehensive framework to address the growing impact of data centers on our energy, water resources, and local communities," Walling said. "We look forward to working with Governor Pritzker, state lawmakers, and other stakeholders toward our common goals: holding data centers accountable for their outsized impact on our natural resources and communities while prioritizing fairness, transparency, and Illinois' clean energy future."

Ben Szalinski contributed reporting to this story.

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



Housing**from page 1**

housing space, having helped create over 26,000 homes. The organization estimates that the tax credit's expansion will produce 9,856 new affordable homes in the next five years.

"We know the need is high, we know the demand is there, and we know it leverages private donations," Clements said. "It's not just the state giving us money. It's incentivizing donations to be able to be made to affordable housing."

BUILD plan's future

Pritzker has said he'll continue to work with lawmakers on the BUILD plan and pointed out that plenty of successful legislative efforts have taken multiple sessions to complete. In a June 1 news conference, he mentioned the recent passing of House Bill 3564, sponsored by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Inverness, and Simmons. The bill, which bans landlords from charging 11 junk fees and requires fees to be disclosed up front to renters, was over a year in the making.

Generally HB 3564 was supported by Democrats and opposed by Republicans. Locally, Senators Chesney and Syverson voted no. Democrat Sen. Stadelman did not vote. Republican Representatives Cabello, Keicher, McCombie and Sosnowski voted no. Democrats Vella and West joined the Republicans and voted no.

"Governor Pritzker will continue championing housing affordability so that finding, building, or owning a home is within reach for every Illinois family," a spokesperson said in a statement to Capitol News Illinois.

The governor first announced BUILD during his State of the State address in February. The plan's goal was to promote housing affordability by preempting local zoning rules to expand housing supply statewide. It arrived at a time where political candidates on both sides of the aisle are responding to affordability and cost of living concerns in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections.

It was one of three distinct housing proposals to emerge in the General Assembly, including an alternate plan put forth by municipalities, in response to the state's housing shortage. According to a 2025 study from the University of Illinois, Illinois is short 142,000 homes and will need to build 227,000 units over the next five years to keep pace with demand.

Its provisions included authorizing accessory dwelling units, encouraging the construction of middle housing, eliminating tenant-based parking requirements, standardizing impact fees, expediting timelines with third-party inspections and permitting the construction of multi-family dwellings with one stairwell. The end goal, according to proponents, is for it to increase supply and decrease housing and living costs across Illinois.

Sen. Rachel Ventura, D-Joliet, added that it's only natural for legislation on a topic so complex to take some time, given that it encompasses diverse groups of stakeholders and impacts all areas of the state.

"We want to make sure that housing, first and foremost, is a human right, and secondly, is a business," Ventura said. "So striking the right balance of that does take a little bit of time, but we are dedicated to make sure that people have housing in Illinois that is affordable."

While BUILD drew a large coalition of supporters, among them Illinois Realtors and a large number of housing advocacy organizations, it also divided interest groups and legislators.

From the outset, BUILD faced its fiercest opponent in the Illinois Municipal League, which argued against

a "one-size-fits-all" approach to zoning, instead favoring preserving municipal mandates. It released its own counter-proposal in late April, which generated discussion but gained little traction as the Republican-backed Senate Bill 4200.

Other critics questioned BUILD's mechanisms to promote affordability across all income levels, specifically for the state's most vulnerable lower-income residents.

During multiple committee hearings, skeptics highlighted the BUILD's potential for gentrification and lack of mandates for affordable housing, which caters to people with moderate to low incomes and may be subsidized by the government to preserve prices. Zoltan said there's no "magical solution" where building housing will make affordability happen – the government must fund it.

These two sets of concerns dominated discussions of BUILD, leading to prolonged discussions in a six-hour Senate's Executive Committee hearing in April.

Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin, who chairs the committee, has maintained throughout those hearings that housing legislation requires a "holistic" approach, taking into account increased housing supply, accessibility and affordability all across the state.

She also highlighted the importance of involving community engagement in the housing proposals, as she and her colleagues were "bombarded" with input from constituents, housing advocates and developers over the bills.

"They also wanted to provide input and feedback, and I don't think they had enough time during session to adequately provide that feedback and also be a part of those solutions," Castro said.

For Ventura, the main takeaway from the April hearing was that BUILD still needed a lot of work to move forward, even as other housing affordability concerns persisted.

"We did need some housing legislation to still move," Ventura said.

Senate plan emerges

From there, Senate Democrats introduced their own eight-bill affordable housing package with less than a week left in the session. The bills, which had been filed earlier this year, contained some modified provisions of the BUILD Plan as well as separate legislation for tenant protections and affordable housing support.

While none of those made their way to the governor's desk, three cleared the Senate and await House action.

Among them is Senate Bill 3762, Simmons' Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which would grant tenants and tenant associations the right of first refusal if their building owner looks to sell the property.

Even as a supporter of BUILD, he expressed concerns that it could empower developers to "flip" existing buildings into luxury housing at the expense of renters.

"We got to make sure that these bills are not just going to create a free-for-all for development in the way that just creates a lot of expensive units that are unaffordable, because that does nothing to solve the affordability crisis," Simmons said.

Ventura championed Senate Bill 3501, also known as the Restock the Block Act, which would protect housing stock by imposing annual 10% fees on private equity investors owning more than 10 single family homes or 8 multi-unit buildings. Revenue from those fees would go to fund affordable housing projects and

rental and mortgage assistance. The bill also includes a 90-day wait period for tenants to place bids, and an additional 10-day period for nonprofits and local governments to purchase the property.

"The goal, again, is to make sure people who live in our communities can continue to either rent there or own property there, and really hold on to that existing stock," Ventura said.

Zoltan lauded Ventura's bill for being the only one designed to generate funding for affordable housing from "exactly the right people," but lamented that the overall Senate package moved "a little too late" to get past the finish line.

Sen. Graciela Guzmán, D-Chicago, also advanced a slate of tenant protections in House Bill 4377.

Castro touted Guzmán, Ventura and Simmons' bills as signs of progress in housing deliberations, noting they'd been in the works long before their reintroduction near the end of the session.

In Castro's eyes, there is no single solution to the affordable housing crisis, and she reminds constituents that this is not a "one session conversation".

"Sometimes these bills take multiple sessions in ongoing stakeholder engagement, community engagement, and we are committed to continuing those conversations," Castro said.

Marisa Guerra Echeverria an undergraduate student in journalism and political science with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

Libraries**from page 2**

Those collections include a diverse range of topics such as business, education, health, technology, science and more.

The program is also available for academic libraries, which means students and educators will be able to use these databases for research projects and instruction.

Libraries that already subscribe to other digital information services will be able to use this program and redirect the subscription money to other needs.

Illinois libraries are funded by a mix of property taxes and state and federal grants. Librarians have said it's often difficult to decide what to prioritize when budgets get tight, and many Illinois libraries have reported they don't offer online database subscriptions.

As part of last year's budget implementation bill, Giannoulas advocated for expanded eligibility for Equalization Aid Grants to support more public libraries across the state. That effort increased the number of libraries receiving these grants from 17 to 108.

According to the Reaching Across Illinois Library System, a regional library system that serves libraries in northern and west-central Illinois, approximately one million Illinoisans live without access to public library services, and this program will cover them, too.

"This statewide database will have a profound impact on libraries," Amy Byers, library director for Chatham Public Library and former president of the Illinois Library Association, said. "It will help us expand services and continue to provide great resources to our patrons without having to weigh the