

# UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

W. MICHAEL McCREERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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DAVID MEYER

VICE PRESIDENT  
ROBERT DURBIN

SECRETARY  
DAVID ZIMMERMAN

TREASURER  
TONY ARDUINI

**October 17-18, 2008**

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM Springfield, Illinois

### UCCI UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Education Seminar

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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LEROY INGRUM

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TAZEWELL  
DAVID ZIMMERMAN

WASHINGTON  
DAVID MEYER

WHITESIDE  
TONY ARDUINI

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Presidential Library in Springfield will be the site of the UCCI dinner and seminar on the evening of October 17, 2008 and the morning of October 18, 2008.

On Friday evening, October 17, we will be hosting a dinner and reception at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. We have arranged to use this magnificent facility which honors our 16<sup>th</sup> United States President -- and all exhibits will be open to our guests. Also on Friday evening there will be a ceremony recognizing the UCCI Leadership Academy Class of 2008 graduates. Friday evening events will take place from 6:00 P.M. to 9:45 P.M.

On Saturday, October 18, we start off with a continental breakfast at 8:00 A.M., and the UCCI October Board meeting following from 8:30 until 9:00 A.M. Starting at 9:00 A.M., UCCI is sponsoring an education seminar presented by the staff of the University of Illinois-School of Law and the University of Illinois-Institute of Government and Public Affairs. All events will conclude by noon on Saturday.

This two-day event is brought to you as part of the UCCI/University of Illinois series of educational seminars. No fee will be charged for either event, as UCCI is underwriting all costs for these events. UCCI will reimburse \$75.00 towards Friday night lodging costs for those attending the Saturday education seminar. The usual \$300.00 meeting reimbursement will also be made to members attending the Saturday UCCI Board meeting.

**Registration forms are included with this mailing and must be  
returned no later than October 3, 2008**



**Community Unit School District Number 7**  
**510 West Elm Gillespie, IL 62033**  
**Ph: (217) 839-2464 Fax: (217) 839-3353**



Mr. Paul D. Skeans, Superintendent  
Superintendent's Office  
510 West Elm St.  
Gillespie, IL 62033  
Ph. (217) 839-2464  
Fax (217) 839-3353

Mr. Joe Tieman, Principal  
Gillespie High School  
612 Broadway St.  
Gillespie, IL 62033  
Ph. (217) 839-2114  
Fax (217) 839-4302

Ms. Lori Emmons, Principal  
Gillespie Middle School  
412 Oregon St.  
Gillespie, IL 62033  
Ph. (217) 839-2116  
Fax (217) 839-3104

Ms. Angela Turcol, Principal  
Benld Elementary School  
100 East Dorsey St.  
Benld, IL 62009  
Ph. (217) 835-6611  
Fax (217) 835-2119

August 14, 2008

Mrs. Charlene Taylor, Secretary  
Macoupin County Board  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

Please find enclosed two copies of Gillespie CUSD #7's Resolution requesting the County Board of the County of Macoupin to certify to the Macoupin County Clerk the question of imposing a 1% sales tax for school facility purposes for the submission to the electors of said County at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008. The Board of Education passed this Resolution at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2008.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Skeans  
Superintendent

PDS/akh

Enclosure

**FILED**

AUG 19 2008

MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS COUNTIES OF MACOUPIN AND MADISON

### CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES AND RESOLUTION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Bunker Hill Community Unit District # 8, Bunker Hill, Illinois, (the "*Board*"). And as such official I am the keeper of the records and files of the Board.

I do further certify that the foregoing constitutes a full, true and complete transcript of the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, insofar as same relates to the adoption of a resolution entitled:

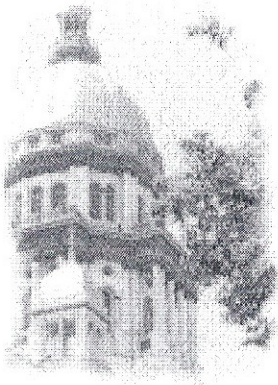
RESOLUTION requesting the County Board of the Counties of Macoupin and Madison, Illinois, to certify to the County Clerk of said Counties the question of imposing a 1% sales tax for school facility purposes for submission to the electors of said Counties at the general election to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

a true, correct and complete copy of which said resolution as adopted at said meeting appears in the foregoing transcript of the minutes of said meeting.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Board on the adoption of said resolution were conducted openly, that the vote on the adoption of said resolution was taken openly, that said meeting was called and held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of said meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that an agenda for said meeting was posted at the location where said meeting was held and at the principal office of the Board at least 48 hours in advance of the holding of said meeting, that a true, correct and complete copy of said agenda as so posted is attached hereto as Exhibit A, that said meeting was called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and with the provisions of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and that the Board has complied with all of the provisions of said Act and said Code and with all of the procedural rules of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my official signature, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008

  
Secretary, Board of Education



# Counties *at the* Capitol

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President James E. Bohnsack, Rock Island County  
Kelly J. Murray, Executive Director • Letitia and Taylor Anderson, Legislative Consultants

413 West Monroe • Springfield, Illinois 62704 • 217/528-5331 • [www.ilcounty.org](http://www.ilcounty.org)

August 14, 2008

## Illinois General Assembly GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL SESSION REPORT

Gov. Blagojevich publicly unveiled two special session days (Special Session 23 and 24). Last week, the Governor indicated that he was calling the General Assembly back to the Capitol for two days of special session dealing with education funding and capital infrastructure. Education funding was the topic for the first day. Both the House and Senate adjourned without debating any proposal. The Senate rejected their pay raise legislation. On the second day, Wednesday, the Senate adjourned within minutes of convening the session while the House met in regular session and dealt with some amendatory vetoes (below) and smaller legislative measures. There is some indication that the Speaker and House lawmakers are considering the lease of the State Lottery to fund a capital infrastructure program but little progress was reported.

No further special session dates are scheduled but the chambers could return to consider further gubernatorial vetoes or other legislation. For now, both chambers plan to return for the regular veto session in November after the election.

### House Expands Infrastructure Bonding

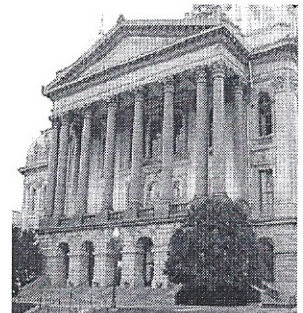
House lawmakers voted in bipartisan fashion to increase the state's bond authorization for roads, bridges, and mass transit in an effort to capture some federal dollars contained in transportation earmarks. As amended, **SB 1460** (Hannig, D-Litchfield) would increase bond authorization by \$240 million for roads and bridges while mass transit would see a \$120 million increase. Funding for the bonds would come from the state's General Revenue Fund. Republicans and some Democrats questioned how the state could afford to authorize new bonds at a time when the current revenues do not support the spending habits of state government. In the end, however, the measure passed on a vote of 76-11-2 and moves to the Senate for concurrence.

### House Accepts Governor's Rewrite of Costly Health Care and Veteran's Bills

Members of the House of Representatives, on a bipartisan vote, sided with Governor Blagojevich's changes to a health care bill in a seemingly egregious violation of the Illinois Constitution. Last week, the Governor amendatorily vetoed **HB 5285** that would have allowed for a continuation of health care coverage for a dependent college student who takes a medical leave of absence or reduces their course load to part-time because of an illness or injury.

In his veto, the Governor rewrote the bill to provide that health care plans shall not terminate for unmarried dependents before the age of 26. Further, unmarried military veterans could continue to remain on the health care policy. This new health care mandate would cover nearly 300,000 Illinoisans and would cost employers millions of dollars. According to three separate rulings by the Supreme Court, the Governor has the ability to make small changes to legislation but not significant rewrites of legislation pending on his desk. In this case, Gov. Blagojevich has publicly coined his program "Rewrite to Right" in an effort to insert his populist agenda which failed to pass the General Assembly.

Initially, the move was opposed by the sponsor, Rep. Charles Jefferson, and other lawmakers. In the *Chicago Tribune*, Rep. Jefferson claimed that he told the administration that he opposed the move and would fight to override the Governor's veto.



*continued on page 2*



# NEWS BREAK!

## Still no action on Campaign Finance Reform

Despite urging from State Comptroller Dan Hynes, Gov. Rod Blagojevich has yet to act on **HB 824**, the bill that would help end "pay to play politics" in Illinois. The measure cleared the legislature without opposition last May and was sent to the Governor over a month ago. It prohibits businesses with more than \$50,000 in state contracts from making political donations to constitutional officers who award the contracts and candidates for those offices. It has been speculated that the Governor intends to amend the ethics legislation and send it back to lawmakers where it would likely die.

## IDOT jobs move may end up in court

Lawmakers say they are prepared to pursue legal remedies if Governor Blagojevich proceeds with moving 150 IDOT jobs from Springfield to Southern Illinois. Surprisingly, all 12 members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) voted against the move, but their ruling is not binding.

We are preparing to publish the annual 2008 Legislative Summary. Watch your e-mail!



## Health Care and Veteran's Bills *continued*

However, after many protests by House Republicans who claimed the veto was unconstitutional, lawmakers voted 70-21 to approve the Governor's changes.

In similar fashion, the House approved the Governor's changes to **HB 4201** that took a bill originally dealing with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts and rewrote the measure to eliminate property taxes for 16,000 disabled Illinois veterans. This change, that passed on a vote of 78-12-1, clearly violates the constitution and legislative authority, will cost local governments between \$35 million to \$40 million annually and result in a tax shift to other residents and businesses.

During debate, House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie acknowledged that the move may be unconstitutional in light of the Supreme Court rulings. However, she noted that perhaps this would "invite the question before the courts" and allow the Supreme Court to have a "second crack" at interpreting the Constitution. In a *Chicago Tribune* article discussing the Governor's veto actions, Currie stated "the governor has no authority to abuse the executive powers the way he plans to do."

**NOTE:** This bill amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971, the Counties Code, the Illinois Municipal Code, the School Code, the Illinois Insurance Code, the Health Maintenance Organization Act, and the Voluntary Health Services Plans Act. The measures now moves to the Senate which has fifteen days to act on the veto. The chamber is not currently scheduled to meet but could return to address these matters.

## Senate Joins House in stopping pay raise, COLAs take effect

After weeks of intense pressure from the media, constituents and other elected officials, Senate President Emil Jones (D-Chicago) finally allowed a vote (**HJR 132**) on a 7.5 percent legislative pay raise proposed by the Illinois Merit Compensation Commission. After many lawmakers took to the podium to denounce the proposed raises, the Senate voted unanimously (47-0-3) to stop the pay raises from taking effect. While not getting an actual raise, legislators will receive a 3.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment that will hike their pay to nearly \$67,833 while the legislative leaders will earn almost \$100,000.

Under Illinois' system, the pay raises for lawmakers would have automatically taken effect unless both chambers of the General Assembly voted to prohibit the pay raises. The House earlier voted overwhelmingly (94-8-6) to prohibit the raises from taking effect. There was a lot of concern that the Senate would not act in the fifteen legislative-day time period required by law thereby allowing the raises to take effect without a vote. However, strong pressure and an election in less than ninety days in which incumbents could have faced the wrath of voters appeared to factor in the decision to vote down the raises.

August 15, 2008

Chairman of the Board  
Macoupin County  
21480B Route 4  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Dear Chairman:



This is to advise you that AmerenIP will be trimming trees in and around the Carlinville area in the near future. Enclosed are maps and common addresses of the areas affected. AmerenIP is mailing a notice to customers affected by the tree trimming work. We are also providing a public notice in the newspapers covering your area.

Our qualified line clearance trimmers will trim trees that could interfere with electric lines that run from pole to pole. This free service is necessary to minimize the likelihood of power outages and safety hazards.

If you have any questions about the tree trimming work to be done, please call **1-800-755-5000**, or visit our website at:

[http://www.ameren.com/environment/adc\\_ev\\_VegetationHome.asp](http://www.ameren.com/environment/adc_ev_VegetationHome.asp)

Affected customers and property owners may address their concerns about the proposed work in the manner specified on our website. You may also call the Consumer Services Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission at 1-800-524-0795.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tobie Grover".

Tobie Grover  
Regional Manager  
AmerenIP - Division V

enclosure



**CIRCUIT COURT  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ILLINOIS**

**KENNETH R. DEIHL  
CIRCUIT JUDGE**

Courthouse  
P.O. Box 673  
CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS 62626-0673  
(217) 854-3181

**COUNTIES**  
GREENE  
JERSEY  
MACOUPIN  
MORGAN  
SANGAMON  
SCOTT

August 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Josh Meyer is the new full-time public defender.

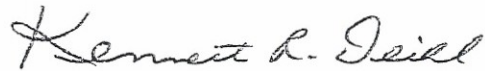
As a part of Josh's job, he must assume full responsibility for all pending public defender and guardian ad litem files, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kindly forward your files, including a list of up-coming court dates and/deadlines, to:

Josh Meyer, Public Defender  
Macoupin County Courthouse  
Post Office Box 197  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Thank you for your immediate assistance in regards to this transition.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth R. Deihl  
Presiding Judge

cc: Honorable James W. Day, Chief Judge  
Honorable Patrick J. Londrigan  
Honorable Diane L. Brunton  
Mike Mathis, Circuit Clerk  
Ms. Barbara Mabie, Trial Administrator  
Mr. Andrew Manar, Chairman, County Board