

# Counties *at the* Capitol

Published by the  
Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners

President Mike McLaughlin, Adams 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)

October 21, 2009



## Sen. Noland passes recall resolution

A measure sponsored by State Senator Michael Noland (D-Elgin) and passed by the General Assembly paves the way for Illinois voters to recall a sitting governor.

**House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 31 (HJRCA 31)** provides a way for the voters to recall the governor by petition and for the election of a successor governor.

The proposal now goes on the November 2010 ballot and 60 percent of voters must approve the measure for the Illinois Constitution to be amended to allow recall.

If voters give themselves recall authority, the measure then requires them to clear several hurdles before voting to remove a sitting governor. Among them is a requirement that voters seeking to recall the governor collect signatures from 15 percent of the total number of voters in the previous race for governor within five months.

At present, 18 states permit the recall of state officials.

## Higher education took center stage at start of veto session

The State Capitol was filled with college students from all over Illinois last week as they lobbied for reinstatement of funding to the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP). The House and Senate approved **Senate Bill 1180** to fully fund the scholarship program through the end of the year, but no taxes or revenue sources were approved to support the additional \$250 million. Gov. Quinn has been directed to find funding within the existing state budget to support the additional funds. The House Republicans had pushed for a possible Tax Amnesty program as a way to partially fund the MAP grant request, in addition to Quinn's proposed cigarette tax increase, but neither of those proposals were taken up, nor do we anticipate they will be.



**"Fumigation bill" on hold:** Legislation aimed at pressuring Gov. Quinn to remove 750 state workers who were appointed by the prior governors to state boards or key state jobs was shelved by Sen. President John Cullerton. "After further review of the legislation and the possibility of litigation, the Senate president has reconsidered the need for the fumigation bill," said Rikeesha Phelon, spokeswoman for Cullerton. House Speaker Michael Madigan introduced the bill and pushed it through the House last spring. The legislation could be revived later, but Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said he thought Madigan would respect Cullerton's position.

**Budget Address request rebuffed:** A bill to provide Governor Quinn an additional five weeks to prepare his Budget Address failed to garner the required 71 votes it needed for passage. **House Bill 1409** has since been placed on postponed consideration. Quinn is asking for the Budget Address to be delayed until March 24 as opposed to the third Wednesday in February, claiming his new budget director needs more time to prepare a budget proposal. Opponents of the measure view it as politically motivated since the Governor will be involved in a primary election battle in February.







#### **SB 2011 – PENSION TAX CAP**

House leadership have asked municipalities to continue negotiating with AFFI and FOP regarding this issue. To date, AFFI has agreed to a 1 year, 10% cap. FOP added additional language which shifts the liability of insolvent pension funds from Pension Fund Boards to municipalities. At this time, municipalities have not agreed to the FOP language.

#### **HB 3923 – EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

This bill was scheduled to go before the House Healthcare Availability & Access Committee last week on the motions to concur with Senate Amendments that are the product of a compromise between the Chamber and other business groups, insurers, and labor. The bill was not called, but we are confident that the bill will receive final action in the House next week. **House Bill 3923** contains several consumer protection provisions, including a new external independent review process, uniform small employer group health status questionnaire and individual health statements.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE:** A House Committee gave preliminary "OK" for a new campaign finance bill, **Senate Bill 1466**, that is similar to **House Bill 7** and opposed by good government groups for its lack of limits on political party contributions to candidates. Republicans have aligned themselves with these groups, so unless there is a major concession on behalf of the Senate President or Speaker in terms of placing limits on political party contributions, campaign finance is not likely to advance to the Governor's desk this veto session.

## **Illinois Chamber seeks clean-up language to ethics reform law**

The Illinois General Assembly, as a part of the ethics reform package, passed legislation last session (**P.A. 95-0971**) to remedy compliance issues of Illinois Pay-to-Play requirements. Last week it was assumed that the language was secured in a successor bill to **Senate Bill 51** that would have taken care of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's request to exempt foreign subsidiaries from P.A. 95-0971 reporting requirements (by altering the definition of "affiliated entity"). The Chamber also requested that all of compliance clean-up changes relating to P.A. 95-0971 be carved out of Senate Bill 51 and made effective immediately (Governor's Amendatory Veto pushes the implementation date for all provisions back to July 1, 2010).

Unfortunately, the Chamber's language became caught up in some unresolved issues relating to other unrelated procurement changes. The Chamber's language, along with these other changes, were included in House Amendment #2 to **Senate Bill 1732**, but that amendment was later scrapped for a third amendment that simply moves the implementation date for Senate Bill 51 back to July 1, 2010. However, staff has given assurances that the Chamber language will move next week.

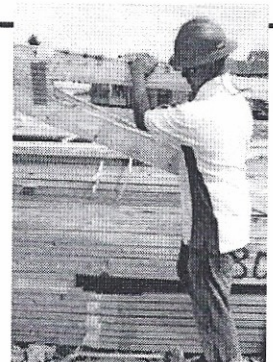
The General Assembly will override the Governor's veto to Senate Bill 51. Senate Bill 1732, as amended, that is now in the Senate will move the implementation date for Senate Bill 51 back to July 1, 2010 and staff is working to identify another trailer bill that will carve out the compliance clean-up changes specific to P.A. 95-0971 in Senate Bill 51 and make them effective immediately, as well as provide the additional change to the definition of "affiliated entity."

Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) believed the bill may have been stalled due to a follow-up question – requirement that agencies log all communications pertaining to procurement issues. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has apparently refused all communications between contractors and potential contractors in order to avoid this logging requirement. There have been a growing number of complaints, particularly from existing state contractors, that IDOT's stance on the issue is complicating ongoing projects by refusing to engage in normal conversations on these projects. (As a side note, the logging of communications requirement is included in Senate Bill 51, as enrolled. If the Senate acts on Senate Bill 1732, however, this requirement is not technically required to take effect until July 1, 2010.) The current draft of the bill provides for no exemptions.

## **Prevailing Wage update**

There was a meeting on **Senate Bill 43** last Tuesday at which labor presented no real changes to the bill (as it currently stands, the bill would require all projects in Enterprise Zones to use prevailing wage). Senate Bill 43 also applies to TIFs, but with the Governor's signature of **Senate Bill 223** earlier this year that applies the prevailing wage to TIFs, this provision is now somewhat of a mute point under Senate Bill 43.

Labor is apparently still "tweaking" the legislation and may offer some concessions in terms of exempting certain homebuilding projects, but all other projects within an Enterprise Zone would still be required to pay prevailing wage. There is a sense that the House is just trying to put forth a show of activity on this bill as opposed to meaningful action, but Rep. Barbara Currie (D-Chicago) has suggested to the business community and local governments that they continue to work the roll call.





## House Bills Override of Governor's Amendatory Veto

Governor Quinn used his amendatory veto power on the following bills. The legislature voted to override the amendatory veto and the bills passed the House.

### HB 170 – PRIVATE SEWAGE

Provides that, beginning in 2013, (rather than 2011) no person shall construct or install a surface discharging private sewage disposal system without meeting certain permitting requirements.

### HB 237 – PROMPT PAYMENT

Amends the State Prompt Payment Act. Provides that payment of bills submitted under Article V of the Illinois Public Aid Code must be made within 60 days (instead of 30 days) before a 2% interest penalty is added.

### HB 723 – NOMINATION VACANCY

Amends the Election Code to provide that a vacancy in nomination shall be filled only by a person designated by the appropriate committee of the political party and only if that designated person files nominating petitions with the number of signatures required for an established party candidate for that office within 75 days after the day of the general primary.

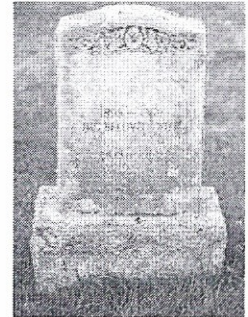
## House Bills

### HB 4640 (Connelly) COUNTY ESCROW FUND

**Status: Referred to Rules Committee**  
Provides that a county treasurer may, after receiving approval from the county board, establish an escrow fund for the safekeeping of moneys paid to the treasurer on behalf of property taxpayers. Protects money in these funds from judgment, attachment, execution, and seizure for the satisfaction of debts. Authorizes county treasurers to establish terms and conditions relating to these funds. Requires interest earned on these funds to be paid to the county treasury to offset administrative costs.

## State Cemetery Task Force recommends overhaul

On Sept. 15, Gov. Quinn accepted the final report of the Cemetery Oversight Task Force, which provided recommendations to ensure oversight and regulation of Illinois' for-profit cemeteries. Gov. Quinn signed an Executive Order earlier this summer forming the task force in the aftermath of the tragedy uncovered at Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip.



### Among the Cemetery Oversight Task Force recommendations:

- Consolidate regulatory authority of funeral and burial practices into the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
- Enact the Cemetery Oversight Act, which will ensure that only qualified persons can own, operate or work in a cemetery in Illinois.
- Consolidate existing statutes to strengthen industry regulation.

An amendment to **Senate Bill 1471** has surfaced which could impose costly regulations on local government owned and operated cemeteries. We will keep you posted on this bill and the efforts of the Task Force.

**Broad support for electoral reform:** Large majorities of Illinoisans are in favor of electoral and political reform measures similar to those proposed last spring by the Illinois Reform Commission, according to the latest statewide poll by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. Nearly two thirds (65.4%) of registered voters polled said they favored limiting the amount of campaign money that party leaders can redistribute to candidates in legislative races. More than three-fourths favor the idea of imposing legislative leadership term limits. Fewer than one in five voters surveyed said they approved of Illinois' current redistricting process. The Paul Simon Institute previously introduced redistricting reform that failed to advance.

*The Senate Redistricting Committee held its fourth meeting on October 13 in Carbondale. Citizen testimony described Illinois' current redistricting process as "arcane," "corrupt," and "intended to protect incumbents."*

## Senator Watson honored

Former Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson (R-Greenville) was honored on the floor of the House last Wednesday for his 30 years of legislative service. Sen. Watson served in the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate from 1979 to 2009.



**Senate Resolution 429**, which was adopted by the Illinois Senate, highlighted Sen. Watson's many legislative accomplishments, thanking him for years of dedicated service to the State of Illinois.

"We are grateful for everything he did for this region and the state," said Republican Leader Christine Radogno. Republican and Democrat senators alike shared stories about Sen. Watson. He was described in many ways, but everyone agreed that they cherish his passion and fun-loving nature.



### ***Senate Bills Placed on the Calendar Amendatory Veto***

Governor Quinn used his amendatory veto power on the following bills. If the legislature votes to uphold the amendatory vetoes, then the bills will become law with the changes proposed by the Governor.

#### **SB 51 – STATE MONEYS**

This bill is a major overhaul of the manner in which our state procures goods and services. It also authorizes the use of electronic reverse auctions by units of local government.

#### **SB 231 – MEDICAID PRISONER**

Provides that the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services shall not cancel a person's eligibility for medical assistance solely because that person has become an inmate of a public institution, including a county jail, juvenile detention center, or State correctional facility.

#### **SB 1662 – POLITICAL COMMITTEES**

Requires a political committee created within 30 days before an election to file its statement of organization within 2 business days after its creation and file the statement via facsimile transmission or electronic mail. The amendatory veto recommends that the Election Code be further amended to authorize the adoption of ethics ordinances by the voters of units of local government by initiative petitions and referenda.

### ***Passed Senate Placed on First Reading in the House***

#### **SB 2188 (Clayborne) Winters LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT REFORM ACT**

Tolls the time period during which referendum approval for bond issuance remains active if (i) the bonds are not issued because of a court action, and (ii) the bonds are approved by referendum held on or after January 1, 2003 or by a backdoor referendum held on or after January 1, 2005.

## **Understanding Public Act 96-0764 Community Mental Health Boards levy increase language for referenda**

The Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHAI) succeeded in enacting **Senate Bill 1750**, now **Public Act 96-0764**, which may benefit your county.

Various mental health board officials in tax capped counties were seeking clarification of permissible language that could be included on a ballot proposition to increase the community mental health tax rate. In question was whether the language of the Community Mental Health Act of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) took precedence in terms of how the proposition was to be stated on the ballot.

One specific county was capped at a half a mil (passed by referendum in 1967) and was considering going to referendum to get the levy limit raised to .15 mils. They were informed that the referendum language required by PTELL trumped the language in the Community Mental Health Act. The referendum language required by PTELL did not permit any specifics on the purpose of the referendum. It only allowed a question as to whether or not tax cap limits should be raised. Another county determined that the inability to specify the purpose of the referendum caused their referendum to fail.

A legal review determined that whenever the question on the ballot is to establish the levy the wording in the Community Mental Health Act applies. Increasing the levy for authorities under the tax cap (PTELL) prohibits any explanatory wording in the ballot proposition.

Working closely with Sen. Michael Noland (D-Elgin) and Rep Michael Tryon (R-Crystal Lake) ACMHAI assisted in drafting legislation that addressed this inequity. This resulted in the introduction and enactment of **Senate Bill 1750 (Public Act 96-0764)**.

The legislation successfully addresses two critical elements. First, it provides that in any referendum to increase tax caps in those impacted counties the purpose for the use of funds will be specified. It is ACMHAI's position that in all circumstances, and not only limited to community mental health, it is important that taxpayers and voters be fully informed and that government transparency be in the forefront.

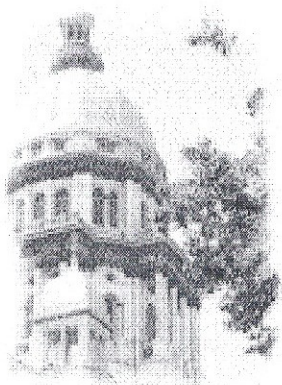
Second, **Senate Bill 1750** clarifies the ability of community mental health boards in non-tax capped counties to raise their tax rates by referendum to achieve the maximum level allowed by statute. The original legislation that allowed for the creation of community mental health boards allowed for a maximum tax rate of .10%. Later, the maximum was increased to .15% for newly created prior to that tax rate increase. The new Act makes certain that all community mental health boards in non-tax capped counties can access the maximum tax rate allowed by statute if voters approve.

If you have any questions about this mental health legislation please contact Cheryl Ramirez, ACMHAI Director, at 217-369-5168.



**The legislature will reconvene for the Veto Session  
on October 28 - 30.**





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November 2, 2009



## Veto Session Ends

On Friday the General Assembly concluded the 2009 Veto Session after taking action on several pieces of legislation.

The House and Senate are not scheduled to return until January 12, to start the spring session, and adjourn on Friday, May 7. The calendar, however, does show possible session days through the end of May if lawmakers fail to get their work completed on time earlier in the month. That said, there has been talk of a special session that may be held sometime in November, possibly to address budgetary and other concerns.

Governor Quinn is scheduled to give the State of the State address on Wednesday, January 13. While law requires the Governor to give his budget address on the third Wednesday in February, this is not marked on the schedule. A few weeks ago, the Governor was rebuffed by members of the legislature for his effort to move the speech to March, but may ask again in January. Earlier this year, the Governor's address was pushed back due to the impeachment and subsequent removal from office of then Governor Blagojevich.

## Illinois General Assembly Veto Session

Below are a few key bills that the General Assembly worked on over the last three days of Veto Session.

### SB 2011 – PUBLIC SAFETY PENSION

After several meetings between municipalities and the respective Public Safety Unions, negotiations failed to produce language that all parties could agree to, which was the stipulation from the Speakers Office in order for the bill to be moved from committee to the House floor.

### SB 1466 – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

This bill, which was passed by both chambers and will be sent to the Governor's desk, is the second attempt by legislators to pass campaign finance reform legislation. House Bill 7, which was initially introduced and passed by the General Assembly in the spring, was vetoed by the Governor, despite having publicly supported the bill. House Bill 7 faced stiff criticism from reform groups and legislative leaders along with the Governor who agreed to try and deal with some of those concerns in a new bill.

### HB 1306 – VIDEO GAMING

This bill failed to pass the House, after being approved by the Senate. House Bill 1306 would have granted those establishments who received video gaming license the right to continue operating the video gaming for a period of 2 years after a local government opted to prohibit the gaming. This bill was introduced because of concerns in the statehouse about the ability to sell the bonds for video gaming, whose revenue is a major funding component of the capitol bill which was passed earlier in the spring.

### SB 1894 – MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

Passed both chambers. This legislation aims to help municipalities deal with the problematic issue of foreclosures, assisting in the identification of the actual owners of the foreclosed upon property.

### SB 1471 – CEMETERY REFORM

This bill was amended and passed out of the House with language that removed much of the opposition from local governments by exempting them out of most of the regulatory requirements the bill mandated. However the Senate decided not to call the bill for a vote during the fall Veto Session. It is still possible for this bill to be sent to the Governor's desk as the Senate could act on the bill when the General Assembly convenes on January 12, 2010.

**IACBMC will publish a Legislative Summary later this month.  
It will feature new Public Acts for laws resulting in actions by the  
General Assembly and Governor this year.**





[www.uscellular.com](http://www.uscellular.com)

October 20, 2009

Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar  
Macoupin County Board Office  
215 S. East Street  
Carlinville, Illinois 62626

Dear Chairman Manar:

On behalf of U.S. Cellular®, we thank you for joining us to celebrate our improved network coverage in Macoupin County.

Thanks to support from the federal Universal Service Fund, U.S. Cellular has been able to expand its networks in rural communities and help ensure that wireless signals go strong – and stay strong – in rural America.

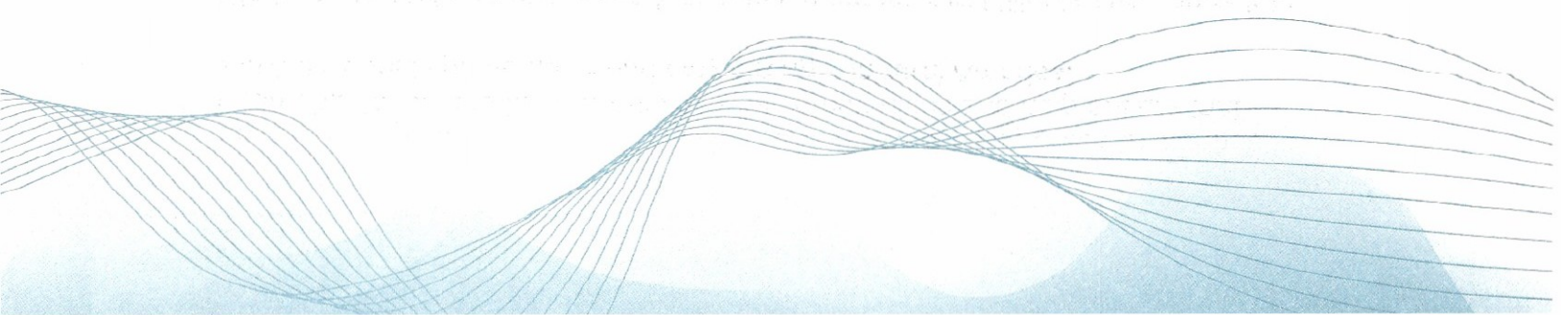
We hope to continue our network expansion across rural Illinois and appreciate your support.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen C. Ehlers".

Karen C. Ehlers  
Vice President – Public Affairs & Communications  
U.S. Cellular

Cc: John E. Rooney, President and Chief Executive Officer







## Illinois Association of County Board Members FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

217.528.5331 / WWW.ILCOUNTY.ORG

The Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners will hold its annual fall meeting in conjunction with the IACO Fall Conference in Chicago. IACBMC will host a tour of the Johnson Controls headquarters on Monday, November 23, 2009 (*see attached invitation*). The County Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the downtown Marriott on Michigan Avenue.

### MORNING AGENDA

**8:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order – President Mike McLaughlin**

Presentation of Minutes

Finance Report – Treasurer John Brandmeyer

Election of Officers

**8:45 a.m.**

**Executive Director's Report – Kelly Murray**

- EECBG Program – Townsend Albright, Illinois Finance Authority

- John Deere Purchasing Program – Aaron Stegemann, Governmental Sales

- Counties of Illinois Risk Management Agency – Jessica Edelman, AJG Inc.

- County Facility Project Survey – David Asker, Plant Moran CRESA

**9:30 a.m.**

**Legislative Report – Taylor Anderson, Legislative Consultant**

Focus on the IACBMC legislative platform and issues of interest to counties

**10:00 a.m.**

**EDUCATION SESSION I**

**County Financial Management**

*Joint session with the Illinois County Treasurers Association*

Presenter: Troy Markert, Consultant

Formerly with Local Government Management Services, DCEO

Developing a budget is a never ending process. The process begins the moment you begin your fiscal year and ends, only to begin again. As governing becomes increasingly more complex, county officials are confronted with challenging issues relating to the financial stability, health and welfare of their communities. This session is designed to provide a foundation for a better understanding of county government fiscal affairs. Participants will have the opportunity to engage other elected officials on budget execution and treasury management.

**11:30 a.m.**

**Lunch on your own**



## AFTERNOON AGENDA

1:00 p.m.

### EDUCATION SESSION II

#### Risk Management in the Area of Employment Practices

Presenter: Diane Frain, Human Resource Design

Workers' compensation, law enforcement liability and employment practices liability continue to be major cost-drivers and are therefore important in any county's risk management program. This session will focus on:

- Employment activities for which an employer is responsible
- How these "activities" relate to employment practices – the regulatory and insurance aspects
- Risks associated with employment practices
- Key factors in managing and minimizing these risks

2:00 p.m.

### LEGISLATIVE Q & A: STATE GOVERNANCE

*A panel of key Illinois legislators will discuss the outlook for the 2010 legislative session including their stance on budget and tax issues.*



Senator  
Pamela Althoff  
R-32nd  
McHenry County



Senator  
Toi Hutchinson  
D-40th  
Cook County



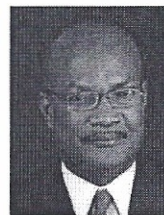
Senator  
Terry Link  
D-30th  
Lake County



Representative  
William Black  
R-104th  
Vermilion County



Representative  
Kay Hatcher  
R-50th  
Kendall County



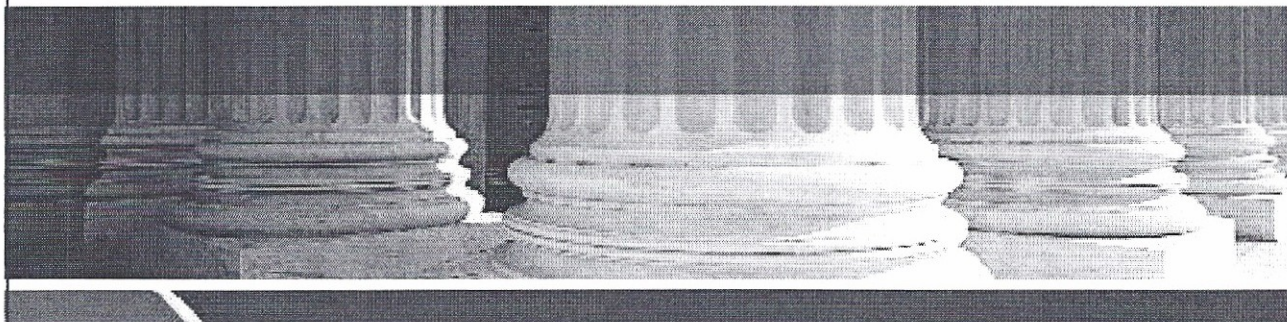
Representative  
Al Riley  
D-38th  
Cook County

Illinois government faces a budget crisis. A big one. The deficit is growing, bills are piling up and services are being cut. Counties are facing potentially more funding cuts at the state level. As former local officials and/or members of Local Government committees, these legislators understand the consequences of such actions. They will share their opinions on what changes are needed to restore effective state governance and a sensible fiscal system and what county officials might expect in the 2010 legislative session. This session will include time for questions and answers.

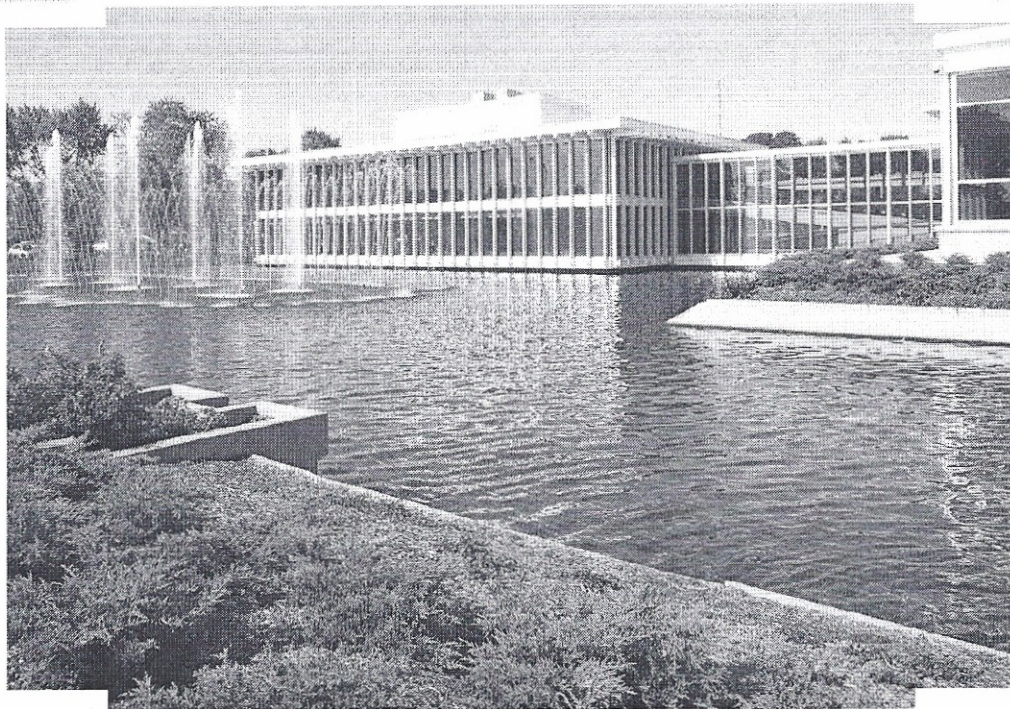
3:30 p.m.

### Old Business / New Business

Adjourn







The Illinois Association of County Board Members  
invites you on a special tour  
of the  
**Johnson Controls Headquarters and Campus**

Monday, November 23, 2009

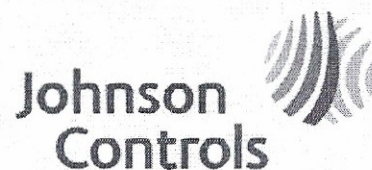
Bus departs at 9:30 a.m. from the Chicago Marriott Hotel  
540 North Michigan Avenue

*Lunch will be provided • Bus returns at approx. 4:30 p.m.*

The Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners (IACBMC) invites its members to tour a LEED platinum certified facility located at Johnson Controls headquarters in suburban Milwaukee. Johnson Controls is a global leader in building automation, mechanical systems, security, and energy efficiency. The company has been ranked No. 11 of America's 500 largest corporations by *Newsweek's* Green Rankings Co.

This visit will allow county board members and county administrators to experience the spectrum of building, IT and renewable technologies applied to new construction, and innovative renovation concepts targeted at lowering facilities operational and energy costs. Members that are considering new construction or renovations of their government facilities are encouraged to attend.

R.S.V.P. to Darren Volle at 217.528.5331 or [ilcounty@gmail.com](mailto:ilcounty@gmail.com)





# OFFICIAL IACO 2009 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

November 23-25, 2009 • Chicago Marriott Downtown • 540 N. Michigan Avenue - Chicago, Illinois

Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to attend the President's Banquet (Tues. eve)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

(There is no additional cost to attend the banquet, however, we are trying to secure a more accurate count for that function prior to the conference. Please let us know whether or not you plan to attend). Thank you.

Badge Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Office (e.g. Coroner/Medical Examiner) \_\_\_\_\_

County/Jurisdiction (e.g. Lee County): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**Affiliate Organization:** All persons, including deputies, assistants, etc. must pay the registration fee.

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditor                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County Engineer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. Superintendent     | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Review         | <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit Court Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff                 | <input type="checkbox"/> VA Superintendent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coroner / Med. Examiner | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil/Water Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Official   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Board            | <input type="checkbox"/> ESMA                | <input type="checkbox"/> State's Attorney        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk            | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorder            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sup. of Assessments     |  |

**THIS REGISTRATION FORM IS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS AND THEIR STAFF/GUESTS. VENDORS MUST USE THE VENDOR/EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.IACOONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.IACOONLINE.ORG).**

## How to Register:

On-line Registration at [www.iacoonline.org](http://www.iacoonline.org) is now available. Or, you can mail your registration form with payment. The early-bird registration deadline is November 10. Payment must accompany registration.

**Cancellation Policy:** Reservations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be on or before November 10 to receive a refund. Refunds will be issued less \$25 processing fee. All refunds will be made via a check mailed to the attendee after the conference. Cancellations should be sent to the Conference Registrar at the address listed below or e-mail to [tkcps@comcast.net](mailto:tkcps@comcast.net) or fax to (217) 529-7178.

## Hotel Reservations:

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS.** Hotel reservations can be made on-line through a link from the IACO Web site at [www.iacoonline.org](http://www.iacoonline.org) or visit <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/chidt?groupCode=iaciaca&ap>. You can also make reservations by calling the Marriott at (312) 836-0100. **You must use the IACO GROUP BOOKING CODE "iaciaca" when making your reservations.** The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number when you make your reservation. The Hotel room rate of \$110.00 does not include tax.

## Questions?

Contact Bobby G. Myers, IACO Executive Director,  
at 618-967-9856 or [bgmymers82@hotmail.com](mailto:bgmymers82@hotmail.com).

## Payment Information:

Conference Registration Fee is \$160, but register before November 10<sup>th</sup> and receive the Early Bird Rate of \$145.

	Early Bird Registration on or before Nov. 10	After Nov. 10
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- |                                   |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Official | \$145 | \$160 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse   | \$50  | \$70  |

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I have enclosed a check for my registration  
☐ Please charge my credit card for my registration

Card Type: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

**Payment will be debited at time of submission.**

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to IACO and mail to:  
IL Assn. County Officials Conference Registrar  
P.O. Box 9567 - Springfield, IL 62791-9567  
Phone: (217) 585-9065 Fax: (217) 529-7178





# MEDP NewsFlash

Macoupin Economic Development Partnership

Shari Albrecht, Executive Director

November 2, 2009

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## MJM Electric teams with MEDP

MEDP recently announced that M.J.M. Electric Cooperative has signed on to become the newest member of the organization. Chris M. Spears, President and CEO of M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, will represent the Cooperative on the MEDP Board of Directors.

M.J.M. Electric Cooperative is member of Touchstone Energy – an alliance of more than 685 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. M.J.M. Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The Cooperative serves 9,243 members over 1,722 miles of line in Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Greene and Madison counties. For more information visit [www.jmjec.coop](http://www.jmjec.coop).

## USDA Rural Development to Host ARRA Funding Workshops

USDA Rural Development will host a series of workshops intended to provide participants the opportunity to learn about affordable funding opportunities for business, community development, water and sewer projects and housing needs. Resources will be available for public bodies, non-profit and for-profit organizations and individuals. Participants will be able to talk with local specialists about resources available.

### Champaign Workshop:

Tuesday, November 10, 10AM-Noon  
Parkland Community College  
Building D, Room 244  
RSVP: 217-403-6236  
[Susan.Petrea@il.usda.gov](mailto:Susan.Petrea@il.usda.gov)

### Quincy Workshop:

Monday, November 16, 10AM-Noon  
Oakley-Lindsay Convention Center  
300 Civic Center Plaza  
RSVP: 217-243-1535  
[Dwight.Reynolds@il.usda.gov](mailto:Dwight.Reynolds@il.usda.gov)

### Edwardsville Workshop:

Thursday, November 19, 10AM-Noon  
Morris University Center  
SIUE  
200 University Park Dr.  
Edwardsville  
RSVP: 618/993-5396  
[Rusty.Wanstreet@il.usda.gov](mailto:Rusty.Wanstreet@il.usda.gov)

### Kankakee Workshop:

Monday, November 23, 10AM-Noon  
Kankakee Library  
Fourth Floor  
200 East Court St.  
Kankakee  
RSVP: 815-935-1177  
[goneill@kankakeecountyed.org](mailto:goneill@kankakeecountyed.org)



## **HB4599 PASSES ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Illinois House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation initiated by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association that exempts companies from paying sales tax on electricity and natural gas used in the manufacturing process. If passed into law, Illinois will join each of its neighboring states in offering an incentive to help lower energy costs to encourage job retention and additional investment in the state..

## **Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference**

The Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference will be held January 6-8, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL. Three pre-conference workshops (concurrent) will be offered during the daytime on Wednesday, January 6, which will include "Grow Your Market: Creating a Memorable Experience for Customers," "Getting Started in Local Food Production and Marketing," and "Expanding Seasons and Markets with High Tunnels."

On Thursday and Friday, January 7-8, the conference will kick off with an opening session entitled "From Market Gardening to Commercial Readiness: Keys to Effective Production and Marketing Across a Range of Market Arenas" by Tim Woods, University of Kentucky. The remainder of the conference will include the traditional concurrent breakout sessions on fruits, vegetables, herbs, irrigation, agritourism/marketing, and business management. New to the conference this year will be two organic tracks. Thursday evening will feature a banquet followed by the announcement of the annual cider contest winners and comments from Doc Patterson, Fire Service Chaplain for the Lake County Honor Guard.

The agritourism/marketing track will feature sessions on agritourism liability insurance, customer service, public relations and advertising strategies, and increasing marketing impact with photography. Marsh Laux, Iowa State University Extension will speak on "Iowa Agritourism Development."

To receive registration materials or to obtain exhibitor information, please contact Diane Handley at 309/557-2107 or [handley@ilfb.org](mailto:handley@ilfb.org). A detailed conference agenda can be viewed at [www.specialtygrowers.org](http://www.specialtygrowers.org). The Crowne Plaza Hotel is reserving a block of rooms for \$83 per night plus tax. Please call the hotel directly at 217/529-7777 to make your reservations and ask for the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference rate.

## **News for Illinois Beginning Farmers**

The limit for Beginning Farmer Bonds increased from \$250,000 to \$469,000 with the passage of SB 260, effective 8-14-09. With this increase, IFA's Beginning Farmer Bonds are now an even more effective tool for financing farmland for small and beginning farmers.

This program provides affordable financing to farmers by using federally tax exempt bonds ("Aggie Bonds") to reduce the interest rate on a loan to purchase farmland. This program can be used between a buyer and his/her local lender or between a buyer and the seller for a contract purchase. The lender or contract seller make all credit decisions for the loan. Loans may be used to purchase capital assets including farmland, new or used farm improvements or buildings, new equipment, and used equipment when purchased with farmland. Loan proceeds may not be used to finance a residence. The maximum loan size is \$469,200. Eligibility requirements include:

- Illinois resident at least 18 years old;
- Net worth of less than \$500,000;
- Borrower will be the principal user of the capital item;
- Have not owned a significant amount of farmland.

## **EPA Launches Retail Industry Portal**



The U.S. EPA recently launched a new website providing quick access to the many programs and resources available to help prevent and resolve environmental issues at retail establishments. Through the Retail Industry Portal, retailers can quickly find information to: 1) understand and comply with environmental regulations; and 2) voluntarily go beyond regulatory obligations to protect the environment for future generations. Visit the Retail Industry Portal at [www.epa.gov/retailindustry](http://www.epa.gov/retailindustry).

### **Recovery Act Expands SBA Microloan Program**

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding an additional \$50 million for loans and \$24 million for technical assistance, the SBA is expanding its Microloan program and increasing access to capital for small businesses across the country. With the additional resources, SBA is focused on adding new lenders and encouraging entrepreneurs to seek out SBA-backed microlenders to finance their businesses.

SBA's Microloan Program supports microlenders by providing them with up to \$3.5 million in low-cost loans from SBA to finance their lending to small businesses. SBA's interest rate to microlenders is based on the five-year Treasury rate, with adjustments tied to a microlender's average loan size. Microlenders use the SBA funding to provide loans of up to \$35,000 to entrepreneurs, which can be used for working capital and acquisition of materials, supplies, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

SBA also provides grant funding to microlenders to finance technical assistance and counseling programs for their borrowers, including staff, classroom training and occupancy costs. SBA's reimbursement is capped at 25 percent of the microlender's outstanding SBA loan portfolio.

Organizations interested in becoming SBA microlenders must meet specific criteria in terms of organizational status, microlending experience and matching requirements from non-federal sources. For more information, please visit: [www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbapartners/microloan](http://www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbapartners/microloan), email [microloans@sba.gov](mailto:microloans@sba.gov), or call 202-205-6485.

### **SBA Launches New Online Training Course: "How to Win Federal Contracts"**

The U.S. Small Business Administration launched a new online training course to help strengthen access to contracting opportunities for small businesses, including those owned by women, minorities, disadvantaged individuals and veterans. The training course, "Recovery Act Opportunities: How to Win Federal Contracts," is part of a federal government-wide initiative announced last month. As part of the initiative, federal agency procurement officers are participating in more than 200 events over the next several weeks to help connect small businesses with contracting opportunities. Additionally, SBA and Commerce are expanding their outreach to contracting officials across the federal government to ensure they have the tools to meet their annual contracting goals and increase opportunities to small businesses, including those owned by veterans, women and minorities, as well as those in designated HUBZones.

As part of the outreach to small businesses, the comprehensive online course uses both audio and script to provide information about the federal marketplace, contract rules and, most importantly, how to sell to the government and where to find contract and Recovery Act opportunities. The new training portal is a free online training course designed to assist entrepreneurs during this period of economic recovery. This self-paced, instructional guide provides an overview of the federal procurement process.

The Recovery Act Opportunities course is available on SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or directly at [www.sba.gov/fedcontractingtraining](http://www.sba.gov/fedcontractingtraining). The course is indexed by subject matter to allow ease of use, and it includes multiple direct links to additional contracting resources.

The Recovery Act Opportunities course includes direct links that highlight the best contracting resources and engages small business owners in the contracting process. The course also includes practical and



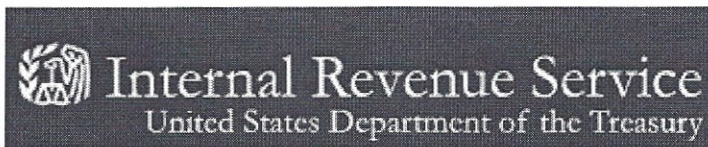
fundamental steps to engage business owners in the federal contracting arena. It is one of more than 24 online tutorials offered by the SBA, and is available 24/7. For more information please visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **SBA Announces Availability of H1N1 Preparedness Guide for Small Businesses**

The SBA and Department of Homeland Security announced the availability of a preparedness guide designed to assist small businesses in planning for the possibility of an H1N1 flu outbreak this fall. Outbreaks of H1N1 flu are occurring now across the country and will likely coincide with the return of seasonal flu this fall and winter. The preparedness guide offers small business employers tools and information to help them plan for and respond flexibly to varying levels of severity of an H1N1 outbreak- which may lead to increased absenteeism, and, if the outbreak becomes more severe, may include restricted service capabilities and supply chain disruptions.

Employers are encouraged to put strategies in place now to protect their employees and their businesses in advance of the fall flu season. Included in the preparedness guide are tips on how to write a continuity of operations plan, steps for keeping employees healthy, frequently asked questions about the 2009 H1N1 flu and a list of additional resources that employers can access online. To download the booklet please visit [www.sba.gov/flu](http://www.sba.gov/flu).

### **IRS Net Operating Loss Carryback Option Ends Soon**



The IRS is modifying some rules for 401(k) plans that employers may want to capitalize on. For example, Revenue Ruling 2009-31 addresses annual contributions of payments employees would receive for unused vacation or other similar leave to an ongoing defined contribution plan, whether as employer contributions or elective 401(k) contributions. Revenue Ruling 2009-32 addresses similar contributions at termination of employment. Revenue Ruling 2009-30 describes ways 401(k) plan sponsors can include automatic contribution increases in their plans. Notice 2009-65 provides sample automatic enrollment plan language that a 401(k) plan sponsor can adopt with automatic IRS approval. Notice 2009-66 includes guidance to help small employees add automatic enrollment to their SIMPLE IRA plans. Notice 2009-67 provides sample automatic contribution language that a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsor can adopt with automatic IRS approval. All these notices are contained in the Internal Revenue Bulletin (IRB), published weekly, that contains newly issued regulations, notices, announcements, legislation, court decisions, and other items of general interest at <http://www.irs.gov/irb/>.

### **Illinois Recycling Grants Program**

Every day, Illinoisans fill containers and dumpsters with trash to be hauled away for disposal in landfills... "out of sight and out of mind." DCEO's Division of Recycling and Waste Reduction offers programs that promote alternatives to landfill disposal, conservation of resources, and further development of markets to recycle more of what we currently throw away. Adding value to recycled materials is the principal reason that recycling has become a multi-billion dollar industry in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is pleased to announce that the Illinois Recycling Grants Program has opened its FY2010 grant cycle for both traditional (i.e., fiber, metal, glass, plastic) and electronics (e.g., computers) recycling. The Illinois Recycling Grants Program helps communities, businesses and not-for-profit organizations collect and process materials for recycling.

Through this competitive process grants are available to assist local governments, for-profit, and not-for-profit businesses and organizations with their recycling efforts. Traditional recycling grant funds may be



used to purchase project-related capital equipment such as collection, processing or handling equipment and project necessary expansion and modernization costs. Electronics recycling grant funds may be used to set up permanent drop-off and collection facilities; purchase recycling containers; fund project necessary site improvements; and to purchase processing and handling project-related equipment to collect, refurbish, de-manufacture, and recycle computers and electronic equipment.

Grant funds are made available from the Illinois Solid Waste Management Fund. The maximum grant amounts for the Traditional Recyclables grant program are \$60,000 for collection projects and \$120,000 for primary processing projects. For the Computers and Electronics Recycling grant program, the maximum grant is \$75,000 for collection and processing projects.

Entities interested in submitting an application for Traditional Recyclables are encouraged to schedule an individual consultation with their regional DCEO representative. Program regions are shown in the attached announcement, but generally contact the following individuals:

Northern Illinois - Rick Fiddymment, 217-524-1838 or [Richard.Fiddymment@illinois.gov](mailto:Richard.Fiddymment@illinois.gov).

Central Illinois - Angie Embrey, 217-785-2773 or [Angie.Embrey@illinois.gov](mailto:Angie.Embrey@illinois.gov).

Southern Illinois - John Druhot, 217-785-2768 or [John.Druhot@illinois.gov](mailto:John.Druhot@illinois.gov).

Those interested in submitting a Computers and Electronics Recycling application should contact Sam Al-Basha, 217-785-2765, or [Sam.Al-Basha@illinois.gov](mailto:Sam.Al-Basha@illinois.gov). To learn more about the Illinois Recycling Grants Program, go to [www.illinoisrecycles.com](http://www.illinoisrecycles.com).

### **SIUE Entrepreneurship Center to Host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneurship Summit**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
Regency Conference Center  
400 Regency Park Drive  
O'Fallon, IL 62269**

For more information visit, [www.siueschoolofbusiness.com](http://www.siueschoolofbusiness.com) or contact Kristine Jarden at [kjarden@siue.edu](mailto:kjarden@siue.edu) or 628/650-2166.

### **Macoupin County Anti- Meth Coalition Community Service Mini-Grant**

The Macoupin County Anti-Meth Coalition seeks community partners to develop and implement community and family friendly events to provide children with drug free events and activities while promoting healthy personal choices. Program or activity must occur sometime during February 2010 through August 2010. Six (6) grants up to \$500.00 will be awarded to Macoupin County organizations. Public and private sector groups are encouraged to apply for these mini-grants.

#### **Time Frame**

- October, 2009 – Grant Applications Disseminated
- December 1, 2009 – Grant Applications Due
- January, 2010 – Grant Applicants Notified

#### **Criteria for Selection**

In order for grants to be given full consideration for awards, applications must be received by the due date and must be submitted by a Macoupin County entity. Applications will be scored on the following merits:

- Scope of the proposed program (number of children potentially impacted) -25 points
- Nature of the activity or activities proposed - 40 points
- Evaluate and promotion of the proposal -15 points
- Proposed Budget -10 points
- Assurances of successful implementation – 10 points



Proposal Format

In 1000 words or less explain how your group can partner with the Macoupin County Anti-Meth Coalition to develop and implement community and family friendly events to provide children with drug free events and activities while promoting healthy personal choices.

Contact Information

Macoupin County Ant-Meth Coalition  
805 North Broad  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
Phone: 217- 899-3449 or 217-556-7619

**JOIN NOW! MEDP Memberships are Always Available**

Macoupin Economic Development Partnership is a public-private organization devoted to providing Macoupin County with economic growth and assist existing businesses in expansion opportunities. MEDP is a membership based organization.

Investing in our partnership will provide members with the opportunity to access the following benefits:

Business Retention and Expansion Services  
Site Development  
Financing Assistance  
Networking Opportunities  
Legislative Support  
Business Referrals  
Heightened Business Visibility

We have affordable membership rates at every level. Please contact Shari Albrecht, Executive Director to discuss how you might become involved. Shari can be reached at 217/556-8696 or [slalbrecht1979@yahoo.com](mailto:slalbrecht1979@yahoo.com)

*Come Grow With Us!*



**From:** Froelich, Sara (Durbin) (Sara\_Froelich@durbin.senate.gov)  
**To:** RMcCrady@decaturil.gov; John Mohr (mayorlexingtonil@hotmail.com); John Spring (jspring@ci.quincy.il.us); Andy Manar (awmanar@yahoo.com); Ed Saracco; pam.monetti@mail.house.gov; demuzio@frontiernet.net; pdskeans@gillespie.k12.il.us  
**Date:** Thu, October 29, 2009 6:00:25 PM  
**Cc:** Houlihan, Bill (Durbin)  
**Subject:** FW: DURBIN: CONGRESS APPROVES \$1.2 MILLION FOR ILLINOIS PROJECTS

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Christina Mulka

[Christina\\_mulka@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Christina_mulka@durbin.senate.gov)<mailto:Christina\_mulka@durbin.senate.gov>

202-228-5643

October 29, 2009

## DURBIN: CONGRESS APPROVES \$1.2 MILLION FOR ILLINOIS PROJECTS

[WASHINGTON, DC] - Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL) today announced that Congress has approved \$1.2 million for Illinois projects. The legislation will now be sent to President Obama for his signature.

The Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill for the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Forest Service and Environmental Protection Agency includes funding for the following Illinois projects:

Environmental Protection Agency, State and Tribal Assistance Grants

\* Decatur Water Infrastructure Improvements, City of Decatur. \$250,000 in funding for the improvement of the city's water distribution system. The construction of a thirty (30) inch diameter water supply main between the South Water Treatment Plant and two existing elevated water tanks will improve water pressures and flow patterns in the City's water distribution system. This project will ensure continued access to an adequate source of water thereby ensuring public health, fire protection, sustained industrial activity and strong economic growth.

\* Lexington Water Infrastructure Improvements, City of Lexington. \$100,000 in funding for the construction of a new wastewater treatment plan. Lexington is the largest city in Illinois that still does not have a sewer system. The City has all but completed the design and specifications for these systems and is nearing the construction phase of the project.

\* Macoupin Water Infrastructure Improvements, Macoupin County. \$250,000 in funding for water infrastructure needs associated with the building of the new Benld School -- the old school was destroyed earlier this year. The funding would provide a sanitary sewer and pump station as well as a storm water retention system.



\* Ridgewood Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements, Will County. \$550,000 in funding for the upgrade of the city's sanitary/sewage and potable water systems. This project is part of a six phase overhaul of the water system in the region. This funding would reduce the risk of forcing the County to raise sewer/water rates.

\* Quincy Water Infrastructure Improvements, City of Quincy. \$300,000 in funding to upgrade and replace Quincy's water treatment plant. During floods, the city's water treatment plant is often in danger of becoming submerged; threatening the city's clean drinking water supply.

-30-