The Illinois House and Senate completed the business for the 99th General Assembly on Monday and Tuesday this week. Both chambers bid farewell to longtime legislators on Tuesday. The 100th General Assembly was sworn in on Wednesday. The Illinois House held their ceremony at the University of Illinois-Springfield. Michael Madigan was re-elected as Speaker of the House, where he will enjoy a 67-51 majority over Republican Leader Durkin. The Illinois Senate held their ceremony in their chamber. John Cullerton was re-elected as Senate President, where he will enjoy a 37-22 majority over Republican Leader Radogno. One of the first actions taken by the Senate was to pass the rules by which the body is governed, which included a 10-year term limit on the Senate President and Minority Leader positions.

General Assembly

Senate leaders agree to tie Rauner Agenda items to Budget Proposal

Gov. Bruce Rauner has failed to propose a budget in his two years of office, insisting on tying his non-budget corporate agenda items to any budget negotiations. His priorities have continually been altered as political winds change, but the net result of his proposals would subvert the economic security of working people to the benefit of corporations and the wealthy.

Rauner’s stubborn obsession to use the budget as leverage for his agenda has done deep harm to the state – running up the debt, slashing higher education and harming the state’s ability to deliver critical services.

Late last week, news broke that Senate President John Cullerton and Senate Republican Minority Leader Christine Radogno worked together on a legislative package that included several of Rauner’s anti-worker proposals without Labor input or notice.

The Cullerton/Radogno plan was unveiled to Senate members on Monday. It includes increases in revenue connected with the Rauner agenda cuts in employee pensions and Workers’ Compensation, collective bargaining limits, a property tax freeze, and legislative leadership term limits.

Both the Democratic and Republican caucuses were reluctant to vote on any of the plan because of too many unanswered questions, concerns about the entire deal and that the 99th

Speaker Madigan Re-Elected
Advocates policies to protect working families

Following the swearing in of all 118 State Representative at the 100th Inauguration in the Illinois House of Representatives Michael J. Madigan was re-elected Speaker of the House.

In his remarks following his election as speaker, Madigan said the House would not engage in a “race to the bottom” to compete with other States but will look at balancing the state budget by growing the economy.

Citing Illinois universities, research lab, world class workforce and transportation infrastructure, Madigan said “Illinois House Democrats will introduce and pursue an agenda that contains aggressive economic reforms to leverage these attributes, create jobs and improve the business climate, without hurting hard-working middle-class families”.

The House Democratic plan will include:

Increasing the Minimum Wage; Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit; Additional tax on incomes above $1 million; Cut corporate tax breaks to companies who ship jobs overseas; Increase the Edge Tax credit to invest in companies who invest in Illinois workers; and Cut corporate taxes by 50% but insure all corporations pay income taxes.

Photo: With his family at his side Speaker Michael J. Madigan is sworn in as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives by Justice Alan J. Greiman (Ret.)
General Assembly was scheduled for adjournment on Tuesday.

On Wednesday afternoon, following the inauguration of the 100th General Assembly, the Cullerton/Radogno plan was divided up into thirteen (13) stand-alone bills that were introduced in Senate Bills 1 through 13 (listed below).

And in a meeting with several labor leaders with concerns about the package on Tuesday, Cullerton indicated that Committee hearings on the bills would begin when the Senate returns on January 24th.

The Cullerton/Radogno package of bills includes:

- **SB 1 (SP Cullerton)** Education Shell Bill out of 105 ILCS 5
- **SB 2 (Lightford)** – Minimum wage up to $11 over five years
- **SB 3 (T Cullerton)** – Local Government Consolidation
- **SB 4 (Trotter)**-$7 Billion bond issue to pay outstanding bills
- **SB 5 (SP Cullerton)** $215,200,000 to Chicago Teacher Pension Fund
- **SB 6 (SP Cullerton)** Appropriations bill for costs incurred before July 1, 2017.
- **SB 7 (Link)** Gaming in Chicago, Danville, Lake County, Rockford, Cook County, and Williamson County (page 374).
- **SB 8 (Harmon/Althoff)** Procurement changes.
- **SB 9 (Hutchinson)** Income tax rates changes, sugary drink tax.
- **SB 10 (SP Cullerton)** Local government debt restructuring from state money.
- **SB 11 (SP Cullerton)** Pensions
- **SB 12 (Connelly)** Workers’ Compensation changes
- **SB 13 (Radogno)** Two year property tax freeze, amongst other items.

While there are bills in the package that labor has historically supported, all of the bills are narrowly written so that a particular bill only becomes law – if and only if – the other bills become law as well. Effectively these bills are tied together. You have to accept the objectionable Rauner corporate agenda items in exchange for badly needed revenue and a state budget!

### Labor Call To Action:
The IL AFL-CIO places the Illinois Labor movement on full legislative alert and requests that Central Labor Council officers, Building and Trades Council officers and Labor Leaders throughout the state immediately contact their Illinois Senators and firmly communicate to them that we have been fighting against the Governor’s anti-worker proposals. Labor opposes Senate bills that hurt our members in exchange for revenue and a state budget! Tell your Senator(s) to not give in to Governor Bruce Rauner and his anti-union reforms!

---

**House Passes Workers’ Compensation Insurance Reform**

The Illinois House passed a Workers’ Compensation insurance reform bill, SB 2901, by a vote of 65-45-0. The Illinois AFL-CIO was neutral on the bill. The reforms included Workers’ Compensation insurance rate regulation by the Department of Insurance. It would have provided employers with a compensation insurance rate reduction if they have a bona fide safety and return to work program in place. It also allows for penalties on an employer when they don’t authorize medical treatment for an injured worker.

In 2011, the General Assembly passed an agreed bill between labor and business. It has resulted in the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) recommending a 30 percent employer premium cut over the past five years. It should have resulted in more than $1 billion in savings for employers. That is money that could have been invested in Illinois and our workers, but instead went to insurance profits.

SB 2901 would further require transparency for “self-insured” employers, like Caterpillar, to report the financial losses they have due to injuries on the job. The legislation would have authorized a task force to look at the feasibility of creating a non-profit state fund to provide workers’ compensation insurance to employers. This would result in a free market for Workers’ Compensation insurance, bringing prices down, saving employer’s money, and reinvesting that money back into Illinois and its workers.

The Senate did not call this bill for a vote. Opting to introduce their own Workers’ Compensation bill that diminished injured worker benefits.

### Rauner Supports Trump’s Education Secretary Nominee

Governor Rauner signed a letter issued on January 9th in support of President Elect Donald Trump’s Education Secretary Nominee Betsy DeVos. Rauner joined other governors in signing, including Scott Walker (Wisconsin) and Sam Brownback (Kansas).

DeVos is a harsh critic of public education. She has referred to the traditional education system as a “monopoly” and a “dead end”. Betsy, and her husband Dick DeVos, are worth billions.
House Passes Stop-Gap Budget

The House passed a stop-gap budget to the Senate on Monday evening. The Senate did not vote on the measure before the 99th General Assembly concluded on Tuesday. It passed the House 63-49-0. The bigger items included in the stop-gap budget include:

- $191 million for MAP grants
- $3.249 million to Golden Apple Scholar Program
- $1.759 million for scholarships to children of firefighters killed in line of duty
- Over $36 million to community colleges
- Over $31 million to Eastern Illinois University
- Over $47 million to Illinois State University
- Over $60 million to NIU
- Over $132 million to SIU
- Over $17 million to Chicago State
- Nearly $16 million to Governor’s State
- Over $24 million to Northeastern Illinois University
- Over $434 million to University of IL Hospitals
- Over $38 million to Western Illinois University
- $1,558,000 for Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center for Methamphetamine Pilot Program
- $9,826,100 for breast and cervical screenings
- $1,529,000 for School Health Centers
- $6,599,500 for domestic violence shelters and services program
- $17,917,400 for After School Youth Support programs
- $10,256,800 to area agencies on aging
- $409,009,700 to the Department on Aging Community Care Program

Sick Leave Trailer Bill Passes

The Illinois General Assembly passed a sick leave bill last year (HB 6162) that would allow employees to use personal sick leave benefits provided by the employer for absences due to an illness, injury, or medical appointment of a family member. The new law expanded sick time to be used for the care of the employee’s child, spouse, sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent.

Several groups came together during veto session and the last two days of the 99th General Assembly to address some concerns with the bill. The changes made to the law, contained in SB 2799, included ensuring that the sick leave act would not diminish any collective bargaining agreements. It added step-children to the list of family members that sick time could be used for. Under certain circumstances, an employer may limit the amount of time used. SB 2799 passed both chambers, and will now go to the Governor.

Congressional Inauguration
January 2, 2017

On Tuesday, January 2nd as part of the Congressional Inauguration festivities, IL AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan and ULLICO Director of Governmental Relations, Jack Reid, met with newly elected United States Senator Tammy Duckworth, newly elected Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (8th CD), United States Senator Richard Durbin and Illinois Congresswoman, Cheri Bustos (17th CD) in Washington, DC.

President Carrigan and other labor leaders attending the Congressional swearing in ceremonies stressed the importance of standing up for working families under the Trump administration and the anti-worker agenda of Mitch McConnell in the United States Senate and Paul Ryan in the House of Representatives.

Rick Terven, UA, Retires

Following a 40-year career with the United Association (UA), Rick Terven retired on December 31st and was honored at a luncheon. Rick started his career as an apprentice at UA Local 99 in Bloomington in 1977. During his career with the UA, Rick served as an apprentice instructor, Local 99 Business Manager, President of the Illinois Pipe Trades, UA International Political Director, UA International Director of Communications and Marketing and UA Executive Vice President. He also served as President of the Livingston McClean Building and Construction Trades Council for 14 years from 1995 to 2009. At the luncheon Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan remarked that “We wish him well but Rick was a strong partner to the Illinois Labor Movement and will be missed.”

300 Union Members, Advocates Rally To Support Speaker Madigan, Working Families

Right-Wing Protesters Only Have 10 Show Up To Oppose Madigan

Nearly 300 union members and other working family advocates gathered at the University of Illinois-Springfield on the day of the House Inauguration Wednesday to voice their support for the work of Speaker Michael J. Madigan in standing up to Gov. Bruce Rauner’s anti-worker agenda.

The rally was in response to the right-wing fringe group Illinois Policy Institute’s effort to have an anti-Madigan rally the same day. The IPI protestors numbered around 10 people.

The pro-worker protesters chanted and several Democratic legislators came out before the Inaugural ceremony to thank the workers for coming.

“Rauner and his wealthy friends have spent tens of millions of dollars trying to destroy Speaker Madigan so they can move their anti-worker proposals in Illinois,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan.

“We wanted to show that we appreciate the House Democrats standing with us and not caving to corporate political money and pressure. They are fighting for a budget that doesn’t destroy working people.”

Observation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 15, 2017

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1965 Address to Illinois AFL-CIO

In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his address to the delegates of the 8th Annual Convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO from October 1965 is displayed on our website - www ilafl-cio org/documents/MLKNewsletter.pdf.
Local Election Dates Set For Feb. 28, April 4

Local labor councils and unions are gearing up for municipal elections coming up in the weeks ahead. The Consolidated Primary Election date is set for Tuesday, February 28 and the Consolidated Election for Tuesday, April 4.

If you have any questions or information on labor program components, please contact Political Director Bill Looby at 217-492-2612.

Other important dates for this election cycle are:

**Primary Election**

- Jan. 19 – Vote By Mail ballots sent out/Early Voting Starts
- Jan. 30 – Standard Voter Registration ends
- Feb. 1 – Grace Period Registration and Voting Begins
- Feb. 23 – Last day for Vote By Mail ballot applications sent by mail to be received by election authority
- Feb. 27 – Last day for Early Voting at election authority
- Feb. 28 – Consolidated Primary Election/Last day for Grace Period Registration and Voting

**Consolidated Election**

- Feb. 23 – Early Voting begins (if no Primary)/Vote By Mail ballots sent out (if no Primary)
- March 8 – Grace Period Registration and Voting begins
- March 10 – Early Voting and Vote By Mail begins (if Primary Election held)
- March 19 – Last day for online voter registration
- March 30 – Last day for election authority to receive Vote By Mail application by mail
- April 3 – Last day for Early Voting/Last day for voter to request a Vote By Mail application in person
- April 4 – Consolidated Election/Last day for Grace Period Registration and Voting

**Illinois AFL-CIO Hosts Financial Reporting Seminars**

The Illinois AFL-CIO is sponsoring one day seminars for local union officials and their accountants on preparing financial reports and conducting union officer elections.

The seminar will feature speakers from the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Labor Management Standards, to provide participants with detailed information on how to complete and file annual financial reports (LM-2, LM-3, LM-4) required of labor organizations as mandated by the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA). In addition, they will provide relevant information on the procedures for electing union officers.

Presentations will also be given by the Illinois State Board of Elections on Political Action Committee (PAC) reports and by Legacy Professionals, LLP, on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reports.

The seminars will begin at 8:15 AM and conclude around 3:00 PM with a registration fee of $60 per person. Seminars will be held twice to give greater access to all interested in attending.

**February 9, 2017**  
Burr Ridge, Illinois  
Illinois AFL-CIO  
999 McClintock Dr.

**February 16, 2017**  
Springfield, Illinois  
State House Inn, 101 E. Adams St.

Contact Amy Rueff at 217-492-2633 for more information.