**Illinois Updates – October 15, 2021**

Stadelman Eyes Congressional Run

State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-34, Rockford) has indicated his interest in running to replace U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos in the 17th Congressional District. Bustos has previously announced she will not run for re-election. Stadelman is not the only Rockford politician interested in the seat; Rockford Aldermen Jonathan Logemann and Linda McNeely have announced they will run for the Democratic nomination and Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara has said that Democratic officials have urged him to consider the race. Rock Island County Board Member Angela Normoyle (D) has also announced her candidacy and has begun assembling a campaign team. On the Republican side, Esther Joy King will run again for the seat, having narrowly lost to Bustos in 2020.

Election Roundup

Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms (R) will run for the 36th Senate District, currently held by Senator Neil Anderson. The district was redrawn during the recent redistricting and Anderson does not reside in the district as drawn under the new legislative maps. State Representative Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island) has announced he will run for the Senate seat as well.

In the 51st House District, Nabeela Syed will run as a Democrat for the seat currently held by Representative Chris Bos (R-Lake Zurich). If elected, Syed would be the first Muslim woman and the first South Asian woman to serve in the Illinois General Assembly.

Looking Ahead to Veto Session

Springfield-watchers are unlikely to see much action on gubernatorial vetoes during the fall Veto Session. Governor JB Pritzker used his veto authority on less than a dozen bills, all of which have been addressed by the General Assembly on supplemental session days convened over the summer. Lawmakers will use the six scheduled session days to take up other issues, namely the new Congressional and Supreme Court maps. Hearings on the remaining maps have begun and will likely continue during the first week of Veto Session. Some media sources are reporting that redistricting legislation may be unveiled today and may include new judicial subdistricts.

Governor Pritzker has also signaled interest in tightening the language of the Health Care Right of Conscience Act. Opponents of mask and vaccine mandates have been citing the Act in legal challenges to the Administration’s requirement that certain employees receive COVID-19 vaccines as a condition of employment. The act was originally proposed to protect healthcare workers from being forced to provide services that violated their religious beliefs such as abortions and contraceptives.

There may be a push to repeal the state’s Parental Notification Act as well. Pro-choice legislators oppose current law requiring minors to notify their parents or guardians before obtaining an abortion. Recent legislation upheld in the state of Texas has created a sense of urgency among these members to overturn the PNA.

Dates to Remember

* October 19-21, 26-26 – Veto Session