**Illinois Updates – April 7, 2023**

Johnson Elected Mayor of Chicago

Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson defeated Paul Vallas in Tuesday’s election and will become the next mayor of the city of Chicago. With strong financial backing from the Chicago Teachers Union, the former teacher and CTU organizer was able to prevail with a final vote margin of 51% to 49% for Vallas. Johnson was able to overcome claims that he had called to defund the police and focused on a message of “invest in people.” The younger and more progressive Mayor-elect won in part due to a larger turnout of younger voters for the run-off election. Johnson will in turn be working with a city council that also trended younger and more diverse because of the election. He met this week with incumbent Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Governor JB Pritzker to discuss the transition of administrations. The mayor-elect and Chicago City Council members will be sworn into office on May 15, 2023.

COGFA Warns Spending Could Outpace Revenue

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability released a report this week that showed if the state continues to spend at the rate of the most recent budgets, it could exceed available revenues in three years. The state experienced strong revenue growth in the two previous fiscal years. While federal stimulus funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic were partially responsible, growth in other areas not related to the pandemic occurred simultaneously, allowing the state to receive bond rating upgrades and make deposits into the state’s Rainy Day Fund. COGFA’s March revenue report showed that growth finally slowing and may indicate a financial downturn on the horizon. Governor JB Pritzker’s FY 24 budget proposal tracks very closely with last year’s numbers, reflecting the expectation that revenue growth would slow as the public health emergency ends.

Marquez Focus of ComEd Trial in Week Three

In week four of the ComEd Four trial the prosecution focused on testimony that supported their assertion that the subcontractors paid through Jay Doherty and other Madigan allies were not performing work for the utility. The jury heard from Doherty’s personal assistant regarding the logistics of the payments, and from multiple FBI agents involved in raids on the homes of some of the defendants as well as other close associates of the former Speaker. Testimony also highlighted the appointment of Juan Ochoa to the Commonwealth Edison corporate board, a paid appointment supported by former Speaker Madigan that seemed to play a pivotal role in the U.S. Attorney’s decision to charge the defendants.

Former Commonwealth Edison lobbyists John Hooker, Jay Doherty and Mike McClain and former company CEO Anne Prammagiore have been charged in federal court with using company resources to curry favor with the once-powerful Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan. The bribery scheme became known in 2020 when the utility entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Attorney agreeing to pay $200 million in fines associated with the case.

The trial is expected to last seven weeks, with Madigan and McClain set to be tried for additional bribery charges next year.

Spring Break

The House and Senate remain in recess for Spring Break next week. Both chambers will reconvene for committee action on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Meet the Lawmakers

Each week we will profile two new members of the 103rd General Assembly. This week we meet Representative Kevin Olickal (D-16, Chicago) and Representative Dennis Tipsword (R-105, Pontiac).

Representative Olickal identifies as a progressive Democrat. A former House Democratic staffer, he is a full-time legislator and is also attending Loyola University School of Law. He is the son of immigrants and attended Skokie public schools before earning a BS from Ohio State University.

Representative Tipsword comes to the legislature after serving as a Woodford County Sheriff’s Deputy. Tipsword earned a bachelor’s degree from Western Illinois University in Law Enforcement and studied at the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He is a father of three and grandfather of three.

Dates to Remember

* April 28, 2023 – Senate and House Committee deadline, bills from other chamber
* May 11, 2023 – Senate Third Reading deadline, House bills
* May 12, 2023 – House Third Reading deadline, Senate bills
* May 19, 2023 – Scheduled Adjournment