**Illinois Updates – May 20, 2022**

Illinois Census Numbers Revised

After completing additional review, the U.S. Census Bureau revised official census numbers for Illinois, revealing an undercount of two percent. Initial data showed the state experiencing a decline in population of 18,000, which would have dropped Illinois to the sixth most populous state. After the revisions, Illinois had instead gained 250,000 residents over the ten-year period and the state population exceeded 13 million for the first time in history. The recount also has Illinois as the fifth-largest state by population in the United States. What the new numbers will mean for the state is uncertain. Many federal aid programs are calculating based on population, but it will not impact recently enacted state legislative maps.

Pritzker Signs 125 Bills into Law

Governor JB Pritzker’s pen was busy this week. Over the course of the last seven days, the Governor has signed 125 pieces of legislation into law. With the early adjournment date of April 9, bills that are typically signed in June, July and August are being finalized in May. Pritzker signed several high-profile bills including House Bill 1950, legislation to extend the state’s hospital assessment program through 2026, and House Bill 4383 which will ban the sale of so-called “ghost guns” or guns assembled from kits that do not have a traceable serial number. Other bills signed into law this week include:

* HB 4461 - Allows fire protection districts to recover costs of collecting past due amounts owed by a municipality after disconnection of fire protection district territory. Effective January 1, 2023
* HB 4924 - Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Removes language requiring the treasurer of the board to execute a bond to the municipality conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of the office and other conditions. Effective May 13, 2022.
* SB 3495 - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code by adding reference to fire departments and fire protection districts to clarify their authority regarding authorizing emergency vehicles which use lights and sirens. Effective January 1, 2023.
* SB 3667 - Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963, the Stalking No Contact Order Act, the Civil No Contact Order Act, and the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986. Effective January 1, 2023.

Crowe Confirmed as U.S. Attorney

The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of state Senator Rachelle Crowe as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District. Crowe has served in the Illinois Senate since 2019, most recently as the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prior to her tenure in the Senate, she was an assistant State’s Attorney in Madison County. A replacement to her Senate seat has not been made at this writing.

Fuel Retailers Sue over Signage Requirement

Legislation passed last month to provide tax breaks for Illinois residents included a measure to suspend the automatic inflation adjustment to the state’s Motor Fuel Tax for six months effective July 1, 2022. The legislation also required fuel retailers to post signage informing customers of the tax break at the pump, with the threat of hefty fines for failure to comply. The Illinois Fuel and Retailers Association, a trade association representing gas stations and convenience stores across the state hit back, filing a lawsuit against the state of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Revenue. The Association says that the signage requirement violates free speech provisions of the Illinois Constitution. Josh Sharp, a representative of the Association has stated “Ordering businesses to take part in speech that is compelled by the government under the threat of fines and criminal penalties is unwise and unconstitutional.” The lawsuit was filed today in Sangamon County Circuit Court.

Dates to Remember

* June 28, 2022 – Illinois General Primary Election
* November 8, 2022 – Illinois General Election