**Illinois Updates – June 25, 2021**

Pritzker Signs Election Package

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation this week making multiple changes to state election law. Filed as Senate Bill 825, the legislation will allow for voters to make a permanent designation to vote by mail, allow for continued ‘curbside’ voting post-pandemic, give counties the authority to allow voting for jail inmates, and move the 2022 general primary from March 15 to June 28, 2022.

The change to the primary date was to allow for final census numbers to be used in formulating new congressional districts. Democratic leadership in the General Assembly did not choose to use official census data in creating new House and Senate legislative maps, instead opting to use numbers from the American Community Survey and election data.

General Assembly Sends Hundreds of Bills to Governor

Governor Pritzker will act on 664 bills that received final passage during the spring 2021 legislative session. Despite COVID-19 related delays and restrictions, the Illinois House and Senate finalized over six hundred legislative measures from January through June 1st of this year. Democratic supermajorities in both chambers allowed for many bills to pass with only partisan support. Some measures, including the state’s FY 2022 budget were passed with both Democrat and Republican votes.

The chamber of origin has thirty days to transmit a bill to the Governor for his or her consideration. The Governor has sixty days to act upon legislation, and can sign a bill into law, veto a bill outright, or issue an amendatory veto making substantive changes to the bill. Bills signed by the Governor become a public act. Bills vetoed by the Governor may receive additional consideration by the General Assembly during the fall Veto Session, where the sponsor may issue a motion to override the veto, accept an amendatory veto, or allow the veto to stand. Bills receiving no action by the Governor within sixty days automatically become law, but that outcome is rarely seen.

Fitch Revises State Economic Outlook

Fitch Ratings announced this week it had revised its forecast outlook for Illinois from negative to positive. While it did not upgrade the state’s credit rating, which remains one step above junk status, it acknowledged that revenue performance and the newly enacted FY 2022 budget had improved Illinois’ long-term outlook. Moody’s and S & P had issued similar revisions to the state’s economic rating earlier this spring.

Dates to Remember

* October 19-21, 26-26 – Veto Session