**Illinois Updates – August 20, 2021**

Redistricting Brings Lawmakers Back to Springfield

The release of numbers from the 2020 U.S. Census last week will require adjustments to the legislative maps approved by Democrat legislators during the spring session. Republicans and Latino interest groups have sued Democrats over the maps because they were drawn using data from the American Community Survey rather than final 2020 census information. Early analysis of the census data compared to the legislative maps shows that deviation from median population requirements for district size will require adjustments to meet constitutional requirements. Senate President Don Harmon and House Speaker Chris Welch issued a joint proclamation to schedule a special session for Tuesday, August 31st at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering legislative measures related to the legislative redistricting plan.

The plan is to meet for one day only on redistricting. Last week, Senate President Don Harmon advised his members they may be called into session to vote on the Governor’s Consumers and Climate First Act. Meetings between stakeholders held this week on the energy bill have reportedly been productive and the Senate Democrats are pushing for a resolution to the issue. However, action on any issue other than redistricting would require adjournment of the special session to go into regular session, and members will not receive any per diem if bills dealt with in regular session require additional days.

ComEd Trial Date Set

A trial date of September 12, 2022 has been set in the U.S. Attorney’s case against four individuals with ties to former Speaker Michael J. Madigan. ComEd CEO Anne Prammagiore and former ComEd lobbyists Mike McClain, John Hooker and Jay Doherty were indicted in November for their role in a bribery scheme while employed by or on behalf of utility Commonwealth Edison. The indictments detailed a scheme where the utility made payments to Madigan political operatives passed through a firm operated by Doherty at the direction of Madigan’s close confidant Mike McClain. In addition to paying Madigan operatives, the utility has been charged with hiring attorneys, granting internships and making an appointment to their board of directors in an attempt to influence the Speaker. All four have plead not guilty.

At the time he set the trial date, presiding U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber inquired of the U.S. Attorney’s office if they could expect superseding indictments, which could implicate additional individuals in the case. The U.S. Attorney’s representative declined to confirm or deny if there could be superseding indictments, stating that the investigation is ongoing. Former Speaker Madigan has denied having committed any illegal acts while in office.

COVID Updates

* Senate President Don Harmon announced this week that he had contracted a break-through case of COVID-19. Harmon had been fully vaccinated and reported mild symptoms. Due to his diagnosis, he cancelled all official activities to isolate including appearances at the Illinois State Fair on Governor’s Day.
* Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot issued a mask mandate for all public indoor spaces this week, including bars, restaurants, clubs, gyms and indoor common areas of multifamily residences. Mayor Lightfoot had previously warned that a mask mandate might be needed as the number of cases and other covid-related metrics continue to rise. The mandate takes effect today, August 20th and applies to anyone 2 years of age and older regardless of vaccination status. Governor JB Pritzker has not said whether he will reinstitute a mask mandate or other mitigations at the state level.
* Multiple school districts have been cited by the Illinois State Board of Education for failure to comply with the Governor’s mask mandate for PK-12 schools. As many as thirty districts have been reported to the state board for violations of the mask policy and have been placed on probation. While some districts have indicated they will comply with the mandate, all have been informed that the board will be reaching out to discuss compliance and will be required to file a corrective plan with their Regional Office of Education within sixty days.

Dates to Remember

* October 19-21, 26-26 – Veto Session