**Illinois Updates – September 30, 2022**

State Makes Payment to UI Fund

Governor JB Pritzker announced Tuesday that the state would be making a payment of $450 million into Illinois’ Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, reducing the fund’s $1.8 billion deficit to $1.4 billion. The deficit in the fund represents money paid to the state by the federal government to shore up states’ UI programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stronger than anticipated employment rates have allowed the state to make a dent in what is owed the U.S. government. The Pritzker administration said the payment would save the state $10 million in interest on the debt.

WGN Poll Shows Pritzker, Duckworth Leading

Results of a WGN News/The Hill/Emerson College Poll released on Wednesday show Governor JB Pritzker with a commanding lead over Republican State Senator Darren Bailey. The statewide poll was conducted September 21-23, 2022 of approximately 1,000 somewhat likely or very likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.02 percent. In the race for U.S. Senate, incumbent Sen. Tammy Duckworth is holding off challenger Kathy Salvi by almost 20 percentage points. The poll also revealed President Biden’s approval rating just slightly above water with voters, with 48.5% approving of his performance, and 43.7% disapproving.

Pritzker 50.9% Duckworth 49.7%

Bailey 35.8 % Salvi 30.8%

In addition to head-to-head questions, the poll asked voters to identify their top campaign issues. The economy led with 35% of voters, followed by threats to democracy with 17% of voters and abortion access with 14%. While Republicans have made crime their top campaign talking point, it was listed as the most important issue by just 10% of voters.

In response to the WGN survey, Republican political operative Dan Proft on Thursday released results of a poll conducted by Fabrizio, Lee & Associates that show the governor’s race much closer. That poll conducted September 25-27th of 800 likely voters had Pritzker with just a five point lead over Bailey. The poll had a margin of error of +/- 3.46 percent.

Governor Goes Big for Democratic Candidates

The campaign arm of Governor JB Pritzker announced this week that the billionaire incumbent plans to contribute $11 million in funds to Democratic candidates throughout the state. While all the money has not been spoken for, Pritzker’s political committee said that they will make contributions of $1 million each to Illinois Senate Democratic candidates, Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and the Cook County Democratic Party. The committee plans to contribute $500,000 each to the campaigns of Elizabeth Rochford and Mary Kay O’Brien, who are running for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Dates to Remember

* November 8, 2022 – Illinois General Election
* November 15-17, November 29-December 1, 2022 – Veto Session
* January 4-10, 2023 – Tentative “Lame Duck” Session, 102nd General Assembly
* January 11, 2023 - Inauguration of the 103rd General Assembly