

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**BOMA/SUBURAN CHICAGO**

January 11, 2019

The 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adjourned for the final time on Tuesday following a brief lame-duck session. The 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly was sworn in on Wednesday. The Governor-elect and all constitutional office holders will be sworn in on Monday, January 14.

During the lame-duck session, the 100th General Assembly approved a handful of items including two items requested by Governor-elect Pritzker before concluding its business. Both chambers approved SB1298 (Cullerton/Currie) which allows the Governor-elect to replace all the current members of the Illinois Toll Highway Authority Board. Proponents of the legislation questioned the Board's spending and contracting practices.

The General Assembly also approved SB3531 (Cullerton/Mitchell) which provides a 15% salary increase for State Agency Director and Assistant Director positions. The salaries for these positions have been frozen for the past 10 years. The Pritzker administration argued that the salary increases are necessary to make the positions competitive nationally and to attract competent leadership in those positions.

The 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly will resume January 29.

## UPCOMING DATES

- January 14, 2019 – Constitutional Officers Inauguration Ceremonies
- February 20 – Governor's Budget Address
- February 26 – Consolidated Primary Election
- April 2 – Consolidated Election

## GOV.-ELECT PRITZKER STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lieutenant Governor-elect Juliana Stratton will head the newly-created Office of Criminal Justice Reform and Economic Opportunity.
- Former Comptroller Dan Hynes, current Democratic State Representative Christian Mitchell, and current President of the Chicago Park District Board Jesse Ruiz will all serve as Deputy Governors.
- Anne Caprara, who was Governor-elect Pritzker's campaign manager and senior advisor during the transition, will serve as Chief of Staff for the New Administration.
- Ann Spillane, who currently serves as Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Chief of Staff, will serve as general counsel to the new Administration.

- Alexis Sturm, who currently serves as the director of cash management and bond reporting for Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza, will serve as Director of Governor's Office of Management and Budget.
- Nikki Budzinski, who currently serves as transition director and previously served as senior adviser to the JB Pritzker for Governor campaign, will serve as senior adviser.
- Sean Rapelyea, who was political director of Pritzker's campaign, will be Deputy Chief of Staff for external affairs in the Governor's office.
- Former Democratic State Senator John Sullivan of Quincy will serve as the Director of the Department of Agriculture.
- Republican State Representative David Harris will serve as Director of the Department of Revenue.
- Current regional GM for Uber Midwest Erin Guthrie will serve as director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- Emily Bittner will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications in the Office of the Governor. Bittner currently serves as Chief of Strategy for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.
- Jordan Abudayyeh will serve as Press Secretary in the Office of the Governor. Abudayyeh currently serves as press secretary of the transition and served the same role on Pritzker's gubernatorial campaign.
- Tiffany Newbern-Johnson will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Governor. Newbern-Johnson currently leads Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's state legislative agenda as the Deputy Director of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs.
- Alicia Tate-Nadeau will serve as Director of Homeland Security and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).\* Tate-Nadeau currently serves as the executive director of the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications.
- Janel L. Forde will serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS).\* Forde currently serves as the chief operating officer of the City of Chicago after serving the same role at the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Theresa Eagleson will serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).\* Eagleson currently serves as the executive director of the Office of Medicaid Innovation at the University of Illinois systems.
- Heidi Mueller will continue to serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ).\* Mueller has spent nearly five years at IDJJ and was appointed to serve as director by Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2016.
- Matt Perez will continue to serve as Illinois State Fire Marshal.\* With over 30 years of experience in public safety, Perez was appointed as Illinois State Fire Marshal by Governor Bruce Rauner in 2015.

## LONGTIME STATE REP LOU LANG TO RETIRE

Democrat State Representative Lou Lang resigned his position on Monday after serving 16 terms in the Illinois House. Lang's replacement has not yet been named. Lang will be lobbying for Advantage Government Strategies.

## PRITZKER'S AGENDA

Illinois Issues provided a comprehensive look at Governor-elect Pritzker's agenda he ran on during the campaign.

[\*Brian Mackey/NPR Illinois\*](#)

We pulled the following list from primary and general election debates, speeches and news conferences before and after the election, and 21 separate "J.B. on the issues" pages from Pritzker's campaign website. (Taken together those pages comprise more than 19,000 words.)

Much of that consists of "principles" and "priorities" — vague ideas rather than specific initiatives. But to observers who judged him primarily on the platitudes heard in ads and debates, there is a surprising amount of detail.

This list will focus on the concrete proposals — things that can be enacted through legislation or through the executive branch of government — and may be more representative than comprehensive.

### Health Care

Pritzker made several promises in the area of health care, including the creation of a state "public health insurance option." The plan, called IllinoisCares, would let people buy into the state's Medicaid program.

His campaign says based on current Medicaid spending figures, that annual cost would be in the range of \$3,350 per adult and \$2,108 per child. Because people would have to buy in, he says the plan would have no cost to taxpayers.

### Economy

By my informal and likely erroneous tally, Pritzker's campaign pronouncements included the word "jobs" in every other sentence. Never mind that economists say governors [don't have much influence](#) on job creation — this is what modern politicians are compelled to say.

Pritzker says he would:

- Raise the Illinois minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

- Pass a big infrastructure spending bill — money used to build and repair highways, bridges, ports, public transportation, and government buildings.
- Make high-speed internet access available everywhere in Illinois.
- Upgrading the locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
- Update lead pipes in water systems.
- Make “[microloans](#)” more widely available.
- Pass a Truth in Lending Act, aimed at protecting small business owners.
- Increase funding for Small Business Development Centers.
- Review the Enterprise Zone Program to make sure the state is stimulating growth in the most economically distressed communities.
- Promote wind and solar power while also supporting the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He’s also pledged to “set Illinois on a path toward 100% clean, renewable energy.”
- Make more money available to farms for investment in technology.
- Force “net neutrality” on internet service providers that have state contracts.
- Pursue legislation that prevents employers from asking about salary history.
- Support construction of a third Chicago airport near Peotone, in the far south suburbs, on the condition it doesn’t take jobs away from O’Hare or Midway airports.

## **'Economic Inclusion'**

Pritzker outlined a number of policies intended to increase business opportunities for women and people of color:

- Increase the “aspirational goal” for the share of state contracts going to women- and minority-owners businesses to 30 percent.
- Create a cabinet-level position to make sure that aspiration becomes a reality.
- Have a loan program that helps minority business owners compete for state contracts.
- Start minority- and women-owned business “accelerators” to provide mentoring, financing and other help.
- Fund pre-apprenticeship programs to help people from disadvantaged communities get jobs in the building trades, both union and non-union.
- Expand employment programs for disadvantaged youth.

- Help “unbanked” communities by encouraging financial institutions to provide services in libraries and other public spaces.
- Cap rates for check cashing.

## Taxes & State Government Administration

Broadly speaking, Pritzker says he wants to “put the state back on firm financial footing.” To that end, he says he would:

- Support a graduated or progressive income tax, where higher amounts of income are subject to higher tax rates. Such a change would have to be passed by the legislature and ratified by voters at a general election.
- Add progressively to the flat tax (while waiting for the progressive tax) by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit and raising the overall tax rate. (That was during the campaign; after winning he [backed off](#) from this proposal.)
- Not in favor of increases in the gas tax, expanding the sales tax to cover services, or ending the tax exemption for so-called retirement income. (All three topics were presented at debates — those who supported the ideas were asked to raise their hands; Pritzker kept his down every time.)
- Support “fair maps” to stop legislators from gerrymandering their own district boundaries.
- Support term limits for leadership roles in the General Assembly, though not for legislators in general.
- Change annual state pension payments so they’re level every year, putting more money in up front rather than trying to cut benefits, thus fulfilling what he calls both a moral and legal obligation to workers and retirees.

## Education, Preschool and Child Care

- Lower property taxes, especially on lower-income households, as part of shifting the main funding burden for education from local government onto the state.
- Oppose the private school tax credit program or anything else that’s “siphoning off money from public schools.”
- Lowering the mandatory school enrollment age from 6 to 5.
- Incrementally enroll more 3- and 4-year-olds in preschool — about 12,500 a year for eight years.

- Increase access to state child care subsidies — to 200 percent of the federal poverty level from the current 185 percent, and let people gradually wind down participation as their income approaches 300 percent of the poverty level. (The campaign says 200 percent threshold would be about \$40,000 in annual salary for a family of three.)
- Add more preschool teachers and classrooms: “I’m going to establish new financial incentives for people to earn the appropriate credentials and enter the state’s early learning workforce.”
- Expand “birth-to-three” home visit services and create a “Family Engagement Portal” to educate new parents on child development.

## Higher Education

- Create a single, shared application for every state university in Illinois.
- Increase financial aid for low-income college students, known as Monetary Award Program or MAP grants, by 50 percent.
- Create a state-run program to help people refinance student loan debt.
- Restore funding for state universities and community colleges to levels that predate Gov. Bruce Rauner’s tenure.
- Assign a task force to study how Illinois might “set a course toward” free college.
- Make it so 90 percent of Illinois households can access the AIM-HIGH merit-based financial program.
- Ensure university credit for Illinois community college courses.
- Expand technical education and apprenticeships.
- Start new statewide competitions for university students to foster entrepreneurship.
- Have state grants seed start-ups based at universities.

## Veterans

- Let servicemen and -women more easily use past military experience to earn college credits.
- Make it easier to get a professional license based on military skills.
- Expand incentives for businesses to hire veterans.
- Reduce homelessness among veterans.
- Increase nursing staff at state veterans’ homes.

## Drugs: Opioids & Marijuana

- Ensure physicians get more training in the dangers of opioid addiction, plus treatment options.
- Limit the number of days on someone's first opioid prescription.
- Increase access to drug courts and treatment facilities.
- Legalize marijuana for recreational use.
- Commute prison sentences of people incarcerated for marijuana (though very few people are in prison solely for marijuana offenses).
- Create a Cannabis Equity Program to promote minority entrepreneurs in the field, waiving fees and offering subsidized loans.

## Criminal Justice

- Ban assault weapons, bump stocks, and large-capacity magazines.
- Have universal background checks for all Illinois gun sales.
- Create a state license for gun dealers. (Legislation doing just that has already passed the General Assembly and is expected to be sent to Pritzker soon.)
- Direct state money to programs that interrupt violence and promote conflict resolution.
- Create a unit in the Illinois State Police to investigate gun trafficking and related crimes.
- Change sentencing laws by "adjusting" punishment for non-violent offenses, reducing the use of mandatory-minimum sentences, and giving judges more discretion to sentence people to probation.
- End monetary bail across the state.
- End the "unjust application of fees and fines" on people who cannot afford to pay them.
- Prioritize rehabilitation services in prison — job training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and education.
- Place certain qualified ex-offenders in state jobs.
- Make the Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study permanent.